

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary .....

# CATALOG 2025-2026

..... *Grounded in faith, formed in community*





Participating in God's ongoing mission in the world, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a community of Christ joining in the Spirit's work of forming and equipping people for ministries familiar and yet to unfold and communities present and yet to be gathered.



## Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

## CATALOG 2025-2026

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## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ. And in his name I welcome you to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary!



We are a community of faith committed to the Spirit's work of formation for service to the church and the world. We strive to embody a ministry of education and service that fosters in each of us a greater sense of purpose and vocational clarity. Whether you are a degree seeker yearning for greater faithfulness in your life or a curious intellect wondering about the finer points of theology, know that you are welcome in our community.

In John 15, Jesus employs the metaphor of garden, vine, and fruit to explain his relationship to his disciples, to God the Parent, and the work that comes forth from well-planted disciples. As faithful disciples, we have "been appointed to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." Such is the work of our community at Pittsburgh Seminary. We are an ecosystem of exploration, discernment, and discovery that is dedicated to helping disciples bear fruit in their lives. Fruit that will change this world. We seek to grow deep roots through study and shared life of faith. If you are looking for such a place, I invite you to join us in your journey.

Our community is a place that stimulates the life of the mind and the soul. Our faculty and staff work hard to create learning experiences that form the basis of effective ministry in the world. These learning experiences occur inside and outside of classrooms through what we read, from whom we speak with, and even through deep introspection in worship and contemplation. We strive to develop a wholistic approach to formation, and I invite you to join us along the way!

We look forward to welcoming you—in person, on campus, or online; to pursue a degree or take advantage of continuing education; to the Barbour Library or Kelso Museum of Near Eastern

Archaeology; or to become a partner in the future of our mission. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions, comments, suggestions, or just to be in touch. I would be especially happy to hear from you: [president@pts.edu](mailto:president@pts.edu) or 412-924-1366 or simply stop by when you are in the neighborhood. You will find my door open.

Asa J. Lee

President and Professor of Theological Formation for Ministry

## PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### MISSION STATEMENT

Participating in God's ongoing mission in the world, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a community of Christ joining in the Spirit's work of forming and equipping people for ministries familiar and yet to unfold and communities present and yet to be gathered.

### VISION STATEMENT

Trusting in God's promises, we seek to be a generous and hospitable community, committed to scholarship in the service of the church, inviting one another into lifegiving and transformational practices including shared prayer and worship, intellectual inquiry, theological reflection, witness, reconciliation, justice, evangelism, and service—practices of discipleship that stir our imagination and shape our desires—as we seek to participate fully in God's work in the world.

In the complex realities of this world that God loves, from our neighborhood to the ends of the earth, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will draw upon the best of our tradition and learn from others as the Spirit shapes and reshapes our common life and work in order to become a leading resource for theologically reflective and contextually engaged ministries.

## SEMINARY HISTORY

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a graduate professional institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Located in the heartland of Presbyterianism and as part of a thriving city, we seek to prepare students for pastoral ministry and Christian lay leadership in all phases of the Church's outreach.

PTS was formed in 1959 by the consolidation of two previously separate institutions: Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary of the United Presbyterian Church of North America and Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The history of the Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary began with the founding of Service Seminary in 1794 by the Associate Presbytery of Pennsylvania. Prior to that time the Presbytery was dependent on a supply of ministers sent from Scotland. The Rev. John Anderson, D.D., was elected as the first teacher of divinity, and the school began with an enrollment of six students. Service Seminary moved twice, first to Ohio, where it became Xenia Theological Seminary, and later to Missouri. It merged in 1930 with a seminary that was founded in Pittsburgh in 1825 and together they formed Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary. This institution was later augmented by the resources of Newburgh Seminary, which was founded in New York City in 1805 by John Mitchell Mason.

The other branch of our pre-1959 history began with the establishment, in 1785 by Joseph Smith and in 1787 by John McMillan, of classical academies in Washington, Pa. From these, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America created Western Theological Seminary in 1825. It was indeed a western seminary, furnishing a ministry for the rapidly opening frontier territories along the Ohio River.

Since the 1959 consolidation, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary has been located on the former Pittsburgh-Xenia Seminary campus in the Highland Park/East Liberty section of Pittsburgh.



# CALENDAR 2025-2026

## 2025-2026 FALL SEMESTER

New Student Orientation	Aug. 28
First Day of Classes	Sept. 2
Convocation	Sept. 11
Hybrid Gathering	Sept. 11-13
Mid-term Reading Week	Oct. 13-17
Hybrid Gathering	Nov. 6-8
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 24-28
Last Day of Classes	Dec. 12
Reading and Exam Week	Dec. 15-19
Christmas Break	Dec. 22-Jan. 2

## 2025-2026 JANUARY TERM

First Day of Classes	Jan. 5
Last Day of Classes	Jan. 24
Reading and Exams	Jan. 26-28
J-Term Break	Jan. 29-30

## 2025-2026 SPRING SEMESTER

New Student Spring Orientation	Jan. 29
First Day of Classes	Feb. 2
Hybrid Gathering	Feb. 12-14
Mid-term Reading Week	March 9-13
Easter Break	March 30-April 3
Hybrid Gathering	April 9-11
Last Day of Classes	May 15
Reading and Exam Week	May 18-22
230 <sup>th</sup> Commencement	May 29







## PROGRAMS

### DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master's Degrees
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
- Master of Theological Studies
- Part-time Program
- Hybrid Master's
- Joint Degrees
- Doctor of Ministry

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Adaptive and Innovative Ministry
- Faith, Work, and the Common Good
- Ministry
- Missional Leadership
- Theological Studies
- Urban Ministry

### COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- Cross Registration
- Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education
- The American Society of Overseas Research
- Clinical Pastoral Education
- Westminster College
- Presbyterian College

# DEGREE PROGRAMS

## MASTER'S DEGREES

### **ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC RULES AND REGULATIONS: STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The PTS Student Handbook contains all academic and non-academic rules and regulations not included in the catalog; for example, the grading system, regulations on adding and dropping courses, provisions for independent and directed studies, housing, grievance procedures, and other policies. The handbook is available by logging into My.PTS.edu. Regulations governing financial aid are obtained separately through the Financial Aid Office.

### **EQUIVALENCY EXAMS**

In certain circumstances a student may be excused from a required course, if the student can demonstrate the necessary proficiency in the subject matter. Requests are submitted to the Dean of Faculty. The Dean assigns a faculty member responsible for teaching the course to administer an appropriate exam and report the result. Waived courses will be listed on the transcript, showing that the requirement was fulfilled, but no credit will be given.

### **COURSE LOAD RESTRICTIONS FOR OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND STUDENT PASTORS**

Students with full-time employment and student pastors are allowed to take no more than 9 credits per semester. Students employed full time are strongly advised to take no more than 6 credits per term. (See Master's Part-Time Program page 25.) Student pastors must have a clear agreement with their denominational supervisory agency and congregation about the amount of time needed for a specific course load. Students employed part time should plan their course loads accordingly. The Associate Dean for Students and Formation is the Seminary's resource person for all students with outside employment.

### **ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND SCHEDULING**

To ensure the successful completion of each academic program students are encouraged to follow the appropriate curriculum schedules on the following pages to avoid course scheduling conflicts.



## **GRADE POINT AVERAGE FOR GRADUATION**

For graduation with the master of divinity, master of theological studies, or master of arts in pastoral studies, a cumulative GPA of 2.00 is required.

## **MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.) PROGRAM**

The master of divinity (M.Div.) degree is a professional program that prepares students for ministry and pastoral leadership.

The master of divinity program integrates classical theological disciplines and the missional nature of ministry. The program can be completed in three or four years as a full-time student, or in five to six years as a part-time student. Throughout the program, historical and current contexts contribute to theological reflection. Students in the master of divinity (M.Div.) program benefit from contextual learning. During the year-long Field Education sequence of courses and ministry placement, students integrate coursework and firsthand experience with the Church's mission in the world at hospitals, nonprofits, special agencies, and churches in urban, suburban, and rural locations.

A required intercultural learning experience invites students to reflect theologically on cultural difference and practice intercultural communication skills. The master of divinity program also provides venues and tools for vocational discernment and for formation in the Christian tradition.

### **M.Div. Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the Bible and a capacity to interpret it as Christian Scripture.
- Demonstrate a capacity to integrate Scripture, Christian history, and theology in relation to the life of the church in the world.
- Demonstrate a capacity to exegete and interpret the Church's various contexts as the location of God's mission.
- Demonstrate an awareness of how socio-cultural context shapes interpretations of tradition, thought, and practice.
- Demonstrate growth in self-understanding, vocational discernment, and a life of prayer and worship.

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- Demonstrate a capacity to perform the tasks of Christian leadership, including leading communities in discerning participation in the mission of God.
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in God's work of enacting racial justice by describing and resisting the sin of racism.



## MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM THREE-YEAR OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

#### Fall Semester

Genesis through Esther  
Gospel, Acts, Johannine Epistles  
Foundations of the Christian Story  
Exploring Christian Worship  
Spiritual Formation (1.5 credits)

#### January Term

Open

#### Spring Semester

Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom Literature  
New Testament Letters and Apocalypse  
Directions in the Christian Story  
Introduction to Contextual Analysis  
Spiritual Formation (1.5 credits)

### YEAR 2

#### Summer

Biblical Language

#### Fall Semester

Biblical Language or English Bible  
Exegesis  
Christian Theology I  
Introduction to Caring Ministry  
Field Education I

#### January Term

Elective

#### Spring Semester

Biblical Language or English Bible  
Exegesis  
Missional Leadership and Evangelism  
Preaching/Communication in Ministry  
Field Education II

### YEAR 3

#### Summer

Biblical Language

#### Fall Semester

Christian Theology II  
Elective or Biblical Language  
Elective  
Elective

#### January Term

Intercultural  
Experiential  
Learning

#### Spring Semester

Ethics and Society  
Elective or Biblical Language  
Elective  
Elective

## MASTER OF DIVINITY CURRICULUM FOUR-YEAR OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

#### Fall Semester

Genesis through Esther  
Exploring Christian Worship  
Foundations of the Christian Story  
Spiritual Formation (1.5 credits)

#### January Term

Open or Elective

#### Spring Semester

Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom  
Literature  
New Testament Letters and  
Apocalypse  
Directions in the Christian Story  
Spiritual Formation (1.5 credits)

### YEAR 2

#### Summer

Biblical Language

#### Fall Semester

Gospel, Acts, Johannine Epistles  
Biblical Language or English Bible  
Exegesis  
Christian Theology I

#### January Term

Elective

#### Spring Semester

Introduction to Contextual  
Analysis  
Biblical Language or English Bible  
Exegesis  
Missional Leadership and  
Evangelism

### YEAR 3

#### Summer

Biblical Language

#### Fall Semester

Introduction to Caring Ministry  
Field Education I  
Biblical Language II or Elective

#### January Term

Elective or Intercultural  
Learning Experience

#### Spring Semester

Preaching and Communication in  
Ministry  
Field Education II  
Biblical Language II or Elective

### YEAR 4

#### Summer

Biblical Language

#### Fall Semester

Christian Theology II  
Elective  
Elective

#### January Term

Elective Formation or Intercultural  
Experiential Learning

#### Spring Semester

Ethics and Society  
Elective  
Elective



## M.Div. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Eighty-one (81) semester credit hours are required for the master of divinity degree. Typically each course is 3 credit hours. Normally the M.Div. is completed in three to six years and must be completed within 10 years. Petitions for exceptions to this duration limitation must be submitted to the Dean of Faculty and approved by the full faculty.

One year of a biblical language or the English Bible exegesis courses is required for graduation with the master of divinity degree. Some denominations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), require a year each of both Hebrew and Greek. Students are responsible for knowing the biblical language requirements for ordination within their denomination and/or church.

Admission requirements and procedures for the master of divinity degree are outlined in the section on admissions. (See page 124.)

## MASTER OF DIVINITY REGULATIONS

### REQUIRED COURSES AND ELECTIVES

In the preceding Three- and Four-Year Outlines of the M.Div. program, students must take the required courses identified. Students choose their electives. (See course listings.) Only in exceptional circumstances should a student depart from the sequence of required courses listed in the Three- and Four-Year Outlines found on pages 15-16. (See also Master's Part-Time Program page 25.) Many elective courses presuppose required courses as prerequisites, so that students without the prerequisites are not allowed to register for these electives. Students who fail to follow the outlines may find that they must graduate at a later date than they had intended. Prior to registration for each term, the Registrar posts course offerings with prerequisites.

### FIELD EDUCATION

Field Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary assists students in learning about the practice of ministry through direct involvement in congregations and other settings, under the mentoring and direction of experienced field supervisors. M.Div. and MAPS students must complete one year of supervised ministry in a setting approved by the Director of Field Education. This requirement is normally fulfilled in the middler year for full-time M.Div. students. Full-time MAPS students normally fulfill

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the requirement in their second year of studies. During this year, students are also required to take the FE 210 and FE 220 course sequence for theological reflection on and integration of their placement experiences. These courses are taught by faculty members in a peer-group format.

Field Education is designed to help students gain acquaintance with a wide variety of ministry activities, skill in selected tasks, sensitivity to the dynamics of relationships, awareness of the social context of ministry, and theological perspectives in relation to the various aspects of the practice of ministry. A detailed learning covenant, developed by the student in conjunction with their field supervisor, coordinates these educational objectives with the needs of the church or agency to be served and is a basis for a shared evaluation of progress at designated points in the year. This requirement has been fulfilled when a student successfully passes the FE 210 and FE 220 course sequence, the supervisor and student have completed the final evaluation, and the Director of Field Education has accepted it. The final evaluation material is shared with the student's sponsoring judicatory, if the student grants permission to do so.

Students in Field Education placements are expected to give approximately 10-12 hours of service in the field per week. These placements are negotiated with the intent of broadening each student's range of experiences, in order to contribute to their personal and professional growth.

### **PREPARATION FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) ORDINATION EXAMINATIONS**

Preparation for the ordination examinations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is offered through required courses and elective courses such as Polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and The Practice of Ordained Ministry.

### **UNITED METHODIST STUDIES**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a University Senate-approved seminary of The United Methodist Church. Candidates for commissioning and full conference membership and ordination as deacons and elders in The United Methodist Church must complete courses dealing specifically with United Methodism, which include history, doctrine, and polity (*Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2016, paragraph 324.4a). Pittsburgh

Theological Seminary works in cooperation with Wesley Theological Seminary to offer regular opportunities for students to take courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity, and evangelism in the Wesleyan Tradition. These courses are offered online through Wesley Theological Seminary or as intensive courses on the Wesley campus. Students must apply to Wesley as non-degree students in a partnership school. Information for this process is available from the Registrar. Numerous elective courses at both seminaries also enhance United Methodist studies.

## MASTER OF DIVINITY WITH EMPHASIS IN FORMING NEW FAITH COMMUNITIES

The purpose of the Emphasis in Forming New Faith Communities at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is to cultivate likely and unlikely church innovators, so they might participate in God's work to grow and gather contextual communities that seek the Good News of Jesus Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit within the tradition and beyond the boundaries of the church as it is. Both ministry innovation and evangelism are embedded in core classes and delivered through a required elective: Planting and Leading New Faith Communities. Because learning is made transformative in community, regular attendance at monthly lunch gatherings of cohort students is required throughout the student's tenure.

In partnership with course and community work, specialized internships build on the general M.Div. curriculum and emphasize two different postures over the second two years of the program. The first year's work focuses on observation of a variety of worship contexts in concert with first year course work, while year two offers the typical field education experience nested in a new worshipping community and in consultation with the Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry. The third year offers a launch internship, which allows the students to begin a new ministry with the support of, and in consultation with AIM. This third year internship includes a funded coach, a stipend for student work, a small budget for implementation, and regular consultations with the AIM Director. Attendance at a non-credit-bearing, faith-based nonprofit workshop is required and serves as an internship support. These components may be completed in separate internships (part time during an academic year or full time in a summer) or a one-year, full-time supervised internship in new faith community formation.

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A short-term cross-cultural experience related to adaptive and innovative ministry is also required.

### MASTER OF DIVINITY WITH GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN URBAN MINISTRY

Those seeking the Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry must complete four classes (three semester credit-hours each) of graduate-level course work, three of which are required and one GCUM approved elective. The required courses are Introduction to Urban Ministry, Introduction to Contextual Analysis, and Pittsburgh Area Social and Religious Ecology. MUI combines the theory and practice of collaborative community ministry with a program of urban theological education that prepares students for excellence in any context of ministry, but with particular attention to public realities affecting the urban environment.

### MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL STUDIES (MAPS)

The master of arts in pastoral studies (MAPS) is a flexible graduate-level, two-year degree program that equips students for leadership in ministry in congregations, nonprofits, and other settings. The program provides grounding in core disciplines and the ability for a student to select from a variety of ministerial electives to suit their interests and vocational needs. To complete the program, each student produces a final project related to their ministerial context and one year of Field Education. Students can also earn the Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry while completing the MAPS program.

MAPS Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a capacity to integrate Scripture, Christian history, and theology in relation to the life of the church in the world.
- Demonstrate a capacity to exegete and interpret the Church's various contexts as the location of God's mission.



- Demonstrate an understanding of Christian ministry using biblical, historical, theological, and contextual insight.
- Demonstrate the ability to narrate an understanding of pastoral formation in relationship to the practices of ministry.
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on the implications of social location for the practice of ministry.

## MAPS OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

Genesis through Esther *or*  
 Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom  
 Literature\*  
 Gospel, Acts, Johannine Epistles  
*or* New Testament Letters and  
 Apocalypse\*  
 Foundations of the Christian  
 Story *or* Directions in the  
 Christian Story\*  
 Exploring Christian Worship  
 Introduction to Contextual  
 Analysis  
 Spiritual Formation I  
 Spiritual Formation II  
 Elective  
 Elective

### YEAR 2

Field Education I  
 Field Education II  
 Christian Theology I *or* Christian  
 Theology II\*  
 Ministry Elective  
 Ministry Elective  
 Ministry Elective *or* Open  
 Elective  
 Ministry Elective *or* Open  
 Elective  
 MAPS Final Project Seminar\*\*

\* Students will select one course from the two introductory courses offered in each of these areas (e.g., Christian Theology I or Christian Theology II). Students who enter the program with prior coursework in these areas may petition for approval to take advanced electives to fulfill these requirements.

\*\* The Final Project Seminar will help students shape and produce an integrative final project that draws from completed coursework and supports their ministerial/vocational objectives.

## MAPS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Forty-eight (48) credit hours are required for the MAPS degree. A basic outline of the curriculum appears above. Normally the MAPS is completed in two to four years and must be completed within 10 years. Petitions for exceptions to this duration limitation must be

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submitted to the Dean of Faculty and approved by the full faculty. Admission requirements and procedures for the MAPS degree are outlined in the section on Admissions. (See page 124.)

### **FIELD EDUCATION**

See page 17 for information about Field Education requirements.

## **MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (MTS) PROGRAM**

The master of theological studies (MTS) degree program admits students to one of three tracks: General, Scripture and Its Interpretation, or Christian Theology and Traditions. The MTS General Track is intended for students who seek a broad foundation in theological studies in preparation for a wide array of vocations. The Christian Theology and Traditions track highlights theology and Christian traditions. The Scripture and Its Interpretation track focuses on biblical study. At the end of each track, students complete a final project that explores more deeply an area of interest to the student. Normally the MTS is completed in two to four years and must be completed within 10 years. Petitions for exceptions to this duration limitation must be submitted to the Dean of Faculty and approved by the full faculty. Admission requirements and procedures for the MTS degree are outlined in the section on Admissions. (See page 124.)

MTS Student Learning Outcomes (all tracks):

- Demonstrate an ability to reflect on Christian traditions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of how socio-cultural context shapes interpretations of tradition, thought, and/or practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in God's work of enacting justice in its many forms by addressing their research to issues of race or other examples of human conflict.
- Engage in graduate-level theological research.

## MTS GENERAL TRACK OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

#### Fall Semester

Foundations of the Christian Story  
 Christian Theology I  
 Genesis through Esther      OR  
     or Elective  
 Gospels, Acts, Johannine Epistles  
     or Elective

#### Spring Semester

Contextual Analysis  
 Directions in the Christian Story  
 Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom  
     Literature or Elective  
 New Testament Letters and  
     Apocalypse or Elective

### YEAR 2

#### Fall Semester

Christian Theology II  
 Research Methods Seminar  
 Elective  
 Elective

#### Spring Semester

Elective  
 Elective  
 MTS Final Project (6 credits)

## MTS GENERAL TRACK REQUIREMENTS

Required courses in the General track include CH 110, CH 120, TH 210, CS 110, OT 110 or OT 120, NT 110 or NT 120, TH 320, RS 110 (Research Seminar), and a Final Project (6 credits). The remaining six elective courses may be taken in any area.



# MTS CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND TRADITIONS TRACK

## OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

#### Fall Semester

Foundations of the Christian Story  
Christian Theology I  
Elective  
Elective

#### Spring Semester

Directions in the Christian Story  
Contextual Analysis  
Elective  
Elective

### YEAR 2

#### Fall Semester

Christian Theology II  
Research Methods Seminar  
Elective  
Elective

#### Spring Semester

Elective  
Elective  
MTS Final Project (6 credits)

# MTS CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND TRADITIONS TRACK

## REQUIREMENTS

Required courses for this track include CH 110, CH 120, TH 210, TH 320, CS 110, and RS 110, and an MTS final project (6 credits). The remaining eight electives may be taken in any area.



## MTS SCRIPTURE AND ITS INTERPRETATION TRACK OUTLINE

### YEAR 1

#### Fall Semester

Genesis through Esther  
Gospels, Acts, Johannine Epistles  
Elective  
Elective

#### Spring Semester

Contextual Analysis  
Prophets, Psalms, Wisdom  
Literature  
New Testament Letters and  
Apocalypse  
Elective

### YEAR 2

#### Fall Semester

Research Methods Seminar  
Elective  
Elective  
Elective

#### Spring Semester

Elective  
Elective  
MTS Final Project (6 credits)

## MTS SCRIPTURE AND ITS INTERPRETATION REQUIREMENTS

Required courses for the Scripture and Its Interpretation track include CS 110, OT 110, OT 120, NT 110, NT 120, RS 110, and a Final MTS Project (6 credits). The remaining eight electives may be taken in any area.

## MASTER'S PART-TIME PROGRAM

The M.Div., MAPS, and MTS degrees, and the graduate certificates can be obtained through flexibly scheduled hybrid required courses and online electives. The part-time program is designed for students who maintain their full-time employment while pursuing a seminary education. This would include persons presently in non-church related work who are intending to pursue a church vocation as well as pastors and educators presently serving churches who have not earned a seminary degree or certificate. The program might also appeal to active church members who are interested in serious theological study but do not intend to pursue a church vocation. Consult the Registrar for the part-time hybrid and/or evening course offerings.



## MASTER'S HYBRID PROGRAMS

A percentage of required courses are offered in a hybrid format (weekly synchronous online meetings plus two on-campus gatherings per semester) in a predictable rotation. The shift to include hybrid courses allows students maximum flexibility in completing their program. Students desiring weekly in-person courses can opt for a more traditional residential program with fewer hybrid courses. Distance learners can complete their program by enrolling in only hybrid courses. All master's students can expect to take some courses in a hybrid format, and all students enrolled in a hybrid course are required to come to campus twice per semester for 2.5 days for in-person formational activities. These hybrid gatherings occur at set times each semester. See the Academic Calendar for details.

## MASTER'S EMPHASIS IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

The Emphasis in Worship Leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary deepens student formation and expands access to a rich diversity of worship practices and leadership training. Open to all master's-level students who have completed at least one semester and are in good academic standing, the program may be combined with any Seminary master's degree. This is not a stand-alone program and must be done in conjunction with a master's degree at PTS.

Worship is central to the Seminary's communal life, offering students opportunities to engage, experiment, reflect, and rest in the presence of God within a worshiping community that views theological study as a form of devotion. Through this emphasis, students receive mentorship in the liturgical, theological, pastoral, and practical dimensions of worship leadership while developing agility and creativity for ministry in varied and evolving contexts.

The program requires participation over at least three semesters. It includes service on the PTS Worship Planning Team, collaborative worship leadership and reflection, attendance at Worship Workshops, and participation in an external worship-related event. Students are also mentored by faculty and staff, including the Director of the Worship Program.

Upon completion, students will demonstrate growth in worship leadership, familiarity with diverse liturgical traditions, and the ability to integrate worship experiences with theological study. This emphasis is ideal for students seeking deeper spiritual formation, leadership in diverse worship settings, and practical experience that connects theology and practice in the life of the church.

## JOINT DEGREE PROGRAMS

### MASTER'S/MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh offer a joint degree in master of divinity (M.Div.), master of arts in pastoral ministry (MAPS), or master of theological studies (MTS) and the master of social work (M.S.W.) for those students pursuing a call to social work both inside and outside of a church setting. The mission of Pitt's M.S.W. program is grounded in the purpose and values of the social work profession and strives to prepare graduates with specialized knowledge and skills needed to engage in evidence-informed and culturally responsive advanced social work practice—either Direct Practice with Individuals, Families, and Small Groups or Community, Organization, and Social Action (COA).

Within the joint program, students will still be provided a full course of study in both theology and social work. In order to take required courses and still graduate in less time than it would take to complete the degrees individually, the joint degree program counts certain courses taught in one school as electives in the other and vice-versa.

Admission into each program is determined by the institution separately; admission into one institution does not guarantee admission to the other. Application should be made to the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work during the fall semester of the second year at the Seminary. Most required courses at the Seminary should be completed before entering at the University of Pittsburgh.

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Should a student elect to terminate the joint degree program before its completion and seek only one degree, the student will complete all of the work ordinarily required for that degree. Contact the Registrar for a suggested outline of course completion for this joint degree.

### MASTER'S/JURIS DOCTOR

In 1983, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the School of Law at Duquesne University established a joint degree program leading to the master of divinity (M.Div.) and juris doctor (JD) degrees. Graduates of the program work in a wide array of professional realms, such as law firms that specialize in serving religious institutions as clients, church boards and agencies, and ministries of various kinds. In 2019, the two schools established joint degree programs with the J.D. degree and the MTS and the MAPS.

The joint degree programs provide full courses of study in both theology and law. This is accomplished by allowing certain courses taken in each school to be used as electives in the other. Admission into the programs is determined by each institution separately; admission into one institution does not guarantee admission to the other. Interested candidates to the joint degree programs should consult with each school's admissions offices for specifics on admission requirements. Prospective students should be advised that admission into the JD portion of this program is needed first and requires satisfactory LSAT scores and undergraduate grades.

Should a student elect to terminate the joint degree program before its completion and seek only one degree, they will complete all of the work ordinarily required for that degree. Contact the Registrar for a suggested outline of course completion for this joint degree.

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.MIN.) PROGRAM

The doctor of ministry degree is an ideal program of study for individuals in varied forms of ministry, including those who are engaged in new forms of church community, church planting, and not-for-profit or faith-based community action or those in

specialized areas such as military or hospice chaplaincy, and other forms of ministry.

The D.Min. degree provides space for theological reflection, continuing study, deepening call, and addressing global and contextual issues. The cohort model provides a learning community for the student in conversation with faculty dedicated to their area of study.

The doctor of ministry program seeks to enhance critical thinking skills, theological acumen, proficiency in written and oral communication, leadership capacities, contextual awareness, and personal and spiritual growth.

D.Min. Student Learning Outcomes:

- Integrate theological and scriptural knowledge with their cultural contexts.
- Richly describe and analyze cultural contexts to recognize, frame, and respond to crucial issues arising in their ministry.
- Develop enhanced leadership capacities oriented toward effective ministry.
- Draw upon theological resources and practices to reinvigorate and deepen their vocational callings.
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on their own social location (e.g. gender, religion, nationality, race, etc.).

## FOCUS AREAS

Doctor of ministry candidates select one of the following tracks: Bridging Divides: In Church, Community, and Country, Christian Spirituality, Creative Writing and Public Theology, Eastern Christian, Intergenerational Black Church Studies, Missional Leadership, or Reformed (a co-location program with the University of Edinburgh New College in Scotland).

Candidates who enroll in a focus remain together for the required courses of the program. This assures a high level of collegiality and trust and facilitates the peer learning, which is essential to the program. Seminars normally meet for two-week sessions. Most cohorts meet in January and June. The Eastern Christian Focus meets in May and August/September.

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Thirty-six (36) credit hours are required for graduation. In addition to 30 hours of course work, a doctoral project valued at 6 credit hours must be completed. Normally the D.Min. is completed in three to four years and must be completed within five years. Petitions for exceptions to this duration limitation must be submitted to the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and the Dean of Faculty and approved by the full faculty.

An accredited master of divinity degree (or its ministry-related equivalent) is required in an area related to the applicant's ministry setting or vocational calling. Generally, a minimum GPA of 3.0 in master's-degree work is required. Applicants must be actively engaged in a ministry context. Other requirements and the application process are outlined on page 131.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Seminary's graduate certificates are post-baccalaureate programs and provide an introduction to graduate-level degrees. Contact the Registrar for a suggested outline of course completion for these certificate programs.

### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADAPTIVE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRY

Students pursue the Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry separately from other master's-level degree programs. The certificate consists of five hybrid courses, concurrent ministry in their context, a coaching relationship, and an integrative final portfolio. Eighteen (18) credit hours are required for completion on this certificate. Students who successfully complete the certificate can be granted 12 semester hours of credits that can be applied to the master of divinity, master of pastoral studies, or master of theological studies degrees. This advanced standing



will count toward the required Contextual Analysis and Missional Leadership courses and two additional elective credits.

Note that the course schedule differs from the Seminary's semester system, with the program beginning in June, and intensive courses meeting on campus quarterly (with variation based on liturgical year) for 15 months, including completion and presentation of the students' final portfolios.

Students who complete the certificate will be able to:

- Develop, describe, and make use of a theologically-informed, contextually-aware, mission-shaped vision for ministry.
- Form a community in the student's ministry context which is rooted in Christian practices and lead the community in spiritual discernment.
- Engage in practices that support ongoing vocational discernment and articulate a deepening sense of call.
- Demonstrate knowledge of racism in historical, social, and cultural contexts.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FAITH, WORK, AND THE COMMON GOOD

Students pursue the graduate certificate in faith, work, and the common good separately from other master's-level degree programs. The certificate consists of four hybrid courses, concurrent ministry in their context, a coaching relationship, and an integrative final portfolio. Twelve (12) credit hours are required for completion on this certificate. Students who successfully complete the certificate can be granted 12 semester hours of credits that can be applied to the master of divinity, master of pastoral studies, or master of theological studies degrees. This advanced standing will count toward elective credits.

Note that the course schedule differs from the Seminary's semester system, with the program running continuously throughout the year, and with courses meeting on campus quarterly, including completion and presentation of the students' final portfolios.

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Students who complete this certificate will be able to:

- Develop, describe, and make use of a theologically-informed, contextually-aware, mission-shaped vision for vocational work in a secular setting.
- Demonstrate capacity to leverage community practices to build a shared culture of values, mission, and expectation in a social entrepreneurship environment, volunteer setting, or other secular work setting.
- Demonstrate a capacity to communicate one's values in contextually appropriate ways in relationship to secular or professional contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of racism in historical, social, and cultural contexts, especially learning to recognize and name its economic, social, and professional manifestations.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY

Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Ministry receive a foundational understanding of ministry equipping them for broad service to the church. Required courses include theology or history; Bible; and two Ministry Studies courses (Preaching and Communications, Introduction to Caring Ministry, etc.). The certificate is ideal for persons serving churches as Sunday School teachers, deacons, and elders, plus those who want to expand their knowledge of Scripture. When taking two courses per semester, the program can be completed in one year. This is a stand-alone certificate and cannot be completed in the context of a master's degree program. However, courses completed for this certificate can be applied toward the completion of one of the master's degree programs.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Missional Leadership complete four courses over 16 months, which can be completed online. The certificate is ideal for persons serving congregations, agencies, and nonprofit organizations involved in mission work. Students receive broad preparation in mission theology, intercultural communication, and contextual analysis. This is a stand-alone certificate and cannot be completed in the context of a master's degree program. However, courses completed for this certificate can be applied toward the completion of one of the master's degree programs.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies receive a general introduction to theological inquiry. Students take four required courses—church history, theology, Bible, and an elective. This certificate is ideal for those wishing to expand their knowledge of Scripture and deepen their understanding of biblical, theological, and historical concepts relevant to the church. When taking two courses per semester, the program can be completed in one year. This is a stand-alone certificate and cannot be completed in the context of a master's degree program. However, courses completed for this certificate can be applied toward the completion of one of the master's degree programs.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN URBAN MINISTRY

The Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry is a flexible program allowing community members and seminarians to explore their Christian vocation in urbanized settings. This program allows

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students from all denominations to think about how to apply their faith to where they live, work, and serve.

Pittsburgh Seminary alums who have completed certain courses within the last 10 years may qualify for advanced standing. This program is offered through the Seminary's Metro-Urban Institute and can be completed as a stand-alone certificate program or combined with a master's degree program. Merit and need-based financial aid is available.

Those seeking the certificate must complete four classes (3 credit-hours each) of graduate-level course work, three of which are required and one GCUM approved elective. The required courses are Introduction to Urban Ministry, Introduction to Contextual Analysis, and Pittsburgh Social and Religious Ecologies.

Upon completion of the certificate, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the capacity to reflect theologically and sociologically on cultural, social, and ethical issues and how they shape the life of the church.
- Demonstrate the capacity to exegete and interpret the church's various contexts as the location of God's mission.
- Demonstrate theological and historical understanding of church pursuits of social justice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of racism in historical, social, and cultural contexts.

## COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### CROSS REGISTRATION AMONG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS

Students enrolled in a master's degree program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary may register for most courses offered at any of the other theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Information about the cross-registration policy at other PCUSA schools is available from the Registrar.

## PITTSBURGH COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE) is a cooperative organization composed of Pittsburgh area colleges, universities, and graduate schools. Participating institutions include Carlow University, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, La Roche University, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Point Park University, Robert Morris University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

The purposes of PCHE are to represent a common voice on a variety of issues; to examine possibilities for cooperation among the member institutions; and, above all, to undertake joint programs which expand education opportunities for students and make the best use of institutional resources. The Seminary's membership in PCHE benefits students by providing possibilities for cross-registration in courses at the graduate level and by initiating programs in specialized areas. Information about cross-registration at PCHE schools is available from the Registrar.

## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF OVERSEAS RESEARCH

The Seminary is an institutional member of the American Society of Overseas Research, having been involved since 1924. This society conducts archaeological research in the Middle East, concentrating in Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq. ASOR coordinates and maintains research institutions in Jerusalem, Amman, and Baghdad. Scholarship funds may be available for students to participate in ASOR excavations.

PTS has been an active participant in numerous field projects in cooperation with ASOR. The current field project, The Zeitah Excavations, under the direction of Professor Emeritus Ron Tappy, is an ASOR-affiliated project now in the publication phase. The Seminary's membership in ASOR also benefits users of the library and readers of various books and periodicals.

## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

Clinical Pastoral Education is interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings theological students and ministers of all faiths into supervised encounter with persons in critical life situations. Out of intense involvement with persons in need, and



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the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships (from acpe.edu). Pittsburgh Theological Seminary grants 4 academic credits to students who complete one unit (10-12 weeks) of Clinical Pastoral Education at centers accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a member of the Association. For further information regarding credit for CPE, please contact the Registrar.

### WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

A partnership with Westminster College, known as the 3+3 program, allows Westminster students to combine their undergraduate education with a master of divinity degree through a seamless transition to PTS. PTS receives a maximum of 10 qualified Westminster students per year. These students are able to earn both a bachelor's degree and master of divinity degree in six years.

Westminster students must provide written notification during their first year of their intent to participate in the program. Notification must include a plan that demonstrates how they will complete all general education and major requirements by the end of their junior year, except for those requirements to be fulfilled by courses at PTS.

Westminster students who meet all PTS entrance requirements are eligible to be admitted to the master of divinity degree program. Students participating in the program must formally apply to PTS by no later than Feb. 1 of the junior year. Applications received after this date will be considered, but admission to the program is not guaranteed.

Westminster agrees to accept up to 30 semester hours from PTS toward completion of the bachelor's degree. Upon receipt of an official transcript from PTS showing satisfactory completion of these semester hours, Westminster agrees to confer the bachelor's degree on any student who has successfully completed the degree requirements at Westminster, provided that the student is in good standing at both institutions at the time of potential conferral. A

Westminster student must attend PTS full time until all semester hours for the bachelor's degree are completed.

## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE

A partnership with Presbyterian College allows students at Presbyterian College to combine their undergraduate education with a seminary degree, supporting a seamless transition to PTS. Presbyterian College students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree and one of the following master's degree options: a master of divinity degree in six total years (3+3), a master of theological studies in five total years (3+2), or a master of arts in pastoral studies in five total years (3+2).

PTS can receive a maximum of 10 qualified Presbyterian College students per year. Interested Presbyterian College students must provide written notification during their first year of their intent to participate in the program. Notification must include a plan that demonstrates how they will complete all general education and major requirements by the end of their junior year, except for those requirements to be fulfilled by courses at PTS.

Presbyterian College students who meet all PTS entrance requirements are eligible to be admitted to the master of divinity, the master of theological studies, or the master of arts in pastoral studies degree program. Students participating in the program must formally apply to PTS by no later than Feb. 1 of the junior year. Applications received after this date will be considered, but admission to the program is not guaranteed.

Presbyterian College agrees to accept up to 30 semester hours from PTS toward completion of the bachelor's degree. Upon receipt of an official transcript from PTS showing satisfactory completion of these semester hours, Presbyterian College agrees to confer the bachelor's degree on any student who has successfully completed the degree requirements at Presbyterian College, provided that the student is in good standing at both institutions at the time of potential conferral. A Presbyterian College student must attend PTS full time until all semester hours for the bachelor's degree are completed.





# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## MASTER'S CURRICULUM DIVISIONS

- Studies in Bible and Biblical Languages
- Historical Studies
- Theology in Ministry
- Studies in Theology
- Research Seminars Final Project (MAPS and MTS)

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

- Eastern Christian Focus
- Missional Leadership Focus
- Reformed Focus
- Intergenerational Black Church Studies Focus
- Christian Spirituality Focus
- Creative Writing and Public Theology Focus



## STUDIES IN BIBLE AND BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

All courses are for 3 academic credits unless otherwise noted. Classes are offered in-person, hybrid, and online. Unless indicated as hybrid or online, the class meets in-person during this academic year. Electives subject to change. See the PTS website for updated information.

## REQUIRED COURSES IN BIBLE

## OT 110 Genesis Through Esther

An introduction to the Pentateuch (Torah) and Historical Books (Former Prophets) of the Old Testament with an exploration of factors that gave rise to and helped shape this material. Attention is given to the specific content of these books, to the various literary genres, to methods used in the interpretation of Scripture (source, form, redaction, literary, socio-cultural, canonical, and rhetorical criticism), and to the applicability of archaeological data in reconstructing the ancient world in which the texts arose. Our goal is to seek a deeper understanding of core theological themes within the Judeo-Christian tradition, how these themes relate, and their significance in the church and world today.

Fall	2025-2026	Russaw
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## OT 120 Prophets, Psalms, and Wisdom Literature

An introduction to the prophetic books (Latter Prophets), Psalter, and Wisdom literature of the Old Testament with an exploration of factors that gave rise to and helped shape this material. In addition to examining the background of prophecy in the cultures of the ancient Near East, attention is given to the specific content of these books, to the theology of the prophetic books, to the various literary genres (e.g., oracle, hymn, lament), to methods used in the interpretation of Scripture (source, form, redaction, literary, socio-cultural, canonical, and rhetorical criticism), and to the psalms as a product of Israel's cultic life. Our goal is to seek a deeper understanding of core theological themes within the Judeo-Christian tradition, how these themes relate, and their significance in the church and world today.

Spring      2025-2026      Creach

**NT 110 Gospels, Acts, and Johannine Epistles**

An introduction to Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (with the Johannine Epistles), and Acts, showing their significance in the church and the world today. Special attention is given to the specific content of these books, to their genres and connections with ancient biography or history, to various theological and historical portraits of Jesus, and to the methods used in critical study of the Gospels (source, form, redaction, literary, socio-historical, canonical, and rhetorical criticism).

Fall                      2025-2026                      Ferda (Hybrid)

**NT 120 New Testament Letters and Apocalypse**

An introduction to those books of the New Testament associated with the letter-form (the Pauline corpus, Hebrews, the Petrine epistles, Jude, and Revelation), showing their significance in the church and the world today. Special attention is given to the specific content of these books, to their particular genres, to the life and theology of Paul, and to the methods used in the critical study of these books (literary, socio-historical, rhetoric), as well as to the question of pseudepigraphy.

Spring                      2025-2026                      Rodriguez (Hybrid)

## BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

**BI 210 English Bible Exegesis/Old Testament**

This course introduces the process of Old Testament exegesis and gives students opportunity to practice exegesis of various Old Testament passages in the English Bible. Students will learn to identify and evaluate the literary, social, historical, and canonical contexts of passages and to articulate a faithful interpretation of the meaning of those passages as Christian Scripture. Students will also learn to identify reliable appropriate scholarly resources for Old Testament interpretation. (Required in place of Greek or Hebrew)

Fall                      2025-2026                      Frayer-Griggs (Hybrid)

**BI 220 English Bible Exegesis/New Testament**

This course introduces the process of New Testament exegesis and gives students opportunity to practice exegesis of various New Testament passages in the English Bible. Students will learn to



## 42 Course Descriptions

identify and evaluate the literary, social, historical, and canonical contexts of passages and to articulate a faithful interpretation of the meaning of those passages as Christian Scripture. Students will also learn to identify reliable, appropriate scholarly resources for New Testament interpretation. (Required in place of Greek or Hebrew)

Spring	2025-2026	Fraye-Griggss
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### **OT 210 Hebrew Grammar I**

This course introduces students to the basics of biblical Hebrew and to the tools necessary for translating and interpreting Hebrew texts. Students will learn Hebrew consonants and vowel points and the rudiments of grammar and syntax. They will learn basic vocabulary and begin to translate and interpret simple sentences from the Hebrew Bible.

Summer	2025-2026	Creach (Online)
Fall	2025-2026	Creach

### **OT 220 Hebrew Grammar II and Exegesis**

This course completes the study of introductory Hebrew grammar and introduces the practice of exegesis. Students will gain skills in interpreting texts by giving attention to their literary, social, historical, and canonical contexts, and by articulating the meaning of these texts as Christian Scripture. Students will also learn to identify appropriate scholarly resources for biblical interpretation.

Summer	2025-2026	Creach (Online)
Spring	2025-2026	Creach

### **NT 210 Greek Grammar I**

This course introduces students to the basics of biblical Greek and to the tools necessary for translating and interpreting New Testament Greek texts. Students will start with the Greek alphabet and learn the rudiments of grammar and syntax. They will learn basic vocabulary and develop the ability to parse and to translate simple sentences from the New Testament.

Summer	2025-2026	Rodriguez (Online)
Fall	2025-2026	Rodriguez

**NT 220 Greek Grammar II and Exegesis**

This course completes the study of introductory Greek grammar, extends vocabulary memorization, and introduces the practice of exegesis. Students will gain skills in interpreting texts by giving attention to their literary, social, historical, and canonical contexts, and by articulating the meaning of these texts as Christian Scripture. Students will also learn to identify appropriate scholarly resources for biblical interpretation.

Summer	2025-2026	Rodriguez (Online)
Spring	2025-2026	Rodriguez

**ELECTIVE COURSES IN BIBLE****BI 425 Bible Study in the Church**

This course is designed to help students prepare to teach the Bible at the congregational level, whether that be in focused Bible studies or more thematic courses. The focus is adult education, but the material will be helpful for youth ministry as well. Course content addresses three particular areas: (1) theological exploration of hermeneutics and the nature of Scripture; (2) reflection on the role and posture of the teacher and the pros and cons of various pedagogical strategies; (3) practice designing and implementing Bible studies appropriate to diverse and specific settings.

Fall	2025-2026	Russaw
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**NT 415 The Gospel of John**

This course will engage in a careful study of the gospel, emphasizing its backgrounds, narrative techniques and structure, and theological concerns. The fourth gospel will also be seen in relation and contrast to the synoptics, while we explore its importance for the formative theology of the early Church. Attention will also be paid to the specific demands this book makes of today's preacher. Greek is not required, but will be very helpful. The class will proceed by means of lectures, discussion, and practical assignments.

Fall	2025-2026	Fraye-Griggs (Online)
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**NT 422 Romans**

The apostle Paul and his letters dominate our understanding and reconstruction of the earliest generation of the Christian

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movement. Paul’s influence over Christian theology, especially in Reformed traditions, is rivaled only by the influence of Jesus himself, with quests for Paul’s theology focusing particularly on the letters to the Romans and the Galatians. This course examines Paul’s longest and most influential letter, moving beyond “Pauline theology” to explore exegetical, historical, and social aspects of his letter to the Romans as well as Christianity at its origins and in 21<sup>st</sup>-century contexts.

Fall                      2025-2025                      Rodriguez (Online)

HISTORICAL STUDIES

REQUIRED COURSES IN HISTORICAL STUDIES

**CH 110 Foundations of the Christian Story**

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the late first century to the eve of the Reformation. Doctrinal and ecclesial developments will be considered within wider cultural contexts, with special attention to different ways of interpreting the biblical witness to Christ and life in Christ, and how they contribute to a shared, yet dynamic, Christian theological heritage.

Fall                      2025-2026                      Woo  
Fall                      2025-2026                      Ramsey (Hybrid)

**CH 120 Directions in the Christian Story**

This course surveys the history of Christianity from the Reformation to the present. Ecclesial and doctrinal developments will be considered with special attention to the different forms that Christian life and thought have taken as the church has entered new cultural contexts and discerned faithfulness to God’s mission.

Spring                      2025-2026                      Woo  
Spring                      2025-2026                      Ramsey (Hybrid)

## ELECTIVE COURSES IN HISTORICAL STUDIES

### **CH 420 World Christianity**

This course explores World Christianity as an academic field of study by examining the histories of Christian communities in particular parts of the world. The course provides both broad overviews of regional histories as well as focused studies of particular Christian communities curated to demonstrate their diversity and ingenuity. Students will also engage key thinkers and ideas from scholars of World Christianity.

Fall                      2025-2026                      Ramsey

### **ST 463 UM History (required for United Methodist students)**

Introduction to the narratives forming personal and corporate identity in United Methodists today, including founders' stories, phases of the denomination, persons representative of major developments, and stories that counter present perceptions. Fulfills the UM History requirement for election to probationary membership and commissioning in The United Methodist Church as specified in The Book of Discipline 2016. (2 credits)

Summer                      2025-2026                      Online through Wesley Theological Seminary

## THEOLOGY IN MINISTRY

### REQUIRED COURSES IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

### **CM 251 United Methodist Polity (required for United Methodist students)**

The Constitution and structural relationships of The United Methodist Church are examined with a particular focus upon the ministry and mission of the local church. Fulfills the UM Polity requirement for election to probationary membership and commissioning in The United Methodist Church. (2 credits)

J-Term                      2025-2026                      Online through Wesley Theological Seminary

**CS 110 Introduction to Contextual Analysis**

This course offers an orientation to the ways anthropological and sociological approaches to the interpretation of culture contribute to theological reflection with and within particular socio-cultural contexts. Focusing on a particular neighborhood and/or institutional environment, students will become familiar with the techniques and develop the skills to critically consider the missiological, theological, and ethical dimensions of a Christian community in relation to the wider society.

Spring	2025-2026	Hagley
Spring	2025-2026	Ramsey (Hybrid)

**CS 310 Ethics and Society**

This course equips students to reflect on the church and its relationship to its various locations, with a particular focus on national and global contexts and issues. Students will learn to use biblical and theological resources with insight from the social sciences to analyze contexts and to identify and explore ethical issues related to cultural, economic, and social structures in which the church participates in God’s mission.

Fall	2025-2026	Mingo (Hybrid)
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**FE 210 Field Education I**

This is the first of two consecutive courses in which students are invited into the postures, habits, and practices of theologically reflective ministry. Interdisciplinary in nature, the course pays particular attention to the integration of student experiences in field placement sites with work in contextual analysis, Christian theology, and pastoral care.

Fall	2025-2026	Woo (In-person)
Fall	2025-2026	Owens (Hybrid)

**FE 220 Field Education II**

This is the second of two consecutive courses in which students are invited into the postures, habits, and practices of theologically reflective ministry. Interdisciplinary in nature, the course pays particular attention to the integration of student experiences in field placement sites with work in exegesis, communication, and missional leadership.

Spring	2025-2026	Woo (In-person)
Spring	2025-2026	Owens (Hybrid)

**MI 210 Missional Leadership and Evangelism**

This course explores biblical, theological, and historical understandings of Christian mission and evangelism with a view toward practices for leading the church to discern and participate in God's mission within particular contexts.

Spring	2025-2026	Hagley (Hybrid)
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**MI 310 Intercultural Experiential Learning**

Intercultural Experiential Learning is organized in conjunction with the World Mission Initiative/Metro-Urban Institute intercultural learning trips and provides pre-trip orientation in cultural competence and anti-racism, intercultural communication, a theology of short-term mission engagement, area studies for the specific communities to be visited, and spiritual practices for mission. After the trip, students will explore personal, cultural, missiological, and theological strategies for reflecting on the intercultural experience.

J-Term	2025-2026	Farell and Oriola
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**PC 210 Introduction to Caring Ministry**

In this course, students will be introduced to the theology and practice of caring ministry, with special attention to pastoral self-awareness and key relational skills. The course will help students develop their capacity to understand and discern the needs of persons and communities and to determine appropriate responses. Students will also explore the intersection of leadership and care through the study of organizational dynamics and group processes.

Fall	2025-2026	Fuller
Fall	2025-2026	Fuller (Hybrid)

### **PR 210 Preaching and Communication in Ministry**

This course introduces students to the theology and practice of preaching, with attention to the performative skills involved in effective communication in ministry settings. Topics include: the oral interpretation of Scripture, biblical exegesis for proclamation, the role of culture and context in preaching, the structure and rhetoric of sermons, and the non-verbal dimensions of communication.

Spring	2025-2026	Carner
Spring	2025-2026	Hancock (Hybrid)

### **SP 110 Spiritual Formation**

In this course students will be introduced to and practice a variety of spiritual disciplines, grounded in historic Christian spiritual traditions. Students will reflect on their own life of prayer, practice of vocational discernment, and begin developing the skills to lead communal spiritual practices. (1.5 credits each semester. Both semesters required.)

Fall	2025-2026	Owens
Fall	2025-2026	Owens (Hybrid)
Spring	2025-2026	Owens
Spring	2025-2026	Owens (Hybrid)

### **ST 463 UM History**

Introduction to the narratives forming personal and corporate identity in United Methodists today, including founders' stories, phases of the denomination, persons representative of major developments, and stories that counter present perceptions. Fulfills the UM History requirement for election to probationary membership and commissioning in The United Methodist Church. Required for United Methodist students. (2 credits)

Summer	2025-2026	Online through Wesley Theological Seminary
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### **WS 110 Exploring Christian Worship**

An introduction to the study of the practices of Christian worship with attention to the ways the Bible, theology, tradition, and context shape what Christian communities do when they gather to worship God. Led by faculty representing a variety of theological disciplines and perspectives, each section of WS 110 considers



particular dimensions of Christian worship, promoting theological reflection, historical and socio-cultural awareness, intellectual curiosity, and participation in the worship life of the Seminary community and the wider church. The course is also designed to introduce the resources, tools, and skills that contribute to effective written communication at the master's level.

Fall	2025-2026	Creach
Fall	2025-2026	Gibson (Hybrid)

## ELECTIVE COURSES IN THEOLOGY IN MINISTRY

### **CS 401 Introduction to Urban Ministry**

This course will examine the history, theological focus, and core values that inform ministry in the city. Attention will be given to helping students discern their vocational call in the context of city life and Christian witness in this arena. Required for Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry.

Fall	2025-2026	Smith (Online)
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### **CS 415 Women in Church and Society**

The scope of the course includes the feminist and womanist positions for women's clergy and lay leadership in churches; the conditions extant within society which brought about liberation movements and the extent to which it influences church women. History of the church's attitudes toward women past and present. Special attention is given to the needs of women in ministry and to the ideational and political stance(s) which inform them. Exploration of biblical and theological themes in relation to women's leadership roles in ecclesiastical institutions and other spaces for Christian ministry. While this course will primarily engage a North American perspective, women's leadership in the church and society will be embraced globally.

Fall	2025-2026	Mingo (Online)
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### **CS 437 Pittsburgh Social and Religious Ecologies**

The Pittsburgh Metropolitan region has embodied in important ways America's early settler adventures, difficult race relations, industrial revolution, labor strife, urban decline and redevelopment, and an evolving religious culture. Utilizing historical, sociological, and theological readings as well as lectures from key, local experts

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and informants, the course explores Pittsburgh's metropolitan ethos and the role of churches in the formation and maintenance of metro-Pittsburgh's social and religious culture. Observational and analytical tools acquired in this course will readily transfer to interpretation and analysis of local social and religious contexts beyond the metro-Pittsburgh context.

Spring          2025-2026          Smith (Online)

### **CS 445 Applied Theological Practicum**

This course combines theoretical examinations of intentional faith-based social engagement and 'real-time' collective pursuits of such engagement as embodied in large contemporary networks of socially-engaged Christians (requiring pre-approval). The bulk of the course content will derive from student participation in a week-long annual or biannual conference of one of these networks (or of a similar network). An additional layer of theoretical analysis will be provided via course readings that outline tight connections between moral-ethical thought and action.

Fall              2025-2026          Mingo (Online)

### **CS 470 Capitalism and Christian Witness**

An exploration of U.S. capitalism and the consequences for church mission and ministry. Drawing from histories of capitalist development in the United States, students will gain critical tools for thinking about the ways economic structures and practices commodify our world, while also exploring different Christian responses to capitalist or consumerist production.

Fall              2025-2026          Hagley

### **EF 410 Polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

An introduction to the essential elements of Presbyterian polity (the Book of Order) in light of the confessional and theological foundations (the Book of Confessions) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The course will explore ways that an understanding of Presbyterian polity can support, guide, and enhance the practice of ministry in diverse congregational settings. In addition, students will be introduced to basic parliamentary procedure and the role of the moderator in planning and facilitating session meetings. This course is designed to prepare Presbyterian students for the

ordination examination in church polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

J-Term      2025-2026      T. Hancock (Online)

### **PC 428 Loss, Transition, and Transformation**

This course explores theories and practices related to providing pastoral care to persons coping with death, loss, grief, and transition. Students will also engage biblical, theological, and spiritual resources as frameworks for understanding the nature and role of transformation within experiences of transition and loss.

Spring      2025-2026      Fuller

### **PC 431 Justice and Pastoral Care**

This course explores the communal, intercultural, and systemic contexts of caring practices and the links between justice-making and pastoral care. In this course students will consider the ways in which communal dynamics such as injustice, exclusion, and conflict may shape individual experiences of suffering, both in congregations and in the communities of which they are a part.

Spring      2025-2026      Fuller (Online)

## STUDIES IN THEOLOGY

### REQUIRED COURSES IN THEOLOGY

#### **TH 210 Christian Theology I**

This is the first of two courses introducing students to Christian doctrine. Students are invited to reflect theologically on the biblical narrative of election, creation, sin, Israel, and Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension as lifted up in the church's creedal confessions about Trinity and Christ. Attention will be given to how God's being and work draw us into God's mission and give shape to faithful practices and ministry within particular cultural contexts.

Fall      2025-2026      Van Driel (Hybrid)

### **TH 320 Christian Theology II**

This is the second of two courses introducing students to Christian doctrine. Students are invited to reflect theologically on the biblical narrative of God's gifts through the spirit of the risen Christ, including justification, sanctification, vocation, the church, the sacraments, and the eschatological consummation of God's reign, as lifted up in the church's creedal confessions. Attention will be given to how God's being and work draws us into God's mission and gives shape to faithful practices and ministry within particular cultural contexts.

Spring	2025-2026	van Driel
Spring	2025-2026	van Driel (Hybrid)

## **ELECTIVE COURSES IN THEOLOGY**

### **TH 408 Supralapsarian Christology**

Supralapsarian Christology holds that the incarnation is not contingent upon sin, but central to God's fundamental intentions for creation. The last 15 years has seen a renaissance of this approach, with a variety of new studies exploring its implications not only for Christology, but also for biblical studies, ethics, pastoral care, and missiology. In this course we will read some of these contributions, focused on the ways in which supralapsarian Christology offers a fresh way of telling the biblical narrative in a new missional era.

Fall	2025-2026	van Driel (Online)
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## **RESEARCH SEMINARS AND FINAL PROJECTS (MAPS AND MTS)**

### **REQUIRED COURSES**

#### **MAPS Final Project Seminar**

The MAPS Final Project Seminar helps students define and produce an integrative final project that draws from completed coursework and supports their ministerial/vocational objectives. The course

will attend to the theory and practice of vocation and will equip students with research tools appropriate to the format of their final project.

Fall/Spring 2025-2026 Staff

### **RS 110 Research Methods Seminar**

This course introduces students to the sources, methods, and bibliographical tools important for academic research and writing in a theological context. Students will gain familiarity with on-campus resources such as the Barbour Library and Center for Writing and Learning Support. Designed to be completed in the fall of the second year of one's program, this course will develop skills in critical analysis as students begin engaging scholarship relevant to completing a research project.

Fall 2025-2026 Frayer-Griggs (Online)

### **MTS Final Project Seminar**

Students will receive 6 semester hour credits for the completion of a final project that explores more deeply the chosen area of concentration. The focus and design of the final project, which ordinarily takes the form of a comprehensive research paper, are developed in consultation with the student's advisor and/or the MTS director. The final project should demonstrate an ability to reflect on Christian traditions, including an awareness of how socio-cultural context shapes interpretations of tradition, thought, and/or practice. (6 credits)

Fall/Spring 2025-2026 Staff

## **DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM**

All courses are for 3 academic credits unless otherwise noted.

### **EASTERN CHRISTIAN FOCUS**

The Eastern Christian Focus is designed for clergy serving Orthodox and Eastern Rite congregations and agencies and those interested in dialogue with Eastern Christianity. The courses are scheduled

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in a one-week intensive format. Courses are held on the campus of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and at the Antiochian House of Studies in Bolivar, Pa., a spacious conference center about 90 minutes east of Pittsburgh. Faculty of Pittsburgh Seminary and Antiochian House of Studies teach the courses. Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation.

## REQUIRED COURSES IN EASTERN CHRISTIAN FOCUS

### **DM 201 Research Methods Seminar**

What is it like to view Eastern Christianity from a Protestant perspective? How can this outside perspective help orthodox leaders understand the special gifts of orthodoxy as well as the misunderstandings that sometimes arise between Orthodox and Protestants? The instructor, a Protestant, will draw from his many years of living among Orthodox believers both in the United States and in Russia. The course will include attention to the sources, methods, and biological tools important for academic research and writing in a theological context.

### **DM 211 Christian Ethics and Morality**

This course seeks to explore the roots of Eastern spirituality and to study contemporary moral issues from three perspectives: 1) spirituality/morality in Patristic Tradition; 2) practicing Patristic orality in modern society; and 3) facing contemporary moral issues in ministry.

### **DM 221 Orthodox Canonical Tradition**

This class is intended to be an introduction to the Canonical Tradition of the Orthodox Church. After a brief overview of sources, the course will move on to a discussion of what Canon Law is. The course will then consider various canonical contemporaneous questions regularly encountered both within and outside the church. This course will emphasize both content and application. Special focus on the Antiochian Orthodox Church position concerning the contemporary problems will be elaborated. Students will be expected to properly express (both in written and oral form) canonical solutions to pastoral problems.

**DM 231 Homiletics**

This is an advanced course in the theory and practice of preaching in the context of worship, with student input central to the seminar.

**DM 241 Christology and Life after Death**

This course explores Eastern Christian understandings of death, resurrection, and eternal life in relation to Christ's victory over sin and death. The course will assist students in pastoral practice related to ministry to the dying, funerals, and remembrance of the dead.

**DM 251 Orthodoxy and Ethnicity/National Identity**

As Fr. Alexander Schmemmann has noted, Orthodoxy seeks to transform whatever culture in which it finds itself. This course will explore the different ethnic and national contexts in which Orthodoxy has historically enculturated itself, as well as the special challenges that Orthodoxy faces in pluralistic Western societies in which Orthodox believers are a religious minority.

**DM 261 Lectionary and Orthodoxy**

This course examines the Orthodox cycle of biblical readings for the church year and how these readings shape the liturgy, preaching, and commemoration of Christ, the Theotokos, and the saints. Special attention will be devoted to the church's 12 major holidays.

**DM 271 Orthodox Ways of Knowing**

This course explores the two types of knowledge in Orthodox Christianity: knowledge of the mind and knowledge of the heart. The course will discuss the essence of Orthodox Christian knowledge through true encounter, and the expression of such experience in the diverse human epistemological and philosophical frames of mind. The course will also highlight the importance of establishing a priority for using a specific order of epistemological questions to accurately express the encounter. The course will then highlight Orthodox methodologies and their foundational dependence on a lifestyle of a "change of mind" and the requirement of this change for a true Orthodox conversion, not just in form but also in essence.

**DM 281 Biblical Seminar**

This seminar provides a study of basic themes and ideas that appear in both the Old and New Testaments and of the ways in



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which these relate to issues in church and ministry. Discussion of the relationship of these themes to the areas students are considering for their doctoral projects is a major component of the course.

### **DM 291 Eastern Christian Proposal Seminar**

This course is to assist students in designing a doctoral project in a particular area of ministry. Theoretical issues underlying the situation and a method for addressing these issues are clarified as the student develops the proposal in consultation with peers and faculty.

### **DMECFP Eastern Christian Final Project**

The program requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper, which must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in their own ministry; integrate appropriate theological, biblical, and professional resources; and develop a method for resolution. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. (6 credits)

## **MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP FOCUS**

The Missional Leadership D.Min. Focus seeks to form pastors to lead congregations in discerning their participation in God's mission within specific contexts.

Goals for this focus:

- To develop a biblically rooted and theologically informed understanding of missional congregations and leadership. Achieving this goal will include the development of a theology of missional congregations, leadership theory, ethics, ecclesiology, proclamation, and conflict theory.
- To form leaders who are theologically reflective from within their own contexts and able to lead their congregation to become a missional community. Achieving this goal includes the integration of research methodology with formative postures, habits, and practices of adaptive change leadership. It also encompasses the challenge of re-thinking church, cultivating communal discernment, plunging into the neighborhood, preaching, worship, and pastoral care.

Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation.

## DISTINCTIVES

**Cohort Facilitators.** A distinctive aspect of this program is the use of cohort facilitators, who will companion the cohort throughout the program, helping students maintain a global and contextual focus and clarify corresponding research questions. Each cohort facilitator will lead at least one online workshop between courses, with the explicit aim of having integrative discussion and to provide coaching on research. Each professor teaching a seminar will lead the Friday morning session to help the students bring the work of that course into conversation with the program goals and their own research agendas.

**Research Question.** Students are required to develop a guiding research question and learn research methodologies appropriate to that question early in the program. This research question will guide each student's work between courses and will serve to further shape, clarify, and focus the relationship between course work and each student's ministry context.

The phases of the program include:

- Seminar, consisting of nine seminars in which various areas of missional leadership are reviewed (27 credits);
- Capstone and refining project (3 credits); and
- Doctoral, implementation and writing of the doctoral paper (6 credits).

## REQUIRED COURSES IN THE MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP FOCUS

All courses are for 3 academic credits unless otherwise noted.

### **DM 300 Theology of Missional Congregations**

This course lays the foundation for a missional theology developed from within the pastor's leadership postures, habits, and practices of cultivating environments of communal discernment as their congregation participates in God's mission in the congregation's specific context. This course will transition into the identification of a specific research project as the pastor's embodied setting from within which missional leadership postures, habits, and practices will be cultivated.

### **DM 310 Research Methods Seminar**

This course will explore and develop the pastor's research project by refining the research question and identifying an appropriate research methodology within the embodied setting while giving attention to the "lived experience" of the persons and community from within which the pastor will engage the rest of the program. Consideration will be given to defining theological reflection paying attention to developing a practice which allows us to be open to trust God as the initiator and guide of both vocation and call.

### **DM 311 Race, Response, and Scripture**

This course explores authority and interpretation of Scripture with a focus on how race has operated in scriptural interpretation in the United States. Particular attention is given to sociocultural realities that shape the way individuals and institutions approach Scripture.

### **DM 320 Pastor as Adaptive Change Leader**

This course is a historical, theological, and practice exploration of the role of the pastor as leader of adaptive change. It re-interprets the key marks of ordained ministry—word, sacrament, order, and service—for the new missional context. The aim is one of transition from a focus on the pastor as adaptive change leader into a focus on the pastor's congregation as missional community, and therefore, the need for an appropriate ecclesiology.

### **DM 330 Re-thinking Church: Ecclesiology**

How does it look to think about congregations not as communities that have to participate in God's mission but that already are? What does it look like to think about the church not as a voluntary organization but as a community constituted by God? These are the kind of questions we deal with in this course as we explore the relationships between God's mission in the world, the church, and salvation.

### **DM 340 Practicing Communal Discernment**

This course will explore a variety of ways in which the pastor as adaptive change leader can cultivate environments of communal discernment in their congregation for the sake of participating in God's mission in their specific context. This course will transition from a focus on the congregational environments of communal discernment to a focus on how the congregation's missional discernment is shaped by a relational engagement with their specific context.

**DM 350 Plunging into the Neighborhood**

Building on the previous course's habits and practices of communal discernment in a congregational setting, this course will take such processes of discernment into a journey of discovery in the neighborhood by using the postures, habits, and practices of community exegesis, by deep listening to the neighbor, building relationships, and forming bi-cultural bridge communities as an integral part of discerning the congregation's participation in God's mission in their specific context.

**DM 361 Public Theology and Prophetic Witness**

This course will explore what it means to do public theology with an emphasis on reading and understanding the larger operations of power in church, neighborhood, and culture. Understanding that God is actively at work in the world, students will be challenged to explore how they can lead their communities to join in that work of God and to offer prophetic, embodied witness to God's call to love and justice.

**DM 370 Leadership in the Midst of Conflict and Change**

The premise of this course is that engaging conflict and change in productive ways is a crucial part of a community's discernment process and can lead to a clearer understanding of how the community might participate in God's mission in the world. Consequently, this course focuses on helping congregational leaders learn how to encourage healthy conflict, rather than the fear or avoidance of conflict, in their particular settings.

**DM 00 Noncredit Seminar**

Will be taken online. For students needing assistance in project development. This course is not for credit.

**DM 380 Missional Leadership Final Capstone Seminar**

This is a capstone seminar in which students share both their project and final results. This will be a shared evaluation process, in which students offer support and careful critique of themes which will become part of an ongoing dialogue for this cohort and future cohorts. Prior to this, students will complete a three-credit elective of their choice to address a particular theme or aspect related to the question and project they have been developing all along. Faculty who have taught in the program will participate in guiding this final seminar.

### **DM 390 Missional Leadership Final Project**

The program requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper that must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in their own ministry, integrate appropriate theological, biblical, and professional resources, and develop a method for resolution. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. (6 credits)

## **REFORMED FOCUS**

In a time of deep change, the Reformed tradition remains a fruitful resource for leaders of Christian communities seeking to practice faithful innovation. At its core, it is a tradition rooted in a theological narrative of God's unbounded grace. The adjective "theological" calls attention to the formative role theological and biblical reflection play in the practice of ministry and the discernment of how best to witness to God's grace in local and global contexts today.

The Reformed focus particularly explores the dynamics of ministry in the cultural contexts of Scotland and the United States. While there are many differences between the two countries, churches in both contexts rightly raise questions about what faithful ministry looks like in a post-Christian context, how to practice hospitality in ecumenical, interfaith, and multicultural encounters, how to respond to the environmental crisis, and what it means to witness to Jesus Christ in light of historical and contemporary abuses of power. A Research Methods course and a Final Proposal Lab complete the core coursework that prepares students for their Final Project.

The structure includes:

- Seminar Phase, involving the eight core seminars and a Research Methods course (27 credits);
- Research and Project Design Phase, in which the proposal of the doctoral project is worked out in a Final Proposal Lab (3 credits); and
- Project Phase, which includes working with a faculty committee of two readers, implementation of the project, and writing of the doctoral paper (6 credits).

The Reformed Focus is planned in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. North American and Scottish/UK clergy meet for seminars, with two-week periods of concentrated study—twice in Pittsburgh and three times in Scotland.

During the first set of seminars, an orientation session will be held to review the parameters, distinctiveness, and expectations of the doctor of ministry degree. Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation.

## REQUIRED COURSES IN REFORMED FOCUS

### **DM 401 Reformed Theology and Worship**

This course introduces the commitments, shape, history, and contexts of Reformed theology through the lens of worship. Where—past and present—do we find Reformed communities? What is the shape of their worship life? And what do these patterns tell us about the commitments of Reformed theology?

### **DM 411 Research Methods Seminar**

This course explores the research methods necessary for the academic program. As part of the course, students will have an opportunity to explore a research question that might become the basis for a doctor of ministry final project.

### **DM 422 Reformed Spirituality**

This course considers selected themes in Reformed spirituality, looking back to explore strands that could have the potential to contribute to personal spirituality and ministry today. The aim will not be to promote an uncritical adoption of past stresses and habits (i.e. to transplant the past to the present) but to engage critically with the tradition together. Some elements will open up fresh roads to explore for today, and others we may decide are dead ends; either way, this will help us to reflect critically and imaginatively on ways to nourish spirituality in ourselves and others. Everyone will engage with the material in their own way, bringing to it their own history, experience, and present context. Course participants will use and reflect on John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer* as a 20<sup>th</sup> century classic of Reformed spirituality.

**DM 432 The Bible and Ecological Hermeneutics**

In the Reformed tradition, Scripture is a crucial impetus for the ongoing reformation of the church. This course explores the interpretation of biblical texts in the context of the current environmental crisis. We will evaluate critical arguments that implicate the Bible as a contributor to the problem and attend to more constructive readings that partner biblical scholarship with environmental ethics. This course integrates the study of the Bible and Reformed theology through the study of a cluster of biblical themes (creation, stewardship, land, environmental crisis, and apocalypse), models pastorally responsible and theologically sensitive readings of texts related to these themes, and stimulates reflection on how these biblical themes might function as a resource for preaching and teaching in the life of Christian communities today.

**DM 441 Reformed Ecclesiology and Ecumenism**

Reformed theology has always been deeply invested in the importance of the church, its common life, and its visible unity. Reformed theologians have been at the forefront of the ecumenical movement. North American and Western European contexts have nonetheless produced different forms of Reformed church life, and the ecumenical movement is largely faltering. This course will explore what contributions Reformed ecclesiology may still make in the great transitions 21<sup>st</sup> century Christian communities experience in the Western world.

**DM 452 Migration and the Decentering of the Western Church**

Scholars of World Christianity have long argued that the 20<sup>th</sup> century experienced a gravitational shift in the world Christian population, whereby most Christians today are found in the majority world. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this gravitational shift has reshaped the demographics of the Western Church, including in the United Kingdom and the United States where there has been a noticeable decline in historic expressions of Christianity. This course will explore the reasons for these demographic changes in both countries, raise queries around the 'homogenous unit principle' and the eschatological ideals of a multicultural church, and engage practical and theological considerations from within and beyond Reformed ecclesiology.



**DM 462 Theologies of Power**

This course will invite students to critically examine Christian theology and ethics in light of historical and contemporary abuses of power, marginalization, and domination by Christian leaders. It will bring the Reformed tradition into dialogue with postcolonial, womanist/feminist, and trauma theologies among other historically overlooked perspectives.

**DM 471 Being Church in a Post-Christian World**

In both the Western European and North American context, there are churches who have rediscovered the notion of the *missio dei*, the mission of God. Theologians rooted in the Reformed tradition have been deeply involved in these conversations. At the same time, in both contexts for significant amounts of people the Christian faith, and any religious conviction, is increasingly implausible. This course explores the ways in which theologians and practitioners are engaging the challenge of being church in a post-Christian world.

**DM 481 Theology in Context**

Theological reflection is shaped by contexts large and small. This course will sample how writings from within the Reformed tradition have interacted with particular local forces. Students can use this course to hone in on the ways their own project topic is rooted in a particular local context, with history, traditions, and ways of interpreting and communicating the gospel.

**DM 491 Reformed Focus Proposal Lab**

In this course students create an initial draft of their project and work together to hone and improve one another's project plans.

**DMRFP Reformed Focus Final Project**

This course requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper, which must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in their own ministry, integrate appropriate theological, biblical, and professional resources, and develop a method for resolution. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. (6 credits)

## INTERGENERATIONAL BLACK CHURCH STUDIES

The Intergenerational Black Church Studies Focus assumes two distinct but intertwining streams in expressions of the Black church: ecclesial expressions of church, and a form of church expressed and experienced in larger social movements. In this focus we seek to learn about, learn from, and be formed by coordination and conflict between these two streams. We also seek to give attention to the promise and the challenge created by both cooperation and conflict within these two streams of spiritual expression. Topics to be covered will include but not be limited to the following: (1) tensions between conventional and non-conventional approaches to formation and practice; (2) institutional and non-institutional constructions of whiteness; and (3) new virtual capacities for organization and communication. Instructors will include both academics and practitioners and, when possible, individuals who are both. The mentors will work with class participants to plan and design courses together in response to the experience and gifts within the group.

This cohort will meet according to the two-week January and June schedule. The focus will have two mentors who work in tandem: a faculty and a practitioner. In addition, a cohort facilitator will gather the cohort online every month. The facilitator may be a student within the cohort or an outside individual. The convener's responsibilities will largely be administrative as the faculty and practitioner mentors will lead the discussions and prayer at the gatherings. Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation

## REQUIRED COURSES IN THE INTERGENERATIONAL BLACK CHURCH STUDIES FOCUS

### **DM 505 Research Methods Seminar**

Introduction to a variety of research methods and practices in practical theology with particular attention to ethnography.

### **DM 515 Intergenerational Dynamics**

Overview of historic intergenerational dynamics in a variety of institutions and movements primarily with Black Christian traditions. Emphasis will be placed on historic, theological,

and sociological factors that shaped these dynamics and their importance for understanding Black socio-religious praxis today.

**DM 525 Theological Engagement**

This course is an exploration of community engagement and participation in larger social movements as an expression of and as distinct from Black church formal institutional practices. Students will theologically examine social movements through biblical and other historical narratives, implementing a social-political lens and raising questions about how today's church writes its own history in the context of contemporary movements.

**DM 535 Design Thinking/Ecologies of Ministry**

Engagement with current ministry in Black Church traditions with particular attention to aesthetics and materiality and the significance of social context. The course will introduce students to principles of design thinking as a tool to lead congregations in imagining possibilities for ministry in a specific setting.

**DM 545 Black Churches and Scripture**

Exploration of engagement with Scripture as a living witness in Black churches with particular attention to practices of hermeneutics and their relationship with sociocultural location.

**DM 555 Proclamation/Witness/Community Literacy**

Exploration of forms of sacred proclamation in Black church traditions and how proclamation in these instances, including preaching, artistic, and aesthetic expression, reflects awareness of specific context.

**DM 565 Gender and Black Church Leadership**

This course considers gender dynamics in Black church traditions and the significance of gender to Black church conceptions of community and leadership possibilities.

**DM 575 Leadership and Endurance**

A consideration of sources of spiritual sustenance offered by Black church traditions and the significance of spiritual practice in ethical formation.

**DM 585 Black Church Responsiveness to Issues**

Consideration of some of the most pressing social issues of the present day, the significance of those issues for Black people in the

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United States, and the role of the church in responding to those issues.

### **DM 595 Mobilizing Global Blackness**

A consideration of the global reach of current social movements and the place of Black church traditions in that larger ecosystem.

### **DMBSFP Intergenerational Black Church Final Project**

The Intergenerational Black Church Studies focus requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper which must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in their own ministry, integrate appropriate theological, biblical, and professional resources, and develop a method for resolution. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. (6 credits)

## CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY FOCUS

Many people in Christian ministry find that after some years of ministry, not only are their own souls feeling empty, but that they never really learned how to help others deepen their lives of prayer, even though this is something they long to do.

This doctor of ministry focus is designed to give Christian ministers the opportunity to explore the depth and breadth of Christian spirituality across historical time periods, cultures, and contexts while providing key skills to equip them to help the people they serve become increasingly open, available, and responsive to the work God is doing in their lives and in the world God so loves. Students will experience the joy of study in a community of learners, the rejuvenation that comes from attending to their own lives of prayer, and the satisfaction of widening the impact of their ministries by receiving a certificate in either Spiritual Direction in Ministry or Leading Spiritual Formation.

- The program begins with an introductory course, followed by both one- and/or two-week sessions over a period of two years (30 credits);
- The Final Project requirements allow for more flexibility with what might constitute a project under the broader rubric of spirituality (6 credits).

A diverse faculty weaves explicit exploration of the contextual/diverse nature of Christian spirituality and practice through each course.

Due to the formative/practical nature of the program, students may on occasion have evening sessions to practice deep listening, spiritual direction, and other skills.

All students must be in one-on-one spiritual direction before Intensive II and throughout the remainder of the program and ideally should have experience in one-on-one spiritual direction before the program.

Beginning after the second gathering, students seeking a certificate will engage in the ministries of either spiritual direction or spiritual formation with bi-monthly distance peer supervision sessions.

- Spiritual Direction in Ministry: Monthly meetings with at least two directees beginning after the second gathering and continuing for 18 months, with nine peer supervision sessions.
- Leading Spiritual Formation: Monthly leadership of spiritual formation (or equivalent—leading a retreat would count as two months of spiritual formation, for example) beginning after the second gathering and continuing for 18 months, with nine peer supervision sessions.

Students may choose to receive a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Spirituality without receiving a certificate. In this case, students will not engage in peer-supervised ministry but will engage in all other practice sessions and complete the doctor of ministry project/thesis. Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation.

## REQUIRED COURSES IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY FOCUS

All courses are for 3 academic credits unless otherwise noted.

### **DM 701 Introduction Christian Spirituality: Traditions, Contexts, Practices**

Introduces the program, historical/biblical orientation to Christian spirituality, the contextual nature of Christian spirituality, understanding and practicing spiritual disciplines, and developing and keeping a rule of life.

**DM 711 Research Methods Seminar**

Explores research methods necessary for the academic work of the program; teaches basic ethnographic or other appropriate research methods. Gives students the opportunity to explore a research question that might become the basis for a D.Min. project.

**DM 721 The Ministry of Spiritual Direction**

Orients students toward the historical, theological, and practical nature of spiritual direction. Addresses issues of spiritual direction across contexts and in diverse communities. Incorporates practice spiritual direction sessions. Includes skills in asking formative questions and deep listening.

**DM 731 The Ministry of Spiritual Formation/Teaching and Leading Spiritual Practices**

Introduces students to the art and practice of leading spiritual formation experiences, corporate spiritual disciplines, and teaching prayer. Attends to issues of how spiritual formation differs across cultural contexts. Includes workshops in which students practice leading/teaching prayer.

**DM 742 Spiritual Formation/Global Perspective**

Spirituality in the Christian tradition is largely influenced by Western cultural values. This course develops a more holistic framework of spirituality through engaging non-Western spiritual traditions, including the writings of authors of color from Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian traditions. Key themes to be explored will be: divine encounter, suffering, communal discernment, and embodiment.

**DM 752 Discernment and the Compassion of God**

In this course, students will explore discernment as deepening connection to God, cultivating compassion for oneself in service, and embodying compassion in acts of care and justice. Within this framework, this course covers traditional practices of individual and corporate discernment. Throughout this course students will practice discernment in their own spiritual journeys and be equipped to lead others in discerning how to participate ever more fully in God's compassion in the world.

**DM 761 Spirituality and Discipleship in the Gospels**

Close study of the Gospels explores the various ways notions of spirituality, spiritual formation, and discipleship take shape in these

biblical accounts. Attends to how cultural context shapes how we read and the way the Gospels have influenced subsequent Christian spiritual traditions.

### **DM 772 Thomas Merton: Monk, Poet, and Social Critic**

In this course, students will explore the life and spiritual writings of Thomas Merton, including his writing on war and racism and his interreligious dialogue with Buddhism. Merton's concepts of the true and false selves will receive special attention especially in relationship to how those concepts are deployed in current popular spirituality.

### **DM 781 Protestant Spiritual Traditions**

This course explores the theology and development of several major Protestant spiritual traditions, including Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican (including Wesleyan), and Anabaptist, and spiritual practices/emphases associated with them. Attends to how culture and context shape these traditions.

### **DM 792 Howard Thurman: Mystic and Prophet**

Students in this course will explore the life, theology, and spirituality of Howard Thurman, a seminal figure in 20<sup>th</sup> century Christian spirituality and civil rights. Central to the course will be Thurman's construal of the relationship between mysticism and prophetic justice ministry.

### **DMCSFP Christian Spirituality Final Project**

The program requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper, which must demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a problem, issue, or concern in their own ministry, integrate appropriate theological, biblical, and professional resources, and develop a method for resolution. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. (6 credits)

## **CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLIC THEOLOGY FOCUS**

The Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology will invite student writers to listen to and experiment with different writer's voices in a variety of genres and to imagine new possibilities with regard to purpose(s), audience(s), and context(s) in theological writing. Along the way, students will grapple with the following questions: 1) What do I want from my writing? 2) What does my/the church want for my writing? 3) What does society

## 70 Course Descriptions

want from my writing? 4) What does God want from my writing? With these touchstone questions, students will develop through the program a better sense of the cultural and ministerial context(s) of their writing and articulate their vocation as creative theological writers in relation to the wider public audiences for theological ideas and practice. Guided reading lists and the syllabus are sent to students several weeks in advance of the sessions to allow for adequate preparation.

## REQUIRED COURSES IN THE CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLIC THEOLOGY FOCUS (2024 COHORT)

All courses are for 3 academic credits unless otherwise noted.

### **DM 900 Voice, Faith, and Place in Creative Writing and Public Theology**

The purpose of this course is to launch our conversation about the general themes that will occupy the cohort throughout the next several years—these include engagement of the writer's voice, the role of faith in creative writing, the writer's sense of place in writing, the nuances of theological reflection, and the practices and concerns of writing creatively. We will spend time together mapping the features of a new approach to public theology and think together and about what it means to be a public theologian engaged in the vocation as a creative writer. Rather than providing answers, the course aims to surface questions and ideas for students to engage over the course of the program. Additionally, the course will help students and faculty establish collegial working relationships with each other so that a community of writers might be established.

### **DM 910 Craft Workshop I**

Students choose one of three options:

#### **DM 910-1 Bearing Witness, Writing Trauma: Creative Nonfiction**

Through the reading and practice of creative writing, this 10-week online course explores trauma—an unassimilable, often unspeakable psychic and spiritual injury usually arising from acts of violence, which may be the central malady of our era. This writing and literature class is devoted to finding words for it. We'll look at texts from Lamentations to *Voices*



*From Chernobyl*, from Natasha Trethaway's *Memorial Drive* to medical professionals' accounts of the coronavirus pandemic, and undertake writing assignments designed to make trauma, and particularly the trauma of others, intelligible to readers.

### **DM 910-2 Experimental Prose and Poetry**

This Craft of Writing course is a 10-week, online course that will explore contemporary poetry through readings, discussions, writing exercises and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Students will practice/experiment with writing poems as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

### **DM 910-3 Short Story: Fiction**

In this 10-week, online Craft of Writing course, students will explore contemporary fiction writing through readings, discussions, writing exercises, and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Students will practice/experiment with writing fiction as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

### **DM 920 The Bible, Storytelling, and the Religious Imagination**

This course will engage the Bible and storytelling to inspire the religious imagination. It will focus on hearing voices long silenced—from the pages of Scripture, stories, and screenplays. We will explore places where these stories are told, and will engage the city of Pittsburgh as the birthplace of August Wilson (including sites such as the August Wilson Center, and the artist's childhood home in the Hill District, which is now an arts center called the August Wilson House).

### **DM 930 Craft of Writing Workshop II**

Students choose one of two options.

#### **DM 930-1 Memior**

This course will explore memoir writing through readings, discussions, writing exercises, and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Students will practice/experiment with writing memoir as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

### **DM 930-2 Multigenre Spiritual Writing**

In this 10-week, online Craft of Writing course, students will explore a variety of creative writing forms—mostly fiction and nonfiction—through readings, discussions, writing exercises, and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Students will practice/experiment with writing as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

### **DM 940 Storytelling For Times Such as These**

This Theology Content course is an intensive, week-long course intended to engage students in the question of how to tell stories in times such as these. The course attends to matters of context as well as the methods of storytelling in engagements with the Christian story and vision.

### **DM 950 Craft Writing Workshop III**

Students choose one of two options:

#### **DM 950-1 Poetry and Prose**

This 10-week, online Craft of Writing course invites students to explore poetry writing through readings, discussions, writing exercises, and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Students will practice/experiment with writing poetry as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

#### **DM 950-2 Writing for Children**

This course will explore writing for children through readings, discussions, writing exercises, and workshopping those writings. It will engage a variety of topics and subjects. Discussions on the practice of mindful “noticing” also will be emphasized. Students will practice/experiment with writing for a young audience as well as making constructive comments on the work of peers in the workshop setting.

### **DM 961 Theology, Ecology, and Writing**

In this course we will examine the interplay between science and religion by examining ecological and theological perspectives on climate change. We will begin with an exploration of how ecology and Christian theologies see the relationship between humans and nature. From there, we will delve into climate change, asking how theological and ecological viewpoints contribute to our

understandings of the problem and how each elicits responses in the form of social action and policy. The course will end with an examination of how partnerships between scientific communities and communities of faith are addressing climate change and environmental justice. This Doctor of Ministry course will create space in which students can engage their theological imagination and craft their public voice through creative writing. In this case, they will be exploring a crucial issue in our world, and probably in their ministry. Resources of theology and science will be utilized.

### **DM 971 Craft of Writing Workshop IV**

Students choose one of two options:

#### **DM 971-1 and 2 Creative Writing in the Public: Launching Your Work into the World**

This Craft of Writing course will be divided into two sections and will combine creative writing practice and workshop with discussions and explorations about “public” possibilities of launching creative writing into the world. We will grow a layered and expansive conversation about publishing that invites students to find, follow, and live into new questions about what, how, with whom, and why they want to share what they are called to share in the world. Potential questions include: What do I want from my writing? What does my church want for my writing? What does society want from my writing? What does God want from my writing? Potential public venues for writing/stories may include blogs, readings, public events and readings, radio, formal book publishing, or others. Students will: 1) reflect on their personal approach/beliefs/feelings/stories around writing, publishing, and ministry; 2) connect, extend, and be inspired from the processes of others; 3) engage collaboratively through giving-receiving feedback on creative writing and proposal research/writing; 4) inquire, revise, and reflect in meaningful ways connected to their personal writing, ministry, and life.

Students will also begin the process of writing a proposal for their final CWPT project for their degree at PTS. (The proposal includes a 2-5 page essay, bibliography, and 5-10 page sample of writing.)

**DM 981 Thomas Merton: Monk, Poet, and Social Critic**

In this course, students will explore the life and spiritual writings of Thomas Merton, including his writing on war and racism and his interreligious dialogue with Buddhism. Merton's concepts of the true and false selves will receive special attention especially in relationship to how those concepts are deployed in current popular spirituality. This course will allow students to explore the fluid dimensions of faith and the complexities of their vocational context. Reading Merton's writings will reveal the work of a public theologian and demonstrate how theological and scriptural knowledge are integrating into their cultural contexts. Merton's writings will also help students analyze their own cultural contexts to frame and respond to crucial issues in their ministry.

**DM 990 Manuscript Writing**

This final Craft of Writing course unfolds online over 10 weeks and is intended to support students as they develop their final creative manuscripts for the Doctor of Ministry project. This is a workshop-oriented class that provides ample time to write, to share their writing and receive feedback from classmates, to consult individually and in small groups with mentors and faculty advisors, and to ask questions about their work. Note: Final Creative Manuscript proposals and the manuscripts themselves must be accepted by the Doctor of Ministry Director, so any work in this class is subject to final approval through the program's office.

**DMCWFP Creative Writing Final Project**

This course is intended for students working on their final project for the Doctor of Ministry in Creative Writing and Public Theology. During this time, students will write their final project, which will include a Creative Manuscript (genre and length to be determined in conjunction with faculty advisors) and a prose Statement of Vocation as a Public Theologian (20-25 pages, documented in Chicago Style). (6 credits)



## FINANCES

### COST

- Tuition and Fees
- Housing
- Mandatory Student Health Insurance
- Payment of Fees

### AID

- Financing Seminary Education (Master's Degrees)
- Financing Seminary Education (Doctor of Ministry Degree)
- Financing Seminary Education (Certificate Programs)



# TUITION AND FEES

## CANDIDATES FOR M.Div., MAPS, MTS DEGREES

Charge for 27 semester hours	\$12,960
Per credit	\$480

## CANDIDATES FOR THE D.Min. DEGREE

Per credit	\$410
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## NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

Per credit	\$480
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## UNIVERSITY COURSES

Courses taken at area universities through the PCHE cross-registration system are charged at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary tuition rates, and tuition is paid to the Seminary. Please note: This does not apply to the Seminary's Joint Degree Programs.

## AUDIT COURSES

Full-time students: One course at no charge, no academic credit  
Part-time students: \$200 and no academic credit  
Continuing Education: \$200 and no academic credit; \$100 for seniors 62 and older

## FEES

Application	\$60
Intent to Enroll*	\$50
Graduation	\$125 Master's \$175 D.Min.
Comprehensive	
Fall/Spring	\$200/semester Master's
Summer	\$100 Master's
J-Term	\$50 Master's
Summer/Winter	\$200/semester D.Min.

Transcript	\$10 Former Students
MTS Project Extension**	Processing fee for electronic transcripts \$480/semester until project completion
Doctoral Project Extension**	\$1,000/year until project completion

\* The Intent to Enroll Fee is applied to tuition costs.

\*\* Fees are only applied if extension is necessary.

## HOUSING

The estimated cost for housing for an academic year for a single student is \$6,570. Listed below are current rental rates.

### CALIAN RESIDENCE HALL (PER MONTH)

Calian Residence Hall studio \$555

### APARTMENTS (PER MONTH)

#### FULTON APARTMENTS

Efficiency apartment	\$660
One-bedroom apartment	\$750

#### STANTON-HIGHLAND APARTMENTS

Two-bedroom apartment	\$940
Three-bedroom apartment	\$1,080
Four-bedroom apartment	\$1,250

Please Note: Rental charges are billed per semester to coincide with the academic year. All Seminary apartments are rented unfurnished. Stoves and refrigerators are supplied, but no other furnishings are available. Utilities are included in the Calian Residence Hall and apartment rental fees. The tenant is responsible for telephone and cable installation and monthly service fees. Wireless Internet access is currently available at no additional charge.

## MANDATORY STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

The Board of Directors of the Seminary has determined that students must be adequately covered with health insurance. It is important to include this cost in the student's estimate of expenses. Verification of an existing policy is due upon registration and each subsequent year of enrollment. International students are required to enroll in health insurance plans specified by the Seminary.

## PAYMENT OF FEES

Billed tuition, rent, and fees are payable, in full, by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month (for example: Student billing statements dated Sept. 30 are due no later than Oct. 15). There is a finance charge of 0.5 percent per month on the open account balance. The Seminary's Business Office requires all students' account balances to be paid in full before they can register for the following semester. The Seminary accepts cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover for course payment. Please make checks payable to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Credit card payments are accepted online at [My.PTS.edu](http://My.PTS.edu) or in person at the Business Office. All Seminary charges and fees are payable in U.S. funds. Foreign checks or money orders must have the U.S. bank with which they are affiliated printed on the check or money order. Additional fees may be assessed for foreign checks or money orders. If checks are returned to us by the bank for the reason of insufficient funds, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. In order for a student to graduate, all fees must be paid in full.

## FINANCING SEMINARY EDUCATION (MASTER'S DEGREES)

The goal of Pittsburgh Seminary's financial aid program is to assist each student in arranging financial support. While it remains each student's responsibility to meet the costs of their theological education, the Seminary has available financial aid for



students in all master's degree and certificate programs, regardless of denominational affiliation. However, the student's denomination and family are also expected to share in meeting the financial obligation. The application procedure requires a completed Seminary Financial Aid Application.

## COST OF ATTENDANCE

To determine each student's financial need, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary uses the following tuition charges, fees, and expenses based on the average cost of living in Western Pennsylvania for a nine-month period. Actual living expenses for each student will vary, based on their standard of living, spending habits, and values. For 2025-2026, institutional aid and federal loans are calculated using a nine-month COA. Students enrolling in the J-Term may apply to have their COA increased for the additional tuition cost. Students may also submit expenses incurred for Intercultural Learning trips, which are taken for credit and not covered by WMI scholarship. The example below estimates that the student would enroll in 12 credits for both fall and spring (and add another 3 credits during the academic year).

### 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR, ON-CAMPUS

Tuition (27 credits)*	\$12,960
Books	\$1,000
Comprehensive Fee	\$400
Housing**	\$6,570
Food	\$4,397
Transportation	\$2,985
Miscellaneous***	\$9,499
Federal Loan Fee	\$132
Ordination Exam ****	\$1,611
Total*****	\$39,472

**2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR, OFF-CAMPUS**

Tuition (27 credits)*	\$12,960
Books	\$1,000
Comprehensive Fee	\$400
Housing**	\$10,259
Food	\$4,397
Transportation	\$2,985
Miscellaneous***	\$9,499
Federal Loan Fee	\$132
Ordination Exam ****	\$1,611
Total****	\$43,243

\* Full-time tuition is \$480/credit (Example: 9 credits/semester = \$4,320/semester).

\*\* Average cost of rent to live in Seminary's single/efficiency apartments.

\*\*\*Personal care, clothing, cable, and telephone are some of the expenses to be considered under this item.

\*\*\*\* Ordination exam fees are applied to only M.Div. students in their third year. The Seminary utilizes an average of the cost for ordination requirements within the three main denominations that are reflected within our student body that require some form of ordination exam process.

\*\*\*\* The Financial Aid Office has the authority to use professional judgment to increase the Cost of Attendance on a case-by-case basis to allow for special circumstances; i.e. increased housing cost, purchase of a computer, costs related to a disability or illness, or costs for eligible intercultural mission trips. The student should submit written explanation with documentation. Federal guidelines consider debt to be a lifestyle choice and do not include indebtedness in eligibility calculations.

**DETERMINING NEED**

A student's "need" is determined from the information submitted on the PTS aid application. A student's need is the difference between the Cost of Tuition and the Tuition Grant Index number. To help meet this need, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary awards Tuition Grants, Housing Grants, and jobs through the Graduate Assistantship Program. A full-time student may not receive more than 150 percent of the cost of tuition from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary when receiving need-based funds (using 24 credits or 18 credits as a baseline). Merit scholarships alone may exceed this policy. All students are expected to seek outside sources of aid, which will not affect the Seminary aid unless the total aid exceeds the Cost of Attendance. Students with a nine-month EFC higher than their cost of tuition will not qualify for need-based aid.

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM

Graduate Assistantship positions are part-time on-campus jobs for full-time students with financial need. The money is not directly applied to the Seminary invoice; instead the student will receive bi-weekly paychecks. If the student chooses to participate in the program, the pay scale is \$12 to \$13 per hour worked. The Graduate Assistantship award does not guarantee a position. After receiving an award letter, the student must visit [My.PTS.edu](http://My.PTS.edu) and submit an application to the department of their choosing. Campus jobs exist in many aspects of Seminary life, including the facilities department, library, and administrative offices. Additional details can be found in the PTS Graduate Assistantship Manual, which is on the Seminary's website.

Graduate Assistantship positions may be available during the summer months. However, any time that a student works during the summer will count toward their overall hours allotted for the academic year. Additional hours may be awarded to a student depending upon the individual student's overall award and budget limitations.

## INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS

Grant assistance is provided by our restricted endowment funds and annual gifts to the Student Financial Assistance Fund. The majority of PTS students receive Seminary aid, which is awarded to all eligible students regardless of denominational affiliation. There are two types of need-based PTS grants: Tuition Grants and Housing Grants.

### **FULL-TIME AID**

The maximum Tuition Grant award is the full cost of tuition. In addition to a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Tuition Grant, a student may be eligible for a Housing Grant. The Housing Grant is \$228 per month during the nine-month academic year; September through May. The student must be enrolled full time and live in Seminary housing to receive the grant. There is no deadline; funds are awarded each year until exhausted.

Students must apply upon admission to the Seminary for financial aid and complete a yearly re-certification form. There is no guarantee that a student will receive need-based aid for the entire length of studies. Students can depend on the aid if their

financial situation does not dramatically change, household size stays consistent, they maintain a 2.0 overall GPA, complete a minimum of 15 credits between the fall and spring semesters (prorated for less than full-time enrollment), and submit the documents early. The Financial Aid Office encourages students to seek other sources of funding. See the Financial Aid section of the PTS website for a link to outside scholarships.

The financial aid package is based upon the anticipated number of credits for the academic year, as indicated on the aid application or yearly re-certification form. The full-time need-based financial aid is not available to students registered for fewer than 15 credits.

There are two exceptions to the full-time status requirement. One exception is the graduating senior whose final semester is part time. Tuition grants are awarded only if the preceding semester was full-time enrollment. Second is a student enrolled in the joint degree but only in attendance at the Seminary part time. For both exceptions, the students will qualify for the PTS Tuition Grant for PTS classes only. (PTS will not give aid for classes at another institution.) The student will not qualify for the Housing Grant, Graduate Assistantships, or Merit Scholarship. The student can file a written appeal with the Financial Aid Committee to be considered for Graduate Assistantship eligibility.

### **PART-TIME TUITION GRANTS**

PTS offers a tuition grant to students who are enrolled in 6 to 7 credits per semester. All qualifying students must demonstrate "need" by PTS standards. Students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking master's program or a certificate program with the exception of the Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministries program, which has its own funding through the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry. Based on the endowment, the amount may change annually. The maximum Tuition Grant award is the cost of tuition for one academic year. This grant is divided between fall and spring semesters in equal disbursements. Part-time students do not qualify for the Housing Grant or Graduate Assistantship opportunities.

Students must apply upon admission to the Seminary and complete a yearly re-certification form for financial aid. There is no deadline; funds are awarded each year until exhausted. There is no guarantee that a student will receive need-based aid for the

entire length of studies. Students can depend on the aid if they continue to qualify financially, maintain a 2.0 overall GPA, complete a minimum of 12 credits (prorated) during the fall and spring semesters, and submit the documents early. The Financial Aid Office encourages students to seek other sources of funding.

## FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Should a student fail a course(s), there will be no financial aid for the repeat course(s). If a student withdraws from a class after the official add/drop period, financial aid for this course will be reduced to 50 percent if still in the 50 percent charges period; or revoked if beyond this two week window, and the student is responsible for the tuition fee. If a student completely withdraws during the 50 percent window and also has a merit scholarship, the student can keep the portion of the scholarship that covers any balance that would be due to the Seminary and the rest will be surrendered by the student. Students must maintain full-time status to retain aid for the year.

If a student fails to enroll in a semester, all aid will be canceled and will not be reinstated. Merit Scholarships are revoked and will not be reinstated for future years. (If given prior notification, the Admissions and Standards Committee has the authority to reinstate Merit Scholarships for medical issues.) Need-based aid will be canceled and awarded to the next person on the wait list. The student may apply for funding for the following year.

All Merit Scholarship recipients are welcome to apply for need-based financial aid. The maximum combined award cannot exceed 150 percent of the cost of tuition. The exemption to the 150 percent rule is a student who embodies the Seminary's commitment to diversity and social justice.

PTS does not award aid beyond the specified length of the program chosen. Financial aid will not be provided to any student beyond the minimum credits required for graduation. Merit Scholarship recipients will receive a contract from the Admissions Office with renewal specifics. All requirements for renewal can be found under Satisfactory Academic Progress. (See page 90.)

PTS institutional aid is awarded for students beginning in the fall Semester. If a student defers until a later date, the aid will be awarded to the next name on the wait list. If a student plans to

begin in a later semester, they should contact the Financial Aid Office to inquire about available funds. Students who are in a “default status” on their federal educational loans are ineligible for institutional aid. Students who are currently in default are encouraged to contact their lending institutions to seek resolution. Financial aid applications will not be processed until any previous Seminary past-due debt is paid in full and the student is in good standing.

For returning students, all previous coursework must be completed and grades from all previous semester/term must be entered into the gradebook. As the Financial Aid Office will be unable to review Satisfactory Academic Progress for any student whose grades are not entered. As long as the grades for previous semesters are entered before the end of the current semester, financial aid can be applied.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (EATE) SCHOLARSHIP

### OVERVIEW

The Expanding Access to Theological Education (EATE) Scholarship was established in 2021 in relationship to the Seminary’s statement on social justice. It is therefore our desire as an institution that any student who wishes to pursue a degree at PTS be able to do so without the barriers of financial concern, especially where the student reflects the Seminary’s educational interest in promoting social justice. To that end, the EATE scholarship was established to assist students by providing a scholarship for the additional expenses of a seminary education that are not directly related to tuition or fees.

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

In order to receive the EATE Scholarship, students must meet a number of different criteria:

1. They embody the Seminary’s commitment to diversity and social justice.
2. They demonstrate commitment or interest in serving underrepresented or underprivileged populations.
3. They demonstrate an ability to bring diverse people together.
4. They maintain need-based aid eligibility (SAP).

5. They are seeking a master's degree, doctoral degree, or graduate certificate at PTS.

### **AWARDING**

Students will be awarded the EATE Scholarship upon admission to PTS, or in an effort to retain students where finances have become a barrier to completing their degree, and will be notified of the award on their Award Letter. As with all the Seminary's financial aid, the award is good for the length of program, up to three years of study at PTS (as long as the student maintains eligibility).

## **PTS PARTNER GRANTS**

PTS Partner Grants are offered by PTS to incoming students who are recent graduates of partner higher education institutions:

- Allegheny College
- Davis and Elkins College
- Grove City College
- Messiah College
- Waynesburg University
- Westminster College
- Whitworth University
- Wilberforce University

New applicants must have graduated with a bachelor's degree from a partner institution within three years from the initial admission to PTS and enroll full time in a PTS master's-level degree-seeking program. There is no need, merit, or denomination requirement to qualify.

Grants are available during the fall and spring semesters. The grant is divided into equal disbursements between the two semesters. The aid is not available for summer credits.

The student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, which is verified at the end of the academic year. Students must earn a minimum of 18 credits and a 2.0 overall GPA for renewal (prorated for less than two semesters). Students enrolled in the MTS or the MAPS may receive the award for two years. Students enrolled in the M.Div. program may receive this award for a maximum of three years. A student enrolled in the joint degree but only in attendance at the Seminary part time will not qualify for the PTS Partner Grant. PTS will not award aid for classes at another institution. There is no deadline; funds are awarded each year until exhausted.

## SWART STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The Swart Student Emergency Fund of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is under the management of the Associate Dean of Students and Formation and provides assistance to students who are facing unanticipated and temporary financial hardships. These funds are not loans but are awarded as grants in hopes of addressing a financial need. Students who think they may qualify can fill-out and submit the Student Emergency Fund application, available on My.PTS.edu, along with supporting documentation of need and hardship.

Expenses covered may include but are not limited to:

- car repairs
- dental, physical, and mental health medical expenses including medications and prescriptions (not covered by insurance)
- emergency or unexpected transportation costs
- assistance with rent or utilities due to an emergency situation
- travel arrangements for family emergencies
- loss from theft or fire
- books for courses

Expenses not covered:

- tuition and fees
- non-essential utilities such as satellite or cable TV
- household and furniture costs not related to theft or damage
- parking tickets
- entertainment or recreation

### FUND STIPULATIONS

1. Grants cannot exceed \$400.
2. Grants may be awarded ONCE during a student's academic year.
3. Grants do not have to be repaid.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a grant you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be enrolled in and attending at least 6 credits for the semester in which funds are being requested.



2. Be a degree-seeking student in good academic standing with minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or show evidence of recent satisfactory progress.
3. Be experiencing an unexpected financial hardship resulting from an emergency or crisis situation that threatens your ability to successfully complete the current semester.
4. Provide sufficient documentation of financial need (e.g., billing statements, receipts, repair estimates).
5. Exhaust all other possible financial resources before applying for student emergency funds, such as student loans, Medicaid, personal financial accounts, people that owe you money, and community resources.

If you are unable to upload your documentation with your application, you should deliver it directly to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students and Formation or to the Associate Director of Student Services.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Requests for Swart Student Emergency Funds should be made to the Office of the Associate Dean for Students and Formation and awards will be granted on a limited, as needed basis after a conversation with the Dean and adequate conveyance of need. The student would then be instructed to complete a Student Emergency Fund Application on My.PTS.edu, under the Student Services section. Upon completing a form, electronically submit it to the Associate Dean for Students and Formation along with the attachment of receipts documenting need. Your completed request will be reviewed for approval and an appropriate amount will be determined if less than requested. Criteria for approval and granted amounts will be based on eligibility, documentation of need, and availability of funds. The student will be notified by e-mail of the decision along with follow-up instructions.

## **STUDENT HARDSHIP/EMERGENCY GRANT**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary understands that circumstances arise that are outside of a student's control. These situations can often lead to financial issues for a student that can negatively impact their ability to perform academically. In an effort to ensure that students are able to continue their education at PTS, even when such circumstances may arise, the Seminary has established a Student Hardship/Emergency Grant.

Emergency Student Grants are awarded to students on a first-come, first-served basis as the pool of funds is limited from year to year. Students who wish to receive funds must complete a form and submit it to the Financial Aid Office. Grants are limited to one award per academic year and students may not receive more than \$2,500 (unless otherwise determined by the awarding committee). If a student would like to request a grant more than once in an academic year, they may appeal to the Financial Aid Office. *Additional documentation may be requested to complete the application process.*

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Currently enrolled and registered students in the certificate, master's, or doctor of ministry programs are eligible for a Hardship/Emergency Grant.

### **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES COVERED**

- Only expenses that have been incurred during a student's time of enrollment will be considered for a Hardship/Emergency Grant.
- Hardship/Emergency Grants shall only cover expenses for unforeseen or unusual circumstances. Grants are not meant to cover daily expenses.

## **VETERAN'S BENEFITS CERTIFICATION**

All programs (master's, doctoral, and certificate) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary are approved for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Inquiries concerning the certification for benefits under Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill® should be directed to the PTS Registrar Office. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary complies with all VA policies governing educational benefits, including Title 38 USC 3679. For more information regarding VA benefits and policies, contact the Registrar Office. If requested, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is required to provide copies of grades and academic records to the Veterans Administration without seeking prior approval of the individual veteran. For additional information on this program, visit the VA website: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

## LOANS

For federal loan purposes, a graduate student at PTS is a student who:

- is not receiving Title IV aid as an undergraduate student for the same period of enrollment;
- is enrolled in a program or course above the baccalaureate level or is enrolled in a program leading to a professional degree; and
- has completed the equivalent of at least three years of full-time study either prior to entrance into the program or as part of the program itself (Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1082 and 1088).

Many students will enter seminary with educational debt, so every effort is made to keep this aid component to a minimum. Loans are available through the Federal Direct Loan Program, the Federal Graduate PLUS Program, denominational agencies, and private lending companies. In order to apply for a federal loan, the student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the PTS Loan Request Form. Less than a quarter of PTS students borrow loans so this form alerts the Financial Aid Office that a student wishes to borrow and the amount. *For security purposes, do not e-mail the completed form because it requests a social security number in order to access the FAFSA.* (First time borrowers also need to complete a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling Session.) All borrowers must acknowledge their previous loan debt on the Department of Education website.

A federal ombudsman is available for borrowers to resolve discrepancies in loan balances and payments, understand financial aid requirements, find loan holders or promissory notes, defer or discharge loans, reestablish eligibility for federal aid, rehabilitate loans, and resolve issues. Contact information is online: <https://studentaid.ed.gov> or 877-557-2575.

Early Book Advances are available to students who meet all criteria for a federal loan disbursement 10 days prior to the beginning of the payment period and will have a credit balance on their PTS account. Students can decline this option on the Loan Request Form or in writing to the Director of Financial Aid.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

The federal government requires each institution to set an Academic Progress Policy for their students receiving Title IV funds. These standards are different for federal loans than the PTS institutional aid. Title IV Federal Student Aid includes Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Federal Graduate PLUS Loans. Some private lenders also adhere to the federal guidelines for approving private loans. Students must be in good academic standing before a federal loan can be certified. At PTS federal academic progress standards are met when a master’s student maintains a cumulative 2.0 GPA. Full-time students enrolled in more than 18 credits must complete a total of 15 credits during the two semester academic year. Part-time students must complete 12 credits during the academic year. Students enrolled less than part time must complete all credits in which they are enrolled. Numbers will be prorated for semesters that the student was not enrolled. Summer loans require summer academic progress to qualify for the fall/spring loan. See the PTS website for more details.

If a student has not maintained the academic standards for a federal loan or PTS aid, they may file an appeal to be reviewed by the Financial Aid Committee for reinstatement of Federal Student Aid. If approved, the student will be placed on financial aid probation for one year. Details and an appeal form can be found on the Seminary’s website: [www.pts.edu](http://www.pts.edu). See My. PTS.edu for the Seminary’s policy on academic progress.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR MASTER’S FINANCIAL AID

Type of Aid	Minimum PTS GPA	Number of Completed Credits
PTS Merit Scholarships	3.0	18 credits: Full time
	3.0	12 credits: Half time
Gilmore, W. Carl, and St. Clair Scholarships	3.0	24 credits
PTS Institutional Grants and Assistantships	2.0	15 credits

PTS Institutional Grants	2.0	12 credits: Half time
PTS Partner Grants	2.0	18 credits: Full time
SYI Scholarship	2.0	None
Korean Heritage Scholarship	2.0	None
PTS International Scholarship	2.0	15 credits: Full time
Federal Loans, Fall/Spring	2.0	15 credits: Full time
	2.0	12 credits: Half time
Federal Loans, Summer	2.0	3 credits
Federal Loans, Less than Half Time	2.0	Must complete all credits that were attempted
Graduation	2.0	

## ADD/DROPS AND REFUNDS

Withdrawal from a course can affect financial aid given by PTS (see Financial Aid Handbook). The Registrar notifies the Business Office and the Financial Aid Office. Students are encouraged to review the Financial Aid handbook or consult the Director of Financial Aid before withdrawing from a class.

A refund is made to a student who does not complete a full semester based on the date of formal notification of withdrawal or on the date that the Seminary formally determines that the student is dismissed and notifies them of this action. Courses may be dropped or added during the first two weeks of each semester without penalty. Courses dropped during the third through the fifth weeks carry a penalty of one-half of the tuition fee. Students who received a tuition grant for the courses they dropped will receive 50 percent of the grant for the credits dropped. If a student completely withdraws during the 50 percent window and also has a merit scholarship, the student can keep the portion of the scholarship that covers any balance that would be due to the Seminary and the rest will be surrendered by the student. Courses dropped after the official drop or withdrawal dates require full payment. See the PTS website for a detailed Federal Direct Loan Return to Title IV Procedure.

## RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS FORMULA

A student's resignation and tuition charges will be adjusted in accordance with the official federal "Return of Title IV Aid" formula. The federal formula is applicable to any student receiving federal aid who withdraws from the Seminary during the first 60 percent of a semester. These students will have their federal loan adjusted based on the percent of the semester completed. Basically, students will be entitled to retain the same percent of the federal aid received as the percent of the semester completed.

This percent is calculated by dividing the number of days in the semester (excluding breaks of five days or longer) into the number of days completed prior to the withdrawal (excluding breaks of five days or longer). There will be no adjustment to federal financial aid after the completion of 60 percent of the semester. The Financial Aid Office will use the FSA Partner Connect to CPS Online, Return of Title IV Funds electronic worksheet to determine amount of eligibility

## DEADLINES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Seminary Financial Aid program is based on a nine-month academic year. Upon admission to the Seminary, students are required to complete the PTS Aid Application. Each subsequent year, a re-certification form must be completed. The Financial Aid Office will begin to accept packets in October for the following academic year. Only complete application packets will be evaluated in the order in which they are received until funds have been exhausted.

PTS financial aid policies are subject to change. They are operative for the current academic year and represent no commitment beyond the current year. The Financial Aid Committee, which includes students, conducts an annual review. Specific questions and requests for detailed information regarding financial aid should be addressed to the Seminary's Financial Aid Office.

## SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

The PTS summer semester is a header for the new academic year. Full-time Tuition Grants can cover the PTS summer credits for qualifying students who plan to enroll full time in the fall semester. Housing Grants, Partner Grants, and Merit Scholarships are not available in the summer. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) credits

are not covered by PTS grants. A student may qualify for Federal Direct Unsubsidized or Graduate PLUS Loans during the summer. Full time in the summer is defined as 6 credits.

## WESLEY (AFFILIATE) CREDITS

Credits taken at Wesley Theological Seminary under the MOU signed by PTS and Wesley are covered completely or partially by the student's tuition grant, if they have been awarded one. Students are awarded at the same level for their Wesley classes as they receive at PTS. This may mean students will owe a balance to Wesley depending on Wesley's cost per credit and their award per credit at PTS. Funds for these credits are disbursed at the same time as aid for PTS credits (after the Add/Drop date). Students can request a refund for those credits from the Business Office to pay for their Wesley credits.

If a student owes a balance to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the student's aid for the affiliate credits will not be disbursed to the student's account until after the balance has been paid.

## MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

### FULL-TIME MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Only incoming, full-time students are eligible for standard Merit Scholarships, which are renewable based on the recipient maintaining at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at Pittsburgh Seminary and full-time student status. A Merit Scholarship is available during the fall and spring semesters. It is divided into equal disbursements between semesters. Scholarships are not available for summer credits.

Incoming students who are awarded a Merit-based Scholarship will be required to maintain full-time status during the fall and spring semesters in order to continue receiving these awards. Full-time status is defined as an average of 9 hours per semester over an academic year. Three Merit Scholarships require students to enroll in 12 hours per semester or 24 hours for the academic year per donor agreements. These include recipients of the Gilmore Scholarship, the St. Clair Scholarship, and the Bill and Jane Carl Presidential scholarships.

Students enrolled in the MTS or the MAPS may receive a merit award for two years. Students enrolled in the M.Div. program may

receive this award for a maximum of three years. The average grade point requirement is 3.0 to maintain the scholarship. A new applicant must submit a complete admissions packet to be considered for Merit Scholarships. Awards are made on a rolling basis. There is no additional application process.

A student may receive both Merit Scholarships and PTS Need-based Grants. Merit Scholarships are awarded without consideration of financial need; however, a student's eligibility for need-based grants will be affected by the receipt of Merit Scholarships. The maximum amount of aid that one student may receive from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in any given year is 150 percent of the cost of tuition (using 24 credits or 18 credits as a baseline) when receiving need-based aid.

### **PART-TIME MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Incoming, part-time students enrolled in a degree-seeking program are eligible for Merit Scholarships, which are renewable, based on the recipient maintaining at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at Pittsburgh Seminary and part-time student status.

A Merit Scholarship is available during the fall and spring semesters. It is divided into equal disbursements between semesters. Scholarships are not available for summer credits. Incoming students who are awarded a Merit Scholarship will be required to maintain part-time status during the academic year in order to continue receiving these awards. Part-time status is defined as an average of 6 hours per semester or a total of 12 hours over an academic year. Students enrolled in the MTS or the MAPS programs may receive a merit award for four years. Students enrolled in the M.Div. program may receive this award for a maximum of six years. Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0.

An applicant must have submitted a complete admissions packet to be considered for Merit Scholarships. Awards are made on a rolling basis. There is no additional application process. Early application is encouraged because PTS has a limited amount of scholarships. A student may receive both Merit Scholarships and PTS Need-based Grants. Merit Scholarships are awarded without consideration of financial need; however, a student's eligibility for Need-based Grants will be affected by the receipt of Merit Scholarships.



## MERIT SCHOLARSHIP LISTING

Merit Scholarships include the following:

**The Beechview United Presbyterian Church Scholarship** is a merit scholarship that was established by Beechview United Presbyterian Church in 2024, honoring the Rev. Sherry Sparks. This scholarship will support in perpetuity Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in its mission to prepare leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news. This scholarship will be awarded to a full- or part-time student or students who are pursuing either a master of divinity degree, master of arts degree, doctor of ministry degree, or graduate certificate.

**The Bill and Jane Carl Presidential Scholarship** is a merit scholarship established in 2013 in honor of Seminary President Bill Carl and his wife, Jane Carl. The scholarship is awarded to students of the highest academic ability who have demonstrated potential for outstanding Christian service. To be considered for this scholarship, students must apply to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for the master of divinity or master of arts programs. The student must have graduated from a regionally accredited or an internationally recognized college or university having earned at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average in a bachelor's degree program (or the numeric equivalent for schools not using the 4.0 point scale). The student will have demonstrated potential for outstanding Christian service as determined through letters of reference and the admissions interview.

**The Robert T. Cassell and Judith S. Cassell Scholarship** was established by Robert T. and Judith S. Cassell. Preference for this scholarship is given to those in financial need. Students enrolled in a master of divinity or master of arts degree are eligible.

**The Thomas Chalmers Honors Scholarships** were established in 1999 to acknowledge incoming students who have achieved academic excellence in their past work and who display gifts for Christian leadership. The scholarship is designed to substantially defray the cost of tuition and is renewable each spring if the student maintains a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

**The Jerry and Harriet Dempsey Scholarship** was established by Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey to support members of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, S.C., who will enroll at Pittsburgh Theological

Seminary in master of divinity or doctor of ministry programs. If there are no merit scholarship applicants from the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, S.C., by Feb. 1 of each year, the Seminary awards the scholarship to members of other Presbyterian churches who are enrolled in the master of divinity program. First preference is given to a student younger than 30 years of age, pursuing a first career in parish ministry.

**The Daisy A. Douglas Honors Scholarship** was established by Ms. Douglas to recognize incoming students who have achieved academic excellence in their past work.

**The James L. and Marjorie H. Gilmore Scholarships** were established in 2003 to recognize those incoming students who have achieved academic excellence in their past work, who display gifts for leadership in the church, and who rank at the top of their incoming Seminary class. The scholarships are designed to defray the cost of tuition and books, as well as other living and seminary expenses.

**The Hansen Foundation Scholarship Endowment** was established by the Hansen Foundation to support the Seminary in its mission to prepare leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news. The Hansen Scholarship is awarded to student(s) pursuing a master of divinity, a master of arts, or a graduate certificate.

**The Hansen Foundation Merit Scholarship Fund** was funded in 2019 through the generosity of The Hansen Foundation. This merit scholarship will support students who are pursuing a master of divinity degree, master of arts degree, or a graduate certificate at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**The Carl A. Hiaasen Honors Scholarships** were established through the bequest of Abraham L. Mailman in honor of Mr. Carl A. Hiaasen, a former member of the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and by Carl A. Hiaasen in memory of his family. The Hiaasen Family Honors Scholarships include: the Carl Andreas Hiaasen Honors Scholarship in memory of Mr. Hiaasen; the Clara Judith Landmark Hiaasen Honors Scholarship in memory of Mr. Hiaasen's wife; and the Kermit Odel Hiaasen Honors Scholarship in memory of their only child.

**The Robert J. Hinman Merit Scholarship** was established by Peters Creek United Presbyterian Church in 2021, and will support in perpetuity Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in its mission to prepare leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news. This scholarship will be awarded to a full- or part-time student or students who are pursuing a master of divinity degree, master of arts degree, or graduate certificate.

**The Judy and Jack Isherwood Merit Scholarship Endowment** was funded in 2014 by Judy and Jack Isherwood for students with demonstrated potential for outstanding Christian service who are pursuing a master of divinity or master of arts degree. Mr. Isherwood served on the Seminary's Board of Directors from 2001 to 2015 and chaired the Board for the last eight years of his service. He now serves as an emeritus Board member and an honorary alumnus.

**The Herbert Lamberson Presidential Scholarship** was established in 2010 through the bequest of Herbert Lamberson. This merit scholarship is part of the family of Presidential Scholarships. The scholarship is awarded to a junior of the highest academic ability who has demonstrated potential for outstanding Christian service. This scholarship is renewable each year with a 3.5 GPA.

**The Manor Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/John McMillan Honors Scholarship** was established in 1986 by the Faggs Manor Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Cochranville, Pa., in honor of the congregation and the Rev. Dr. John McMillan, a pioneer teacher and leader in theological education in Western Pennsylvania. Dr. McMillan's work had great influence in the establishment of Western Theological Seminary, one of the antecedents of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Preference is given to qualified full-time students who are members of Presbyterian (U.S.A.) churches within the boundaries of Donegal Presbytery and/or who are under care of Donegal Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**The David E. Molyneaux Honors Scholarship** was established by the First Presbyterian Church of Flint, Mich., in affection for their pastor, David E. Molyneaux, an alumnus and former Board member of the Seminary.

**The Neenah Honors Scholarship** was established by the First Presbyterian Church of Neenah, Wis., as part of the Seminary's Merit Scholarship Program. The scholarship was funded with grants from the John N. Bergstrom Endowment Fund.

**Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Presidential Scholarships** are awarded to a limited number of master of divinity and master of arts candidates. The scholarships are awarded to juniors of the highest academic ability who have demonstrated potential for outstanding Christian service. The scholarships are renewable each year with a 3.0 GPA.

**The Catherine and Andrew Purves Merit Scholarship** was established in 2006 by the generosity of John Tye and Virginia Ferguson. The scholarships are awarded each year to up to three students for three years, assuming that the general requirements for Merit Scholarships are maintained. Preference for this merit scholarship is given to qualified full-time master of divinity students who have confessed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of all, shown a commitment to the life and ministry of the church, and demonstrated excellence in their academic preparation for the study of theology.

**The Thomas and Sally St. Clair Scholarship** was established in 2008 by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Tom St. Clair. Preference for the scholarship is given to a qualified full-time master of divinity student who displays gifts for leadership in the church.

**The Standish Family Presidential Scholarship Endowment** was established by the Hon. and Mrs. William L. Standish and is awarded to students in the master of divinity program demonstrating both financial need and merit, as determined by the Seminary's policy. Preference will be given to a student considering enrollment in the master of divinity/master of social work joint degree program with the University of Pittsburgh.

**The William L. Standish Scholarship for the M.Div./M.S.W. Program** was established by the Rev. Dr. N. Graham and Mrs. Diane Standish in memory of the Hon. William L. Standish, through his estate in 2015. The scholarship was created to defray the cost of Pittsburgh Seminary tuition for students in the joint M.Div./M.S.W. program during their senior years (one while studying at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and the second while studying

at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work). Graham and Diane's intent was to aid students who are working through the same program that Graham himself went through while studying at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Recipients must not be on academic probation at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The scholarship is renewable (for the second of the two senior years) based on the recipient's meeting program requirements. Preference will be given to a student considering enrollment in the master of divinity/master of social work joint degree program with the University of Pittsburgh.

### **The Frank and Carol Sparks Merit Scholarship Endowment**

was established in May 2021, to honor William Franklin Sparks and Carol Cowden Sparks. This endowment supports students entering into, or those who are currently engaged in, pastoral ministry, and aids students in perpetuity.

### **The Rev. Frank David and Mary Burnham Throop Merit Scholarship Endowment**

was established at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to honor the lives and ministries of David and Mary Throop, graduates of the Class of 1971 from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. David received a master of divinity degree and Mary received a master of religious education degree. Both exhibited a loving passion for ministries which served the Gospel of Jesus Christ during the six years David was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Sac City, Iowa, and then during the 34 years he was pastor of the Placentia Presbyterian Church of Placentia, Calif. David previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 2005 to 2014. This scholarships will support in perpetuity Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in its mission to prepare leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news. This scholarship is awarded to students in one of the master's or graduate certificate programs demonstrating both financial need and merit, as determined by the Seminary's policy.

### **The Revs. John C. '02 and B. De Neice '04 Welch, PhDs Scholarship**

was established to honor the Rev. John C. Welch, PhD '02 and his 13 years of leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as vice president for student services and dean of students and the contributions to the Seminary community of the Rev. B. De Neice Welch '04 and as the first female and African-American associate pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

The scholarship will support students in perpetuity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in its mission and to honor the work and ministry of John and De Neice Welch.

## RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS

All full-time, eligible, two- and three-year master's degree students and/or applicants who have submitted complete admissions packets are considered for Recognition Scholarships; there is no additional application process. Eligibility exceptions are noted. Some of these scholarships may be renewed by Pittsburgh Seminary.

**The Titus Basfield Scholarship** was established in memory of the Seminary's first African American graduate in 1842. Born a slave in Virginia, he became a missionary in Canada among relocated fugitive slaves. The scholarship is awarded to African American students exhibiting the commitment to theological education seen in Basfield's life. The scholarship was generously funded by Earnest and Lottie Edwards, David Parham '44, the Class of 1996, Shadyside Presbyterian Church, and others.

**The Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church—Squires Fund Scholarship** was established by Geneseo Central Presbyterian Church in 2014. The scholarship will be awarded to international students who plan to work in a foreign country after completion of their theological studies, with first preference given to doctor of ministry or master of theology students.

**The Clyde Foreign Student Fund** was established by Walter and Mary Clyde through the Clyde Family Trust in 2005 to assist students from around the world who enroll in the Seminary's master's degree programs.

**The Korean Recognition Scholarship Endowment** was established by Soon Y. Joo in 2008. This fund supports Korean students who meet all PTS eligibility requirements.

**The Betty Missakian Memorial Scholarship** was established in 2003 by Dr. Michael Missakian in memory of his wife, Betty Missakian. The scholarship is awarded to highly qualified students wishing to pursue theological studies. Preference for the scholarship is given to qualified students of Armenian descent.

**The William L. Standish Scholarship for the M.Div./M.S.W.**

**Program** was established by the Hon. William L. Standish through his estate in 2015 to defray the cost of Pittsburgh Seminary tuition for students in the joint M.Div./M.S.W. program in the last two years of this four year program. Recipients must not be on academic probation at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The scholarship may be renewed (for the second of the two senior years) based on the recipient's meeting program requirements. The scholarship funds may not exceed the cost of tuition at PTS.

**The Lee Anna Starr Endowed Scholarship** was established in honor of Lee Anna Starr, the first female graduate of the Seminary. She graduated in 1893 from the Allegheny Theological School, an antecedent institution of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She was ordained in the Methodist Protestant Church in 1895 and was a leader in the feminist movement of her day. This scholarship is awarded to incoming students on the basis of commitment to theological education.

**The Summer Youth Institute Alumna/Alumnus Scholarship**

is automatically awarded to students who enroll full time at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and are alums of the Seminary's The Rev. Dr. Roy F. Miller, Ph.D. and Mrs. Florence Lantz Miller Summer Youth Institute. The scholarship is annually renewable for a maximum of three years.

**NEED-BASED GRANTS**

All full-time and part-time, eligible, two- and three-year master's degree students and/or applicants who have submitted complete admissions and financial aid packets are considered for Need-based Grants. However, awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis until all Need-based Grants have been awarded.

**The Rev. Drs. Judy A. '96 and A. Gary Angleberger Scholarship Endowment**

was established in 2013 by the Anglebergers and is awarded annually to provide scholarship aid to a student(s) who demonstrates financial need as determined by Board policy. Students must be in the master of divinity program, in their middler or senior year, and the recipient(s) must profess their faith in Jesus Christ and must be committed to a career in ministry within a church committed to the theology of the Reformed tradition. Preferential consideration will be given to a student who

is under the care of a presbytery in preparation for ordination as a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**The Gareth D. '57 and Evelyn A. Baker Financial Aid Fund** was established in 2007. This scholarship is awarded to students in their middler year who are enrolled in the master of divinity program. The student(s) must demonstrate financial need and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA. The recipients will be either citizens of the United States or students from a foreign country who plan to serve as ordained ministers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Preference is given to students who are committed to serving as pastors in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and are already members of this denomination.

**The Mary Dunnington Barbour Honor Endowment Scholarship Fund** was established by Mary E. Barbour and Alfred D. Barbour in 2000 in memory of Mr. Barbour's mother. This scholarship is awarded to one or more students who exemplify academic excellence and demonstrate financial need.

**The John K. Bibby Scholarship Endowment** was established by Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in 1981 in honor of the Rev. Dr. John K. Bibby. This scholarship is used to support students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Lester E. and Florence P. Bohl Memorial Scholarship** was established by Mrs. Bohl through her estate in 2002. In awarding this need-based scholarship, the Seminary may, at its discretion, also consider academic merit.

**The Dr. Florence I. Burger Scholarship** was established through Dr. Burger's estate in 1988. Dr. Burger devoted her life to education and served the Erie community as a teacher, administrator, and professor at Mercyhurst College. This scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need.

**The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Cromie / Desert Ministries Scholarship Endowment** was established by Desert Ministries Inc. in 2015 to support master's students with demonstrated financial need. The gift came as Desert Ministries closed its doors after 33 years of service, sparked by the creative leadership of PTS alumnus and former Board member the Rev. Dr. Richard M. Cromie '61, who served as Desert Ministries' president until his death in 2013.



**The Dando Scholarship Endowment Fund** was established by the Rev. G. William Dando after his graduation from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1963. Dando was a Navy chaplain and also served as the executive director of the Military Chaplains Association from 1990 to 1997. The Dando Scholarship Endowment Fund supports one or more students who demonstrate financial need.

**The East Liberty Presbyterian Church Scholarships** were established to support students who demonstrate financial need. The family of scholarships include: The L. W. Hicks Scholarship, The Dr. Stuart Nye Hutchinson Scholarship, and The William Robinson Scholarship.

**The Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Endowed Scholarship** was established in 1991. This scholarship is awarded to Presbyterian students who demonstrate financial need and who have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement in degree-related programs at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**The John H. Galbreath Scholarship Endowment** was established by Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1984 in honor of the Rev. Dr. John H. Galbreath. This gift was made possible through a generous bequest from Margaret and Ed Stockdale. This scholarship is awarded to Presbyterian students who demonstrate financial need with a preference for students from Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**The William Taylor Gillespie Scholarship Endowment** was established by the Rev. Dr. Gillespie in response to his own struggle to pay tuition for college and seminary during the Great Depression. He established scholarship endowment funds at six colleges and seminaries in the United States, in addition to schools in Kenya and Malawi, Africa. The need-based scholarship he established at Pittsburgh Seminary recognizes the alma mater of his wife, the Rev. Alice McGee Collins '71, and supports a middler or senior student preparing for ministry in the Presbyterian Church.

**The Glade Run Church (PCUSA) Memorial Student Aid Scholarship Endowment** was established by the church (formerly named Middlesex United Presbyterian Church, PCUSA) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1989. The scholarship supports Presbyterian students with demonstrated financial need. Preference is given to students who are under care of Beaver-Butler Presbytery.

**The Donn and Qata Greenshield Memorial Scholarship Fund**

was established by the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in 1962 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Greenshield. This scholarship is awarded to Presbyterian students who demonstrate financial need.

**The Dorothy P. Hardy Honor Scholarship Endowment Fund**

was established by Dorothy Pierce Hardy in 2000. Mrs. Hardy was a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Board member and an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church. This fund supports students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Joan and Allen Hogge Scholarship Endowment** was established by the Hogges in 2016 to support master's students with demonstrated financial need. A former Board member, Dr. W. Allen Hogge '08 was the Milton Lawrence McCall Professor and Chair of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at University of Pittsburgh/Magee-Women's Hospital and director of the University's Center for Medical Genetics. The Rev. Joan Hogge '04 served as an associate pastor to Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

**The Thomas J. and Janet Rigdon Jackson Scholarship Fund in Recognition of S. Hayden Britton**

was established by Thomas J. Jackson III in 1998 in honor of his parents, Thomas J. and Janet Rigdon Jackson, and in recognition of the ministry of S. Hayden Britton, former pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, Pa. This fund supports one or more students who meet the Seminary's merit requirements, demonstrate financial need, and like S. Hayden Britton, have forsaken the material side of life to do God's work.

**The Rev. Robert L. Kelley Jr. '51, Ph.D. Scholarship** was established by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2013 to honor Bob Kelley's more than 63 years of affiliation and service to the Seminary through his membership on faculty, Alumnae/i Council, and the Board of Directors, as well as his Distinguished Alumnus honor. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student(s) in the master of divinity program demonstrating financial need as determined by Seminary policy. Preference will be given to a student(s) who is committed to a career in pastoral ministry.

**The George R. Kepple Scholarship Endowment** was established in 2024 by George R. Kepple and is awarded annually to provide

scholarship aid to a student who demonstrates financial need as determined by the institutional policy. Students must be in a master's program, doctor of ministry program, or graduate certificate program.

**The Marjorie H. Likins Scholarship** was established by the Rev. Dr. Marjorie “Harjie” Likins through her estate in 2014. She was a graduate of Cornell College (Iowa), Union Theological Seminary (New York), and Columbia University, where she received her Ph.D. in philosophy of religion and ethics. Associate professor emerita of church and ministry at Pittsburgh Seminary, she taught here from 1973 to 1998 and was active in both the Black and women's liberation struggles. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, for five years Harjie served as a congregational minister in Van Nuys, Calif. The first half of her career spanned the entire spectrum of Christian education—nursery school, youth, campus, and adult.

**The McCarrell Memorial Fund** was established by Thomas C. McCarrell Jr. in memory of his grandfather, Alexander McCarrell. In the mid-to-late 1800s, Alexander McCarrell and his sons—William Alexander, Joseph James, and Thomas Calvin (father of the establisher of the scholarship)—all graduated from Western Theological Seminary, a predecessor of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The fund was substantially increased through the estate of the donor's sister, Rachel A. McCarrell, in 1989. This fund supports Presbyterian students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Alice and Margaret McCoy Scholarship Fund** was established by the Women's Association of East Main United Presbyterian Church in 1968. This scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need with a preference for students who are members or children of members of East Main Presbyterian Church, Grove City, Pa. If there are no students from East Main Presbyterian Church, preference should be given to students who are members or children of members of other United Presbyterian congregations of Shenango Presbytery.

**The Nyiri Family Scholarship** was established by Louis A. Nyiri in 2013. Mr. Nyiri served in the United States Navy during World War II and was a merchant mariner employed as chief engineer aboard the *SS Major Stephen W. Pless* for the Waterman Steamship Corporation. He was a member of the State College Presbyterian

Church, where he served as a deacon, the F&AM Lodge #268 of Bellefonte, and the State College American Legion Post 245.

**The William F. Orr Scholarship** was established by Helen Louise Kearns through her estate in 2012. A cellist and a 1951 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Mrs. Kearns established the scholarship to honor this former professor of New Testament literature and exegesis, who taught at Pittsburgh Seminary from 1936 to 1975.

**The Nancy Wilson Peterson Scholarship** was established in 2013 by 2007 Distinguished Alumnus the Rev. Dr. John C. Peterson '55/'79. A 1956 alumna of Pittsburgh Seminary, Nancy served on the school's Board of Directors from 1979 to 2002.

**The Ray H. Pierson Scholarship** was established in 1989 with a lead gift from The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, Pa. The scholarship was established in honor of the Rev. Pierson and in recognition of his 40 years of ministry in Pittsburgh Presbytery. The Rev. Pierson was a 1952 graduate of Western Seminary, an antecedent institution of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This scholarship is awarded to Presbyterian students who demonstrate financial need.

**The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Polley '54/'59/'75 Family Memorial Scholarship Endowment** is awarded annually to a student(s) pursuing a master of divinity degree or master of arts degree who demonstrates financial need as determined by Board policy. This scholarship is renewable each year as long as the student maintains a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and completes 15 credit hours per academic year. The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Polley '54/'59/'75, a Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, served on the Seminary's Board of Directors, the Alumnae/i Council, and the Seminary's World Mission Initiative Advisory Board.

**The Rev. Dr. Ross W. Porter Scholarship Endowment** is awarded annually to a student(s) pursuing a master of divinity degree or master of arts degree who demonstrates financial need as determined by Board policy. The Rev. Dr. Ross Porter was a 1951 graduate of Pittsburgh-Xenia Theological Seminary, an antecedent institution of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**The James Gilbert Potter Scholarship Endowment** was established by Bethany Presbyterian Church of Bridgeville, Pa., in 1965 as a memorial scholarship in honor of the church's pastor of 20 years, the Rev. Dr. James G. Potter. This scholarship supports students with demonstrated financial need.

**The William G. Rusch Scholarship Fund** was established by the Rev. Rusch in 1998. He was a 1950 and 1975 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This scholarship supports students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Maria Showalter Scholarship** was established in 2010 by the Rev. James DiEgidio '79 in memory of his wife, Maria Showalter. This scholarship is awarded to full-time students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing a master of divinity degree and are seeking a call to full-time parish ministry. Students must be citizens of the United States. Preference will be given to female students and members in good standing of a PC(USA) congregation. This scholarship is awarded to students in their middler or senior year and also to students entering their junior year with at least a 3.0 GPA from their college or university.

**The Rev. Sherry Sparks Scholarship Endowment** was established in 2017 by Debra E. Seneway and Bernard A. Seneway Jr. in memory of the Rev. Sparks '95, former Pittsburgh Theological Seminary associate dean for admissions and vocation. Having served at PTS since 1998 and as pastor of Beechview UPC (Pa.), she died in 2015 after a five-year battle with cancer. The scholarship named after her supports Pittsburgh Seminary students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by the Seminary's policy, and gives first preference to female students.

**The Standish Family Presidential Scholarship Endowment**  
(See Merit Scholarships.)

**The Malinda Louise Rust Stewart Memorial Scholarship** was established by William F. Shannon in 2003 through his estate. This scholarship is awarded to students who demonstrate financial need with a first preference for students who are older than 35 and starting a second career in ministry (to include youth ministry, preaching, and music). Preference should be given to students from the Shenango Valley Area and Northwestern Pennsylvania.

**The Rev. George E. Tutwiler Scholarship Endowment** was established by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2013 to honor the Rev. Tutwiler for his 30 years of service to the Seminary as organist/choirmaster and instructor in church music and United Methodist Studies. In 2011 he was awarded faculty emeritus status. The scholarship named after him supports United Methodist students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by the Seminary's policy.

**The Dr. Robert L. VanDale Scholarship Endowment**, established in 2016 and named by Dr. VanDale's fellow pastor the Rev. Dr. James C. Butler '89, is awarded annually to one or more students who demonstrate financial need as determined by Board policy. Dr. VanDale is a 1960 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa.

**The Rev. Robert R. Vogelsang Memorial Fund** was established by the Latrobe Presbyterian Church in 1983 in honor of their pastor of 26 years, the Rev. Robert R. Vogelsang, who also served on the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Board of Directors for 25 years. This scholarship is awarded to Presbyterian students with demonstrated financial need.

**James A. Walther Continuing Education Endowment** was established by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1983 in honor of Dr. James A. Walther Sr. '42. Dr. Walther had a distinguished career as a pastor, Naval Reserve chaplain, professor, and author. He was a professor of New Testament literature and exegesis at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 1954 to 1983. This scholarship is used to support students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Elizabeth B. and Frank L. Wiegand III Scholarship Endowment** was established by Elizabeth B. and Frank L. Wiegand III in 2008. This fund supports senior or middler students who meet all Seminary eligibility requirements, profess faith in Jesus Christ, and are committed to a career in ministry within a church espousing the theology of the Reformed tradition. Preference will be given to students committed to excelling in preaching the infallible word of God and whose preaching reflects an emphasis on meaningful life application of the Scriptures in an ever-changing cultural context.

**The Rev. John E. Winnett Scholarship Endowment** was

established by Rev. Winnett '63 in 2015, just five months prior to his death in December of that year. During his ministerial career he pastored churches in Ohio and Florida. This scholarship supports master's students with demonstrated financial need.

**The Dr. Tammy Yeager Scholarship Endowment** was

established by Westminster Presbyterian Church of Upper St. Clair, Pa., and funded by its members in honor of the church's former associate pastor of congregational care the Rev. Dr. Tamara Yeager '07/'13 upon her retirement. The scholarship named after her supports Pittsburgh Seminary students who demonstrate financial need, as determined by the Seminary's policy, and gives first preference to students sensing a call to pastoral ministry, preferably though not necessarily in the Presbyterian Church.

Additional Need-based Grants include

- The A. C. Amsler Grant, established by Mr. Amsler, a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Board member from 1959 to 1971
- The Atlantic Avenue Presbyterian Church Grant, established by the church in 1986
- The Richard P. Averell Memorial Scholarship, established in 1985 by Hester W. Averell through her estate
- The Melvin J. and Selma R. Burns Scholarship Fund, established in 2016 through the estate of Selma R. Burns
- The Lily M. Carrick Grant, established in 2000 through her estate
- The Christian Education Grant
- The Walter and Mary Clyde Scholarship Endowment, established in 2005 through the Clyde Family Trust
- The Jane Hogg Gardner Grant
- The John Calvin Steele Scholarship, established in 2016 through the estate of Helen S. Bair
- The Grimes Grant
- The Joseph Jones Scholarship, established in 2013 through the estate of Laura C. Jones to support theology students from Sharon and Farrell, Pa.
- The Leroy S. Kuhn Scholarship, established in 2005 through his estate
- The Dorothy and Albert Ludebuehl Scholarship Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation

- The Dorothy S. McClelland Scholarship Fund N. 1 of The Pittsburgh Foundation
- The Ferguson Scholarship, established in 2011 by John Tye and Virginia P. Ferguson
- The Ann Foster Scholarship of The Pittsburgh Foundation
- The McClung Grant
- The McKinney Grant
- The William H. Nelson Scholarship, established in 2014 with an estate gift through the William H. Nelson Educational Foundation
- The Parker Grant
- The Martha Rickabaugh Scholarship, established by Ms. Rickabaugh in 1994
- The Sherrard Grant
- The C. P. Sherwin Grant, established through the Sherwin estate
- The Ralph B. and Anna T. Snyder Scholarship, established in 2017 by Elaine Fry and Carol Ann Barker
- The Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church Fund, established by the church, located in Pittsburgh
- The Edward and Lillian Walther Scholarship

## MIDDLER/SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND PRIZES

This section includes varying types of financial assistance. Need-based Grants require prior qualification by submission of the PTS Financial Aid Application. The Valentour Fellowship requires submission of a proposal. In most cases and unless otherwise stated below, eligible, full-time students are automatically considered for funding from these sources.

**The Rev. Drs. Judy A. '96 and A. Gary Angleberger Scholarship Endowment** (See Need-based Grants.)

**The Gareth D. '57 and Evelyn A. Baker Financial Aid Fund** (See Need-based Grants.)

**The Ford Lewis Battles and Marion Davis Battles Scholarship Endowment** was established in 2013 by Dr. Walter E. Ellis and is awarded to middlers and/or seniors who have excelled in their studies and who have a continuing interest in the areas of patristics and/or Reformation history and theology.



**The William Taylor Gillespie Scholarship Endowment** (See Need-based Grants.)

**The Dr. Theodore W. Kalsbeek '51 Prize**, established by the Sycamore Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, is awarded to a student at the end of the middler year, who by aptitude, temperament, and commitment is deemed to show the most promise in serving small churches with traditional Reformed theology, effective biblical preaching, and compassionate pastoral involvement.

**The Walter P. and Anna L. McConkey Award in Homiletics** is given to a student who at the end of the middler year has, in the judgment of the homiletics professors, demonstrated excellence in preaching.

**The James Purdy Scholarship** is apportioned equally each year to up to six junior class members who are full-time students and under care of a presbytery and who, at the end of their junior year, have attained a high standard of excellence in their seminary work.

**The Andrew Reed Scholarship** is given to the student who achieves the highest grade in a competitive examination in the English Bible. This scholarship is non-renewable.

**The Fred McFeely Rogers Prize in Biblical Studies** is granted to the student who, in the judgment of the professors of the biblical area, is most worthy of this award at the end of the junior year.

**The Maria Showalter Scholarship** (See Need-based Grants.)

**The Alice Myers Sigler Memorial Prize in History and Theology** is granted to the student who, in the judgment of the professors of the history and theology areas, is most worthy of this award at the end of the middler year.

**The Valentour World Travel Fellowship** enables a full-time student with middler standing to travel for seven to 12 weeks during the summer, visiting various cultures and societies. The award is based on a proposal that outlines the purpose and the plan for travel, which must include the non-Western world. Proposals will be favored that include a statement of intent to do an independent study with a named member of the faculty in the

following fall semester, as well as a preliminary draft proposal for it. The independent study is related to some aspect of the student's travel experience. Both the statement of purpose and plan for travel, and the preliminary draft proposal for the independent study should be at least 500 words. A complete statement of the policy is available in the office of the Associate Dean for Students and Formation.

**The Elizabeth B. and Frank L. Wiegand III Scholarship Endowment** (See Need-based Grants.)

## GRADUATION AWARDS, PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduating seniors are automatically considered for these merit-based acknowledgments of their achievements.

**The Ashton History Prize** is awarded to the member of the graduating class who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in church history.

**The Jennie Rigg Barbour Memorial Prize** is assigned to that member of the graduating class who has taken the full course of instruction in this institution and who has achieved the second highest academic rank of the class if, in the judgment of the faculty, they are worthy in all other respects.

**The Watson Samuel Boyce Music Prize** is to be awarded annually to the member(s) of the graduating class who makes the most outstanding contribution to the life of the Seminary in an area involving church music and worship.

**The Brooks Foundation Commencement Prize** is awarded to the graduating master of divinity or master of arts student who has done well in pastoral care course work and exhibits the skills and ethos essential to effective pastoral care.

**The Robert M. Ezzell Homiletical Prize** was established by the children of Bob Ezzell in memory of their father who taught homiletics at PTS from 1969 to 1998. The prize is awarded to a graduating student in the master of divinity or master of arts in pastoral studies program who has demonstrated excellence in contextually sensitive and culturally aware preaching.

**The Faculty Prize in Formation** is awarded to the graduating master's student who most fully embodies the formative values of the Seminary: intellectual, spiritual, interpersonal, intercultural, and professional.

**The Faculty Prize in Leadership** is given to the graduating doctor of ministry student or students who have significantly contributed to cohort formation, including demonstrating leadership in building up the body of Christ.

**The Faculty Prize in Public Theology** is given to the graduating master's or doctor of ministry student who demonstrates excellence in public theology and ethics or theology and public life.

**The Paul T. Gerrard Prize in Homiletics and Pastoral Care** is to be awarded to the graduating master of divinity or master of arts student judged best by the faculty in homiletics and pastoral care and who shows promise for a future in pastoral ministry. The recipient is encouraged to use this prize for their theological library.

**The Joanne Glaser Prize in Pastoral Leadership** was established by Elizabeth Glaser Troyer '08 in 2025 to honor the life and work of Joanne Glaser '09. This academic prize will be awarded annually to a graduating master's student who is preparing for ministry in a smaller congregation as a second career and who shows promise for effective pastoral leadership.

**The Jackson Hale Prize in Polity** is awarded to a graduating master of divinity or master of arts student with a strong academic record who demonstrates gifts for congregational leadership, e.g. administration, teaching, and/or church polity.

**The Thomas Jamison Scholarship** is given every year to the member of the senior class who has the highest average at the beginning of their final semester of study. The acceptance of this scholarship requires that the recipient spend a full academic year in study in any graduate institution approved by the faculty.

**The Michael Wilson Keith Memorial Homiletical Prize** is awarded to a graduating senior who has demonstrated excellence in preaching.

**The Robert A. Lee Church History Prize** is to be awarded yearly to up to two students with particular interest and demonstrated ability in the area of church history.

**The Sylvester S. Marvin Memorial Fellowship** may be assigned upon graduation to that member of the senior class who is recommended by the faculty as having achieved the highest standard in all departments of the Seminary curriculum. The faculty reserves the right to impose special tests and examinations in making this award. The recipient must pledge themselves to a year of postgraduate study at an institution approved by the faculty following their graduation.

**The Edwin Dwight McKune Award for an International Student** is given to an international student who has demonstrated excellence in their seminary coursework and plans to return to ministry in their country of origin.

**The John W. and Miriam G. Meister Award in Pastoral Ministry** was established by J. W. Gregg Meister, Interlink Media, in memory of his parents. His father, the Rev. John W. Meister, was director of the Council of Theological Seminaries until his death in 1974. The award is made each year to a member of the graduating class who manifests to the greatest degree those characteristics which are most essential to effective pastoral leadership.

**Middlesex United Presbyterian Church (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) Memorial Prize in Biblical Studies** is awarded to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the faculty, demonstrates promise in biblical studies. The prize was established in 1989 by action of the former Middlesex United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**The Clara Edna Miller Prize in Pastoral Theology** is awarded to that student in the master of divinity program finishing the fifth semester who achieves the highest academic standing in those courses in the curriculum particularly adapted to the practice of ministry, i.e., preaching, worship, education, pastoral care, administration, and leadership development.

**The Richard J. Rapp Memorial Award in Doctor of Ministry Studies** was raised by the Covenant Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh as a memorial for the Rev. Dr. Richard J. Rapp,

first director of the doctor of ministry program. This award is given annually to honor a doctor of ministry student or students who, in the judgement of the faculty, have written an outstanding final doctoral project.

**The Andrew Reed Prize** is given to a student who, in the judgement of the biblical studies faculty, has demonstrated excellence in English Bible exegesis.

**The Henry A. Riddle Fund for Graduate Study** provides an annual award to a member of the graduating class designated by the faculty for assistance in postgraduate study, preferably in the field of New Testament.

**The J. Watson Prize in Greek** will be awarded to that member of the senior class who, having elected Greek Exegesis, shall submit the best grammatical and exegetical treatment of a portion of the Greek New Testament.

**The William B. Watson Prize in Hebrew** will be awarded to that member of the senior class who, having elected Hebrew, shall submit the best grammatical and exegetical treatment of a portion of the Hebrew Old Testament.

## MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

**The Pittsburgh Foundation: Dorothy and Albert Ludebuehl Scholarship and Dorothy McClelland Scholarship**

### GOAL

The Pittsburgh Foundation's Dorothy and Albert Ludebuehl Scholarship and the Dorothy McClelland Scholarship are funds designated for enrolled PTS middlers or seniors. The purpose of the funding is to aid in the retention of quality students, to help remove financial barriers, and to reduce indebtedness.

### REQUIREMENTS

Current Pittsburgh Theological Seminary students must meet the following qualifications to apply:

- The Pittsburgh Foundation (TPF) scholarship requirements;
- Pursue a degree or studies in theology;
- Demonstrate financial need (defined COA minus aid, EFC).

- File a FAFSA and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be included in the calculation to determine need;
- Be a master's degree-seeking student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary;
- Be a full-time student;
- Provide a transcript or proof of enrollment to TPF, if requested;
- Provide a copy of the SAR (FAFSA) to TPF, if requested;
- Have completed at least one semester as a full-time student at PTS. A part-time student anticipating future full-time enrollment must have completed the equivalent of one full-time semester (9 credits) at PTS; and
- Have a minimum overall 3.0 GPA at the time of evaluation and credit completion based on the PTS Merit Scholarship policy.

There is no denominational requirement to qualify.

The PTS 150 Percent Financial Aid Policy will not apply, but the total amount of aid that a student receives will be considered by the Scholarship Committee.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The Financial Aid Office will post the scholarship application. Students must submit the application by June 1 to the PTS Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office will process applications after the grades are posted in June. The Financial Aid Committee's Scholarship Committee will evaluate the applications by June 15.

The minimum scholarship amount will be \$1,000 per academic year. The maximum amount will be determined by the number of recipients and the dollar amount of the TPF disbursement.

The Director of Financial Aid will forward the scholarship nominations to The Pittsburgh Foundation prior to its June 30 deadline.

The Pittsburgh Foundation will notify the students and may request additional documents from the students, including transcripts and Student Aid Report.

The scholarship is not automatically renewed, but students are welcome to apply each year.

## FINANCING SEMINARY EDUCATION (DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE)

The doctor of ministry program financial aid is designed to assist the student in fulfilling the call to God to deepen and strengthen their ministry. A Tuition Grant is offered by PTS based on financial need regardless of denominational affiliation. To be considered for need-based financial aid, each year students must submit the PTS Financial Aid Application or Financial Aid Recertification form.

Financial need is calculated by the Cost of Tuition minus the Tuition Grant Index number minus other aid. The Tuition Grant Index is a number determined by the PTS Aid Application.

### 2025-2026 COST OF ATTENDANCE FOR PTS TUITION GRANT ASSISTANCE

To determine financial need for institutional aid, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary uses similar costs listed below. Actual travel, meals, and housing expenses for a student will vary.

#### 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Tuition (based on four courses)*	\$4,920
Books	\$500
Comprehensive Fee**	\$400
Meals	\$596
Housing	\$1,476
Travel***	\$1,869
Total	\$9,761

\* Tuition is \$410/credit.

\*\* An additional \$400 fee applies to the Creative Writing and Public Theology Cohort.

\*\*\* Travel costs will vary due to traveling distance.

The student's demonstrated need is the difference between the Cost of Tuition and the Tuition Grant Index (found on the PTS Need-based Aid Application) and other aid. To help meet this need, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary awards Tuition Grants and Merit Scholarships. The student is expected to seek outside sources of aid.

FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS

The Financial Aid Package is based on the assumption that a student is registered for 6 credit hours per session. No financial aid will be available to students registered for less than 6 credits. Should a student fail a course(s), there will be no financial aid for the repeat course(s). Should a student withdraw without faculty approval from a class after the official add/drop period, financial aid for this course will be revoked and the student will be responsible for the tuition fee. PTS does not award aid beyond the specified length of the program chosen. Financial aid will not be provided to any student beyond the minimum credits required for graduation.

Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined by the program guidelines. Students who are in default of their federal educational loans are ineligible for institutional aid. Students who are currently in default are encouraged to contact their lending institutions to seek resolution.

Need-based aid recipients must return the signed contract with a thank you letter for donors. No aid will be credited to a student's account until the signed contract and letter are received.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR DOCTOR OF MINISTRY AID

Type of Aid	Minimum PTS GPA	Number of Completed Credits
PTS Institutional Grants	S or H grade	12 credits/year
Merit/Tuition Discounts	S or H grade	12 credits/year

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION GRANTS

All accepted and eligible doctor of ministry program students who submit a need-based aid application are considered for doctor of ministry Tuition Grants. Awards are made on a first-come, first-served basis until all grants have been awarded.

Doctor of Ministry students are also eligible for merit scholarships upon admission to the Seminary. These scholarships can range between \$750 and \$1,500 per year. Scholarships are awarded based upon the qualifications of the applicant and are renewable for the duration of the program as long as the student meets the minimum criteria for progress from year to year.



**The S. H. Aten Memorial Scholarship** was established in 1999 for a doctor of ministry student by Frank A. Aten. The scholarship was established in memory of his father, Sidney Henry Aten, who was a 1908 graduate of Western Theological Seminary, an antecedent institution of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding candidate in the doctor of ministry program. The recipient will be the pastor of a small church who indicates their intention to continue to provide a ministry within the church.

**The Rev. Dr. In Soon Choi Scholarship Endowment for the Doctor of Ministry Program** was established by Young Won Shim in 2001. The scholarship was established in honor of Shim's pastor, the Rev. Dr. In Soon Choi, a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary graduate. The Rev. Dr. Choi was the pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro-Detroit from 1992 to 2003. This scholarship is awarded to a doctor of ministry student(s) who meets all Seminary eligibility requirements.

**The George C. and Martha Culp Memorial Scholarship** was established by many individuals and churches, including John and Harriet Culp Sykes and Fellowship United Church of Christ, Wickliffe, Ohio, in 1993 in memory of the Rev. George C. and Mrs. Martha Culp. George Culp was a 1944 graduate of Pittsburgh Seminary.

**The Glenn and Dorothy L. Mowers Scholarship Fund for the Doctor of Ministry Program** was established through the bequest of Dorothy L. Mowers in 2002. The endowment provides scholarship support for students in the doctor of ministry program. Applicants must be pastors serving small churches (fewer than 250 members) who have worked for at least three years after receiving their master of divinity degree. Students should demonstrate financial need and have application materials and personal references that reflect "high quality and special promise." This scholarship is available to students of any denomination of the church who are master of divinity graduates of an accredited theological seminary.

**The Gordon E. Jackson Endowment for D.Min. Scholarships** was established by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1983 in honor of the Rev. Dr. Jackson, a 1943 graduate of the Seminary and former Hugh Thompson Kerr Professor of Pastoral Theology. Many individuals funded this need-based scholarship.

**The Jerry McAfee Scholarship** for doctor of ministry students was established principally by Mrs. Geraldine S. McAfee in 1996 to honor her husband, a former member of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Board of Directors.

**The Lewis R. Thomas Scholarship Endowment** was established by the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, Mo., and the Thomas Family in 1996. The Rev. Dr. Thomas was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood from 1983 to 1995. He was also a 1965 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This scholarship supports a student in the doctor of ministry program with a first preference for pastors from First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood or pastors within the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery.

## FINANCING SEMINARY EDUCATION (CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS)

Students enrolled in at least 6 credits in one of the Seminary's graduate certificate programs, as outlined on page 30, may be eligible for Merit or Need-based financial aid. See the Financing Seminary Education (Master's Degrees) section on page 78 for more information.

## EXCEPTIONS TO THE PTS FINANCIAL AID POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### EXCEPTION POLICY

All exceptions to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary financial aid policies must be presented to the Financial Aid Committee for a vote. This includes exceptions to the Merit Scholarships, the need-based aid program, and other funding managed by the PTS Financial Aid Office.

## PROCEDURE

1. All discussion concerning PTS funding should be referred to the PTS Director of Financial Aid.
2. If the current policy does not allow for the funding, the student can submit a written request to the Director of Financial Aid to be considered for an exception to existing policy. This request may be submitted by e-mail or hard copy. The student should specify that they wish the request to be presented to the Financial Aid Committee.
3. In the request the student should:
  - i. describe the unique circumstances and
  - ii. describe the funding exemption being requested.
4. The Director of Financial Aid will forward the formal request to Financial Aid Committee by e-mail or at a meeting.  
(The Student Association representative(s) may not be included in the discussion based on privacy issues.)
5. The Director of Financial Aid must provide the impact of the decision, including the number of other students impacted by the decision, if any, and the financial cost on this exception to PTS and the student(s).
6. The Committee will discuss and vote on the exception.  
Majority vote determines the outcome.
7. The Director of Financial Aid will notify the student of the Committee's decision.

If the Committee feels that the exception should become a standard policy, another discussion and formal vote must take place. If passed, the Director of Financial Aid will post the change in the catalog, PTS Policy and Procedure Manual, and on the website.

At year end, the Financial Aid Committee will meet to review all the exceptions requested in the past 12 months.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions, concerns, and application requests should be directed to the Financial Aid Office of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Director of Financial Aid  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 North Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-924-1384  
Fax: 412-924-1784





## ADMISSIONS

### MASTER'S AND CERTIFICATES

- Application Process
- Application Requirements
- Master's Alternate Provision
- Joint Degrees
- Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry
- Transfer Students
- International Students
- Non-degree Students

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

- Application Process
- Doctor of Ministry Alternate Admissions Provision



# MASTER'S AND CERTIFICATES APPLICATION

## APPLICATION PROCESS

An applicant for admission to any master's-level program of study or a graduate certificate offered by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary must ordinarily provide evidence of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Additionally, three letters of reference are required, one of which must be a Church Endorsement for those applying to the master of divinity degree program. The same is to be completed by their pastor or an official of their denomination. All applicants shall apply for admission to a particular degree or certificate program or for non-degree status. Students who wish to change degree programs after admission must make their request in writing to the Admissions and Standards Committee and provide any additional information needed by the Committee to make its decision. Candidates for all programs are required to submit a background check.

All correspondence concerning admission to the Seminary should be addressed to the Admissions Office. The Admissions and Standards Committee considers applications upon submission of the following materials:

- Online application form;
- Nonrefundable \$60 application fee;
- Three references, one of which must be a Church Endorsement from the applicant's local church if applying to the M.Div. degree program;
- Transcripts of all college and university work attempted;
- Personal statement of 300 words, double spaced, describing the applicant's self and gifts for ministry, placing particular emphasis on one's vocational plans and reasons for applying to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary;
- An analytical essay (750-1,000 words) which will be evaluated based on how well the applicant follows the guidelines on the application, grammar and structure, and capacity for theological reading and writing. In addition, it will serve as an indication of the applicant's writing style and strengths. The topic of the essay will be on the application website. Please note, your submission will be evaluated for plagiarism and AI generation;

- Personal interview with the Admissions Office or designated person; and
- Background check. In lieu of the background check, applicants can also submit up-to-date clearances. PTS requires background checks for all faculty, staff, and students out of our desire to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. The background check does not automatically disqualify someone from admission.

After admission is granted, a student is required to submit an Intent to Enroll and a \$50 fee. This assures a student's place in the next entering class. This fee is nonrefundable and is credited to the student's account upon enrollment.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

These application requirements apply to the M.Div., MAPS, MTS, and joint degrees as well as the graduate certificates in faith, work, and the common good; ministry; missional leadership; theological studies; and urban ministry. Application requirements for the Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry are detailed on page 127.

Applicants are typically required to have completed their bachelor's degree at the time of enrollment. It is normally required that an applicant achieve a minimum 2.7 cumulative grade point on a 4.0 scale as an undergraduate or in the last degree program attempted. Applications from those in the final stages of their bachelor's will be considered after the student's junior year, with a transcript reflecting work to that point. Prior to enrollment, the student must produce a final official undergraduate transcript reflecting the earned degree.

## MASTER'S ALTERNATE ADMISSIONS PROVISION

An applicant seeking admission to the M.Div., MAPS, or certificate programs at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary who does not have a baccalaureate degree, but who brings extensive pastoral leadership experience and has significant prior coursework at the college level (usually at least 60 credits for master's degrees and 45 credits for certificate programs), may apply for consideration.

## 126 Admissions

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary may admit students without baccalaureate degrees under the provisions and limitations of The Association of Theological School Commission. Such candidates will be admitted on a provisional basis. Students admitted provisionally will be able to take courses for credit and are afforded full student privileges, including need-based financial aid and housing, if eligible. Students provisionally admitted are required to achieve at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA after the completion of 9 credits. Failure to do so will result in dismissal.

Attainment of an M.Div., MAPS, or graduate certificate forms the focus of this process, which does not grant a bachelor's degree nor does it include the determination and granting of BA equivalency. Students admitted under this provision who later seek further advanced study at other institutions should pay careful attention to admissions requirements at those institutions. Similarly, applicants seeking ordination are advised to check the requirements in their denomination or church to determine if a bachelor's degree is required.

An evaluation of admission without a prior baccalaureate degree happens concurrently with PTS's standard admissions process. Application materials include:

- Online application form;
- Nonrefundable \$60 application fee;
- Transcripts of all college and university work attempted. In addition you may provide copies of educational certificates, certificates of ministry training, and/or continuing education credits;
- Personal Statement: Approximately 1,000 words describing who you are, vocational plans, and reasons for applying to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Be sure to address the following question: How has your professional life and experience prepared you for study at PTS?;
- Analytical Essay: 750-1,000 words evaluated on how well it follows the guidelines and addresses the topic, grammar and structure, and capacity for theological reading and writing;
- Personal Interview;
- Four References: Provide name and e-mail addresses for four references on online application form for: personal reference, church endorsement or reference from current faith leader, and two academic or professional references. We cannot accept references from family members.



- Résumé capturing a full description of ministerial and leadership roles in congregations or other settings (paid and volunteer). This is not a narrative of your ministerial experience; and
- Background check: In lieu of the background check, applicants can also submit up-to-date clearances. PTS requires background checks for all faculty, staff, and students out of our desire to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. The background check does not automatically disqualify someone from admission.

Upon receipt of the above-mentioned items, the Admissions and Standards Committee will review the application in its entirety.

## JOINT DEGREES

In each of the joint degree programs the candidate must normally first apply and be admitted to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and then to the respective partner university. Admission into the program is determined by each institutional separately; admission into one institution does not guarantee admission to the other. Please note that admissions requirements for joint degree programs may vary. For students pursuing the master's/M.S.W, application to the joint program is made to the University of Pittsburgh during the first term of the second year of Seminary enrollment. Students applying to the master's/JD degree must begin at Duquesne University.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ADAPTIVE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRY

In addition to the standard application materials and requirements noted above, applicants to our Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry must also:

- Submit a 300 word essay articulating the applicant's current ministry context and sense of call to adaptive and innovative ministry work. The applicant must describe both the setting in which one is serving (or will serve) and what one hopes to learn during the certificate program. (This takes the place of the personal statement in the typical Admissions process. Note that neither a résumé nor a résumé narrative meet this requirement.)

## 128 Admissions

- Submit an analytical essay of 750-1,000 words, which will be evaluated on how well it follows these guidelines; namely, how well it addresses the topic, the use of grammar and structure, and capacity for theological reading and writing. Topic: Identify one author or text that has been influential in your understanding of your calling/vocation. Identify passages and theological or religious themes that have been particularly formative, and explain how they have influenced your own sense of call.
- Complete an interview with the Admissions Office, the Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry, or another designated person.

The admissions process is administered by the Admissions Office of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Applications are reviewed by the Admissions Office and the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry staff, with accountability to the Admissions and Standards Committee.

This certificate is offered through the Seminary's Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry and can be completed as a stand-alone certificate program, or, once completed, students may be eligible to transfer completed credits into one of the Seminary's master's programs.

## TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student transferring from another seminary is required to submit the application materials described above. Courses being considered for transfer must come from a school with regional and/or ATS accreditation. PTS will not accept transfer credit from schools with accreditation that is not recognized by the Department of Education. Transfer credits are evaluated by the Dean of Faculty and the Registrar. Normally only courses for which a B- or better were earned will be considered for transfer credit. To earn a degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, master of art students must complete a minimum of 24 academic credits and master of divinity students must complete and 27 academic credits while enrolled at PTS.

In addition to the above requirements, no approval can be given without the Dean's review of the course description and syllabus, which must include the name of the person who taught the

course, required reading/other course requirements, and how students' work in the course was evaluated. The student should also present to the Dean other relevant material, such as term papers and examinations; in some cases these may be required before approval is given. Distance education courses should be clearly identified on official transcripts or, if not so noted on the transcript, identified by the student.

PTS does not award credit for life experience. Also, no transfer credit or advanced standing will be given from degrees or coursework which are 10 years old or older. The full policy regarding transfer credit can be found on My.PTS.edu.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary recognizes the global nature of the Christian Church and seeks to play a role in educating leaders for churches around the world. To that end, the Seminary encourages application by students whose citizenship is held outside the United States, who have completed their primary theological degree in their own country, and who seek further theological education for the purpose of service to the church in their homeland.

All international students applying for study at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary must submit:

- Online application form;
- Nonrefundable \$60 application fee;
- Transcripts of undergraduate and graduate degrees from internationally accredited colleges or universities;
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores of no less than 570 paper or 90 IBT (if the language of instruction from a prior undergraduate or graduate degree was not English). TOEFL scores cannot be older than two years from the date the exam was taken and at the time of application. TOEFL scores are not required for international students who can furnish proof of a completed degree where the language of instruction was English;
- A Personal Statement of 300 words, doubled-space, describing the applicant's self and gifts for ministry, placing particular emphasis on one's vocational plans and reasons for applying to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary;

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- An analytical essay, which will be evaluated based on how well the applicant follows the guidelines on the application, grammar and structure, and capacity for theological reading and writing. In addition, it will serve as an indication of the applicant's writing style and strengths. The topic and length of the essay will be on the application. Please note, your submission will be evaluated for plagiarism and AI generation;
- Three references (one of which is a Church Endorsement completed by a pastor or supervisor). Applications must be submitted by early December prior to the intended year of enrollment; and
- If accepted, an application for Form I-20.

### **STUDENT VISAS**

Form I-20, which is needed to apply for the F-1 student visa, will be issued to admitted students only when the Admissions Office has been provided with the required documentation of financial resources to support the student for the duration of the visa.

Those entering the country on F-1 student visas, their spouses, and dependents are not eligible for work permits in the United States.

This limits employment opportunities to jobs on the Seminary campus (for the student only). Financial aid is available to all international students who qualify.

## **Non-Degree Students**

Applicants desiring to study at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for credit on a non-degree basis, other than international students, must possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university at the time of enrollment. Non-degree applicants complete an abridged application process and are required to submit:

- Online application form;
- Nonrefundable \$60 application fee;
- Transcripts of all college and university work attempted;
- Personal statement of 300 words, double spaced, describing the applicant's self and gifts for ministry, placing particular emphasis on one's vocational plans and reasons for applying to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and
- Background check. In lieu of the background check, applicants can also submit up-to-date clearances. PTS requires background checks for all faculty, staff, and students out of our

desire to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. The background check does not automatically disqualify someone from admission.

- After admission is granted, a student is required to submit an Intent to Enroll Form and a \$50 fee. This assures a student's place in the next entering class. This fee is nonrefundable and is credited to the student's account upon enrollment.

Non-degree students may enroll in as many as two courses per semester, up to a total of six courses (18 credits). Non-degree students complete all the assigned requirements for each course in which they enroll and receive academic credit.

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for the doctor of ministry degree are submitted to the Admissions Office and can be completed online. An accredited master of divinity degree is typically required. Alternatively, an earned master's degree from a regionally accredited institution in an area related to one's ministry setting or vocational field is acceptable. Generally, a minimum GPA of 3.0 in master's-degree work is required. Applicants must be actively engaged in a ministry.

Applications to the doctor of ministry program must include:

- Online application form;
- \$60 non-refundable application fee;
- Official transcripts of all college, university, and graduate work attempted;
- Assurance that the participant will be engaged in some recognized ministerial position for the period of the program;
- An endorsement from the applicant's Church Board, ecclesiastical official, or a supervisor when applicable approving expenditure of the time called for by the program;
- Application Essay: 1,000 words describing how this particular program and cohort can equip you to live more fully into your vocational calling in your ministry context. In this essay, identify at least two authors or theological works that have

inspired your continued learning and inform a potential area of research. Please note: proper citation in Chicago Manual Style is expected for this exercise. Your submission will be evaluated for plagiarism and AI generation;

- Three References: Provide name and e-mail address for three references (one personal, one ministerial, one academic/professional) on the online application form. We can not accept references from family members;
- Personal interview; and
- Background check. In lieu of the background check, applicants can also submit up-to-date clearances. PTS requires background checks for all faculty, staff, and students out of our desire to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. The background check does not automatically disqualify someone from admission.

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY ALTERNATE ADMISSIONS PROVISION

The Doctor of Ministry degree is an advanced professional doctorate that builds upon an accredited master's degree in a ministry-related area and upon significant ministry experience. Typically, admission to this program requires successful completion of the master of divinity degree. However, applicants who have not earned the master of divinity degree may be admitted so long as they comply with the provisions required by The Association of Theological Schools:

- The ability to thoughtfully interpret Scripture and the theological tradition of one's ministry context;
- The capacity to understand and adapt one's ministry to the cultural context;
- A basic self-understanding of one's ministerial identity and vocational calling;
- A readiness to engage in ongoing personal and spiritual formation for one's ministry;
- An accredited master's degree (or its educational equivalent) in an area related to one's ministry setting or vocational calling; and
- Significant ministerial experience that enables the applicant to engage as a ministry peer with other students in this advanced professional doctorate.

Applications to the doctor of ministry program from applicants who have not already earned the master of divinity must include:

- Online application form for alternate credentials;
- \$60 non-refundable;
- Official transcripts of all college, university, and graduate work attempted;
- An endorsement from the applicant's Church Board, ecclesiastical official, or a professional supervisor when applicable approving expenditure of the time called for by the program;
- Three References: Provide name and e-mail addresses for three references (one personal, one ministerial, one academic/professional) on online application form. We cannot accept references from family members;
- Essay: 1,000 words describing how this particular program and cohort can equip you to live more fully into your vocational calling in your ministry context. In this essay, identify at least two authors or theological works that have inspired your continued learning and inform a potential area of research. Please note: proper citation in Chicago Manual Style is expected for this exercise;
- Personal interview; and
- Background check. In lieu of the background check, applicants can also submit up-to-date clearances. PTS requires background checks for all faculty, staff, and students out of our desire to ensure the safety and well-being of all community members. The background check does not automatically disqualify someone from admission.









## PERSONNEL

### FACULTY

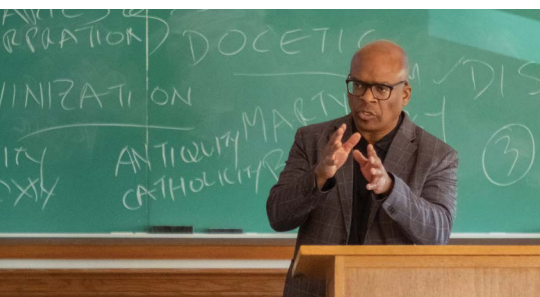
- Full-time
- Visiting and Adjunct
- Emeriti

### ADMINISTRATION

- Administrative Officers
- Contact Information

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### FIELD EDUCATION SUPERVISORS



## FACULTY

The members of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty are committed to the scholarly, professional, and personal preparation of students for Christian service in the church. Many members of the faculty are regular contributors to the church's and the world's scholarly knowledge through publications and participation in learned societies in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. In this way, the faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary contribute to the learning opportunity of students on campus and far away. The faculty formulate the curriculum, direct the entire educational program, and exercise general authority over the student body. Following are the names of full-time faculty. Full biographies, pictures, and videos are available online: [www.pts.edu/faculty](http://www.pts.edu/faculty).

**John P. Burgess**, Ph.D.; James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology

**Jerome F. D. Creach**, Ph.D.; Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament

**Tucker S. Ferda**, Ph.D.; Errett M. Grable Associate Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Early Christianity

**Daniel Frayer-Griggs**, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor of Biblical Exegesis and Director of the Center for Writing and Learning Support

**Leanna K. Fuller**, Ph.D.; Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care

**Danjuma Gibson**, Ph.D.; Professor of Practical Theology and Psychology

**Donna Giver-Johnston**, Ph.D.; Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program

**Scott Hagley**, Ph.D.; W. Don McClure Associate Professor of World Mission and Evangelism

**Angela Dienhart Hancock**, Ph.D.; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Howard C. Scharfe Associate Professor of Homiletics

**Asa J. Lee**, D.Min.; President and Professor of Theological Formation for Ministry

**AnneMarie Mingo**, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Ethics, Culture, and Moral Leadership and Director of the Metro-Urban Institute

**L. Roger Owens**, Ph.D.; Hugh Thomson Kerr Professor of Pastoral Theology

**Rafael Rodriguez**, Ph.D.; Professor of New Testament

**Kimberly D. Russaw**, Ph.D.; Associate Professor of Old Testament

**R. Drew Smith**, Ph.D.; Henry L. Hillman Professor of Urban Ministry

**Edwin Chr. van Driel**, Ph.D.; Directors' Bicentennial Professor of Theology

**Kenneth J. Woo**, Ph.D.; P. C. Rossin Associate Professor of Church History and Historical Theology

## VISITING AND ADJUNCT FACULTY

**Jennifer L. Carner**, Ph.D.; Visiting Assistant Professor of Preaching

**Ryan Ramsey**, Ph.D.; Visiting Assistant Professor of History and World Christianity

**Derek Woodard-Lehman**, Ph.D.; Lecturer in Theology and Ethics

## EMERITAE/I

**Carnegie Samuel Calian**, D.Th.; President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Theology

**Ronald S. Cole-Turner**, Ph.D.; H. Parker Sharp Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics

**David Esterline**, Ph.D.; President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Cross-cultural Theological Education

**Edith M. Humphrey**, Ph.D.; William F. Orr Professor Emerita of New Testament

**Byron H. Jackson**, Ed.D.; Dean Emeritus of the Faculty and Louise and Perry Dick Professor Emeritus of Education

**Andrew Purves**, Ph.D.; Jean and Nancy Davis Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology

**Martha B. Robbins**, Ph.D.; Joan Marshall Associate Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care

**Ron E. Tappy**, Ph.D.; G. Albert Shoemaker Professor Emeritus of Bible and Archaeology

**Steven S. Tuell**, Ph.D.; James A. Kelso Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament

**John E. Wilson**, Ph.D.; P. C. Rossin Professor Emeritus of Church History

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

**Asa J. Lee**, D.Min.; President and Professor of Theological Formation for Ministry

**William A. Baker IV**, M.Div., Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Continuing Education

**Charles L. Fischer III**, M.Div.; Vice President for Seminary Advancement

**Angela Dienhart Hancock**, Ph.D.; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Howard C. Scharfe Associate Professor of Homiletics

**Thomas Hinds**, CPA, M.B.A.; Vice President for Finance and Administration

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Darlene Veghts, Interim Co-Director of the Barbour Library

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**Museum**

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Ashley Johnson, Associate Director for Student Services

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140 Personnel

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**Student Billing**

Edward Brown, Accounts Payable/Student Accounts Accountant  
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**World Mission Initiative**

Bala Khylllep, Acting Director of the World Mission Initiative  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026**

Chair	Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Vice Chair	Darren Rogers
Secretary	Ashley Steele
Treasurer	William Bensur
Assistant Treasurer	Thomas Hinds
Legal Counsel	Suzanne DeWalt

**MEMBERS**

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Ashley S. Ashley '20, Plymouth, Mich.  
William G. Bensur Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Kelsy Brown '10, Phoenix, Ariz.  
Corinne Cameron '23, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
Mathew Eardley, Boise, Idaho  
Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy '13/'24, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Jerrel T. Gilliam, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
David Greusel, Kansas City, Mo.  
Thomas L. Harmon '16, Cranberry Township, Pa.  
Destini Hodges '25, Harrisburg, Pa.  
Allan M. Irizarry-Graves '17, Little Rock, Ark.  
Kurt F. Kusserow, Hampton Township, Pa.

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 Jessica McClure Archer, Irwin, Pa.  
 Josephine (Jodie) B. Moore '96, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Noah J. Morgan '24, Richmond, Va.  
 Amy L. Newell '22, New Kensington, Pa.  
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 Joan B. Prentice '05/'11, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Darren Rogers '17, Hughesville, Md.  
 John T. Shaver '98, Pacific Palisades, Calif.  
 Austin Crenshaw Shelley, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Gregory R. Spencer, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
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 John M. Wallace Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Gavin B. J. Walton '16, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Victoria Wellstead Murphy '21, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Christopher J. Weichman '98, Erie, Pa.

## EMERITAE/I

Paul H. Dimmick, Atlanta, Ga.  
 K. James (Jim) Evans, Bradford, Pa.  
 James (Jim) M. Gockley, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Wendy Myers Heinz '88, Mayville, N.Y.  
 David R. Hosick '76, Tyron, N.C.  
 John (Jack) S. Isherwood, Palm Harbor, Fla.  
 William N. Jackson '61, Mayville, N.Y.  
 Nancy E. Lowmaster '11/'21, Danville, Pa.  
 Donald (Don) K. McKim '74, Knoxville, Tenn.  
 Susan Vande Kappelle '95, Coraopolis, Pa.

## FIELD EDUCATION SUPERVISORS 2025-2026

Will Scott, Oakmont Presbyterian Church, Oakmont, Pa.  
 Aaron Teter, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Antawn D. Coleman, White Lily Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
 Michael Spicuzza, Glen-Moore Presbyterian Church, New Castle Pa.  
 Michelle Snyder, Soul Shop, Bridgeville, Pa.  
 Artee Williams, Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church, Conway,  
 Ark.  
 John Welch, Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.



Caitlin Werth, Waverly Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Debra Germany, Divine Intervention Ministries, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Michael Richards, Cornerstone Ministries, Fairmont, W.Va.  
Amy Simes, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, N.C.  
Erin Angeli, Commonwealth of Oakland, Pittsburgh Pa.







## POLICIES



## POLICIES

This catalog is a statement of the policies, personnel, and programs of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as projected by the responsible authorities of the Seminary.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary reserves the right to alter and change its policies, personnel, and programs, without prior notice, in accordance with the Seminary's institutional needs and academic purposes.

Complete statements of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's policies and programs are found in the Seminary's constitution, by-laws, academic regulations, student handbook, and Board and faculty minutes. What follows is a summary of the applicable policies. See [My.PTS.edu](http://My.PTS.edu) for the full content of each policy.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin; without regard to age, physical ability, or gender. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

## NON-ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary students are expected to follow all non-academic rules outlined in the Student Handbook and those issued by the President in consultation with the Cabinet. These rules, subject to Board oversight, ensure community integrity, safety, and efficient operations. By enrolling, students agree to abide by these policies and accept potential disciplinary actions, including dismissal. Complaints related to non-academic issues should be promptly submitted to the Associate Dean for Students and Formation, who will respond within seven days. If unresolved, written complaints may be escalated, with further review by the Dean of Faculty when necessary. Students may appeal disciplinary sanctions to a five-member Appeals Committee. The Seminary President makes the final decision in contested cases. Students are also encouraged to review their legal rights under FERPA. Serious behavioral misconduct—including harassment, dishonesty, or misuse of technology—may result in dismissal. Complete details are available in the Seminary's Student Handbook.

## STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to forming students for ministry in a community marked by mutual respect, justice, and spiritual integrity. All students are expected to uphold standards of respectful communication, acknowledge diversity, and strive for reconciliation when conflict arises. The Seminary emphasizes holistic formation—academic, professional, personal, and spiritual—and expects students to maintain integrity and civility in all interactions. Serious behavioral offenses such as harassment, dishonesty, or public indecency may result in dismissal. When conduct violations occur, a formal process involving administrative review, hearings, and appeals is followed. Students may appeal decisions up to the President. The Seminary also affirms inclusive language and nondiscrimination across all community life. Through these policies, PTS seeks to create a supportive, accountable environment where students grow in their calling while honoring the dignity of all members of the community.

## INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The Seminary encourages both the sensitivity to and use of words that include, not exclude other persons, where this is appropriate (e.g., “humanity” instead of “mankind”). All persons should be treated with the same respect, dignity, and seriousness, and no person or group of persons should be trivialized or stereotyped.

## PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary prohibits romantic relationships outside of marriage between faculty and students, staff and students, or between supervisors and their direct reports. These relationships pose a risk of power imbalance, favoritism, and potential legal and ethical concerns. Romantic relationships among faculty, staff, or administrators who are not married to each other are strongly discouraged. If such a relationship develops, it must be reported to the Dean of Faculty or the appropriate supervisor, who will inform the President. The President, in consultation with the Cabinet, will take necessary steps to protect the integrity and welfare of all parties and the Seminary. Violations of this policy may lead to disciplinary action, including dismissal. Allegations will be investigated by a Hearing Team per the Seminary's Anti-Discrimination Policy, and serious cases may trigger formal dismissal proceedings. The Seminary reminds employees that initial consent does not prevent a finding of sexual harassment under institutional policy.

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and productive academic environment, free from the unlawful use of drugs and alcohol. The Seminary prohibits the possession, use, distribution, or sale of controlled substances and the misuse of alcohol on its premises or during Seminary-sponsored activities. Limited, responsible alcohol use may be permitted at approved Seminary events. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, referral for counseling, or notification of law enforcement authorities. The Seminary upholds compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, including the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students and employees are encouraged to seek assistance for substance-related problems and can be provided with information about local counseling, rehabilitation, and treatment resources. Through education, accountability, and care, the Seminary seeks to promote the well-being of the entire community.

## WEAPONS

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to fostering a safe and hospitable campus environment. To support this vision, the Seminary prohibits the possession or use of weapons by students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors while on Seminary property, regardless of licensure. Weapons may not be carried or stored in personal belongings, vehicles, or other effects on campus. Prohibited weapons include firearms (e.g., handguns, rifles, pellet guns, tasers), explosives (e.g., bombs, grenades), and items capable of causing serious bodily harm, such as large knives, chemical sprays, brass knuckles, and clubs. Small personal pocket knives with folding blades under three inches are permitted. Exceptions are made for active or retired law enforcement officers, who must notify the Vice President for Finance and Administration. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and may lead to criminal prosecution. The policy applies to all individuals on Seminary premises to ensure a secure learning environment.

## ACADEMIC HONOR

Students are expected to uphold academic integrity in all coursework, including exams and papers. A first offense of plagiarism or cheating may result in course failure or dismissal; a second offense will result in dismissal by faculty action. Witnesses to dishonesty are encouraged to report it to the appropriate professor.

## PLAGIARISM

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary expects all students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in their coursework, including examinations, written assignments, and all academic obligations. Honesty is considered essential to the Seminary's educational and spiritual mission. Acts of academic dishonesty—such as plagiarism or cheating (including improper use of AI text-generators)—undermine the integrity of the learning community and are taken very seriously. A first offense may result in a failing grade for the course and/or dismissal, depending on the severity of the violation and the decision of the faculty. Any subsequent offense will result in automatic dismissal from the Seminary by faculty action. Students who witness acts of academic dishonesty are encouraged to speak directly with the faculty member for the relevant course. This policy reflects the Seminary's commitment to forming students who act with integrity, responsibility, and accountability in preparation for Christian leadership and service. Full details are outlined in the Seminary's Student Handbook and academic policies.

## SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 and make consistent credit progress to remain in good academic standing at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Full-time students must complete at least 18 credits per year (12 for part-time), and all students are expected to finish their programs within the designated time frame unless granted an extension by the Dean of Faculty.

## ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students are placed on academic probation if their cumulative or semester GPA falls below 2.0. While on probation, they must meet regularly with faculty and advisors to create and follow a success plan, may have their course load limited, and cannot register for future semesters until all coursework is complete and their status is reviewed by the faculty.

## DISMISSAL

Dismissal from the Seminary is a faculty-imposed termination of enrollment, typically for students whose GPA falls below 1.5 after two semesters or who cannot reasonably meet the 2.0 graduation requirement. Dismissal may also result from violations of academic

or non-academic policies, with the right to appeal granted through a designated review committee.

## RE-ADMISSION

Students who leave the Seminary for more than two years or who have been dismissed must reapply through the Admissions Office, with reapplication after dismissal allowed only once and not permitted after a second dismissal.

## TRANSFER CREDIT

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary allows students to transfer credits into its master of divinity and master of arts programs under guidelines aligned with ATS accreditation standards. Transfer credits are reviewed by the Registrar and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty. Core requirements must still be met, and credits are only accepted from ATS- or regionally accredited institutions, typically completed within the past 10 years with a minimum grade of B-. Up to two-thirds of credits for the M.Div. and half for the M.A. may be transferred. Limited credits from previously completed degrees may also be accepted, with further stipulations if transferring credits from PTS's own M.A. to M.Div. programs. No credit is awarded for life experience. Students from other institutions may take courses at PTS under certain agreements or as non-degree students. Students may also petition for course exemptions through faculty examination, though total credit requirements must still be met.

## CHANGE OF DEGREE

Students who wish to change their degree program must submit a Request for Change of Degree form with a brief explanation to the Dean of Faculty, after which the Admissions and Standards Committee will review the request and notify the student of the decision.

## HYBRID GATHERINGS ATTENDANCE

Students enrolled in hybrid courses must fully attend two on-campus gatherings each semester in addition to weekly online sessions; absence from any part of a gathering without an approved petition will result in significant grade penalties or course failure.

## FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which protects the privacy of student education records. Under FERPA, students have the right to inspect and review their records, request amendments if records are inaccurate or misleading, and control the disclosure of personally identifiable information. Disclosure without consent is allowed only in specific cases, such as to school officials with a legitimate educational interest. The Seminary defines school officials broadly, including faculty, staff, contractors, and graduate assistants performing official tasks. PTS may release “Directory Information” (e.g., name, e-mail, address, advisor, etc.) without consent unless a student formally opts out. However, opting out does not apply to course rosters or institutional communication. Students can authorize the release of additional information by signing a FERPA release. Questions or requests related to FERPA may be directed to the Registrar, who also provides more detailed information and Seminary-specific policies.

## TITLE IX POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary prohibits gender discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual violence in alignment with Title IX and its theological commitment to dignity and justice for all. The Seminary’s policy applies to all students, employees, and vendors and addresses conduct both on and off campus when it affects the Seminary community. Title IX Coordinators and trained advisors oversee complaints, which may be filed in person or in writing, including anonymously. Complaints are reviewed by a designated Hearing Team, which investigates and recommends appropriate outcomes—ranging from advisories to permanent dismissal. The President makes the final decision. Victims of sexual violence are strongly encouraged to contact law enforcement and will receive Seminary support. Confidentiality is prioritized, though full anonymity cannot be guaranteed in formal processes. The policy emphasizes fairness, care, and safety throughout, and complements other Seminary policies while encouraging community accountability and restorative responses to harm.



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary affirms disability as a vital aspect of diversity and provides resources to ensure accessibility and inclusion in its academic community. Students with disabilities are encouraged to work with the Associate Dean for Students and Formation to request accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students have the right to equal access, confidentiality, and appropriate accommodations, while also bearing the responsibility to provide documentation and meet academic standards. The Seminary, in turn, has the right to request supporting documentation and to determine reasonable accommodations, while ensuring confidentiality and timely support. A formal process outlines the steps for students to request and receive a "Plan of Accommodation," which is approved by the Dean of Faculty and shared with relevant instructors. Plans are reviewed annually. Students who believe their rights have been denied may file a grievance under the Seminary's ADA policy.

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Anti-Discrimination Policy prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, national origin, and related identities, affirming the dignity of all persons in accordance with Christian values. The Seminary also forbids retaliation against those who raise concerns and is committed to fostering a respectful and inclusive learning environment. This policy applies to conduct both on and off campus and outlines a detailed complaint procedure for students who experience discrimination or harassment. Complaints are reviewed by trained advisors and a hearing team, with confidentiality maintained throughout the process. Sanctions for substantiated complaints may include warnings, probation, suspension, or dismissal; support measures are provided for complainants. The policy is administered by designated Anti-Discrimination Coordinators and integrates with the Seminary's Title IX policy where applicable. Annual reporting ensures accountability. While not a legal admission of jurisdiction, the policy reflects the Seminary's commitment to justice, reconciliation, and inclusive theological education.



## FINANCIAL CODE OF CONDUCT, INCLUDING CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Financial Code of Conduct sets ethical standards for all individuals engaged in financial or business-related roles within the Seminary, including employees, officers, directors, contractors, and volunteers. The Code emphasizes integrity, accountability, and compliance with laws and Seminary policies in all financial dealings. Fraudulent or dishonest actions—such as forgery, misuse of funds, or undisclosed conflicts of interest—are strictly prohibited. Community members must avoid using their positions for personal gain and are required to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest to the President and Audit Committee Chair. All grants and contracts must receive prior approval and be managed in strict compliance with governing regulations. The policy also outlines procedures for maintaining accurate records and safeguarding sensitive data. A whistleblower policy protects those who report suspected violations from retaliation, encouraging the reporting of misconduct through designated channels, including confidential reporting to the Audit Committee. Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination or legal consequences.

## PTS VISITING SCHOLAR POLICY

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Visiting Scholar Policy welcomes visiting faculty and independent scholars seeking to spend up to nine months in residence to work on research or writing projects. Applicants must apply at least nine months in advance, submitting a letter of interest outlining their project, reason for choosing PTS, intended duration, and a letter of recommendation. Applications are reviewed case by case by the Academic Affairs Committee. Approved scholars receive a formal welcome letter and must complete a background check, provide proof of health insurance, and adhere to all campus harassment and discrimination policies. Visiting scholars are granted access to housing, food services, the library (including up to 100 book loans, remote databases, and interlibrary loan), and may attend or lead worship, attend lectures with instructor permission, and meet with faculty. They are also invited to participate in broader Seminary community events. This policy supports scholarly engagement while maintaining institutional standards and hospitality.



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