

STUDENT LIFE AND FORMATION



PROGRAM

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The Office of Student Formation exists to help students respond to God's call by providing opportunities for community, academic, spiritual, professional, and ecclesial formation throughout the years of seminary education.

A TRANSFORMATIVE SEMINARY EXPERIENCE

At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS), student life is more than just a part of your education—it's a combination of opportunities to grow in faith and leadership alongside students from all backgrounds. Our Office of Student Formation supports you as you respond to God's call with resources in community, academic, spiritual, professional, and ecclesial formation while cultivating a strong sense of belonging.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT PTS STUDENT LIFE

"I continue to be amazed at the ways God is moving on campus, especially in the Rainbow Covenant and Syngeneia . . . and chats at the standing desks in the library!"

HUNTER STEINITZ '22

HOW THE SEMINAR



Morgan Murphy is grateful this "gem" exists in Pittsburgh.

COMMUNITY FORMATION

We recognize the importance of living and learning in a welcoming community. From conversations in your residence hall to exciting student activities, our campus provides an environment where you can build lasting relationships and develop applicable skills for ministry.

CAMPUS HOUSING

PTS offers a **variety of student housing options** that foster a sense of community. Living on campus allows you to work closely with your peers and experience daily life in a supportive environment.

[Explore Residential Learning](#)

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations at PTS enrich campus life with fellowship, advocacy, recreation, and spiritual growth opportunities. See how you can get involved.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

CHAPLAINCY STUDENT GROUP

METHODIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

PTS SEMINARY JOURNAL

RAINBOW COVENANT

SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB (SRC)

SYNGENEIA (KINSHIP)

WOMEN'S CAUCUS

ACADEMIC FORMATION



Academic excellence is a cornerstone of life at PTS. Our range of academic resources ensures that you graduate ready for the intellectual and practical demands of ministry and leadership.

DISABILITY RESOURCES AND ACCOMMODATIONS

At PTS, we view any disability as integral to our campus diversity. The Academic Affairs Office ensures all students have the tools they need for success by creating an accessible and supportive learning environment.

If you are a student with a disability, we encourage you to connect with the **Associate Dean for Students and Formation**. You'll collaborate to develop solutions, implement reasonable accommodations, and create a partnership that supports your academic and personal growth.

CENTER FOR WRITING AND LEARNING SUPPORT

The Center for Writing and Learning Support partners with faculty to develop writing and study resources and programs that enhance your understanding of theological reading and writing. These tools not only strengthen your academic success but also prepare you to meaningfully contribute to churches and the broader society.

[Discover how the Center for Writing and Learning Support can impact your classroom experience.](#)

BARBOUR LIBRARY

Completely renovated in 2018, Barbour Library provides spaces and resources to support theological study, reflection, innovation, research, and collaboration. [View all of the services the Barbour Library has to offer students and the community.](#)

PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Personal and spiritual formation includes intentional opportunities to deepen your relationship with God and cultivate healthy spiritual practices. Learn how to nurture your faith and personal growth.

SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM

Guided by the Associate Dean for Students and Formation, the Spiritual Care team includes trained staff who seek to model healthy pastoral ministry. The team provides short-term spiritual care, contemplative prayer sessions, wellness workshops, spiritual direction groups, referrals to local therapeutic resources, and encouragement to participate in PTS's chapel program.

By prioritizing spiritual and emotional well-being, the Spiritual Care Team ensures a supportive environment where students can focus on learning and faculty can dedicate their time to educating students.



INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY

PTS uses tools like IDI to help you grow in cultural competency so you're ready for ministry in diverse contexts. Through workshops and activities, you gain the skills to work with existing communities and prepare to serve in new, emerging ones. This intentional focus on intercultural development equips you to navigate and contribute to a constantly changing world.

WORSHIP PROGRAM

Come to know God more deeply and connect with Christ's presence by engaging with worship practices of diverse denominations, traditions, and cultures. [Explore PTS's Worship Program.](#)

PROFESSIONAL FORMATION



At PTS, we prepare you for your service in ministry and leadership through professional formation. Discover your vocational path and develop the practical skills you need to amplify your calling.

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Discernment is the process of listening deeply to God's call and discovering where your gifts, passions, and faith intersect with the needs of the world. We recognize that students come to PTS with different levels of clarity about their vocational path. Whether you feel a strong pull toward parish ministry in a historic denomination or are exploring entirely new ministry settings, we are here to walk alongside you.

We offer guidance on denominational areas, connect you with ministry opportunities in congregations, nonprofits, and community settings, and prepare you for post-seminary work through workshops and professional development seminars. Wherever God calls you, we commit ourselves to helping you find your unique place of service and leadership.

PLACEMENT RESOURCES AND SERVICES

From resume building and interviewing practice to finding open ministry opportunities, PTS offers resources to help you find your first ministry position or answer a new call mid-career. [Learn more about our placement services.](#)

ECCLESIAL FORMATION

While PTS is rooted in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are an ecumenical seminary, welcoming students from more than a dozen denominational backgrounds and historic streams of the Christian faith. Ecclesial formation encourages you to serve faithfully in your denomination or explore new ones.

If you're called to parish, congregational, or denominational ministry, PTS offers opportunities to strengthen your understanding of your tradition's unique habits, practices, and theological identity. At the same time, our inclusive environment encourages engagement with diverse Christian expressions, broadening your perspective on the Church's many forms and practices.

HOUSES OF STUDY

The Houses of Study at PTS are co-curricular communities with our local denominational and ecumenical partners that help you grow your ecclesial identity through theological reflection. As these relationships develop, we establish new Houses of Study to serve additional traditions.

Currently, there are two Houses of Study on the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary campus:

Presbyterian House of Studies: Cultivating curiosity about the depths of the Reformed tradition and development of Pastoral Competencies.

Ecumenical/Non-denominational House of Studies: Nurturing creative and faithful risk-taking and leadership.



DOWNLOAD THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Our **Student Handbook** is your go-to guide for everything you need to know about student life at PTS. It includes helpful information to support your seminary journey, from academic policies and procedures to student services and resources. Take some time to explore it, as it is every student's responsibility to review the handbook and know its content.

ANSWER THE CALL: JOIN THE PTS COMMUNITY

At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, you experience holistic formation that prepares you for ministry and leadership. Discover how God can shape you through student organizations, meaningful fellowship, and spiritual formation to serve the Church and beyond.

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