

## **INTERNSHIP COURSE COMPETENCIES**

### **Master of Arts in Ministry and Master of Divinity**

#### Section I: Be Aware

##### *Cultivating Faith, Formation, and Ministerial Identity*

1. Students will develop daily practices, grounded in the love of God, the love of self, and the love of neighbor, to grow in their faith, formation and ministerial identity. Daily practices should include:
  - Sustainable spiritual disciplines
  - Sustainable self-care that addresses physical, emotional and relationship needs
  - Ethical boundaries for healthy, interpersonal relationships
2. Students will critically reflect on their worldview (influenced by social location and personal identity) and discuss how it impacts interpersonal communication, Biblical interpretation, and theological commitments in the Theological Reflection Papers.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate constructive feedback from the Internship Team in their Learning Goals and ministry practices.
4. Students will cultivate the discipline necessary for continual theological, professional and ministerial growth by completing the Internship Seminar assignments in a timely manner.

#### Section II: Think Theologically

##### *Integrating Theological Disciplines with Praxis*

5. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify and critically assess the theological commitments undergirding their ministry responses in the Theological Reflection Papers.
6. Students will reflect on how their ministry responses are both appropriate and congruent with their theological commitments in the Theological Reflection Paper assignments and to engage in substantive theological conversations with Mentor Pastors, Intern Faculty, and Internship peers.
7. Students will develop the ability to bring their coursework in theology, Bible, and church history into dialogue with their Learning Goals and Tasks (in the Learning Covenant), and to explore how each informs the other, and how, together, these are re-shaping their theological commitments.
8. Students will develop a Theology of Ministry grounded in their internship experience. This competency is part of the Final Evaluation Paper.

Section III: Lead Faithfully  
*Learning While Leading*

9. Students will develop the ability to lead a team to conduct and analyze data gained from a focused Ministry Context Study (gathering demographic and other data, conducting interviews and/or surveys) that will offer new information that may assist the placement site achieve its mission. A written team report, spearheaded by the Intern, should be submitted to the Lay Teaching Committee and other church teams, as appropriate.

*MAM: Skip and go to #10.*

10. Students will explore the role of Christian leadership in public theology by participating in at least one event or meeting of an interfaith community organization.

- Examples of interfaith organizations are: Texas Impact, Faith Forward Dallas, Faith in Texas, National Faith in Action, Dallas Peace and Justice Center, *La Red*, International Rescue Committee, Community Action Partnership, Texas Freedom Network, National Council of Churches, the BJC for Religious Liberty, etc.

11. Students will demonstrate the capacity to collaborate with a team to plan and lead worship services while reflecting on the underlying theological dimensions of worship.

**Students are expected to preach at least four sermons over the course of the Internship.** *MAM: Skip and go to #12.*

12. Students will demonstrate **effective collaborative leadership** by recruiting and resourcing a team that **defines a theological vision** and **develops strategies** for **sustainable** ministries after the Internship concludes.

**Two leadership responsibilities are required of Part-time Interns and three leadership responsibilities are required of Full-time Interns.** Examples of leadership responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- administrative, stewardship, fundraising, and/or financial leadership
- educational ministries (e.g. nurturing, discipleship, formation, etc.)
- social justice advocacy
- social entrepreneurship
- charitable ministries
- pastoral care in crisis or non-crisis situations (e.g. Stephen Ministries, hospital and nursing home visitation)
- new church plants

13. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively organize and adjust their schedules in order to balance Internship, self-care, family, and academic responsibilities.