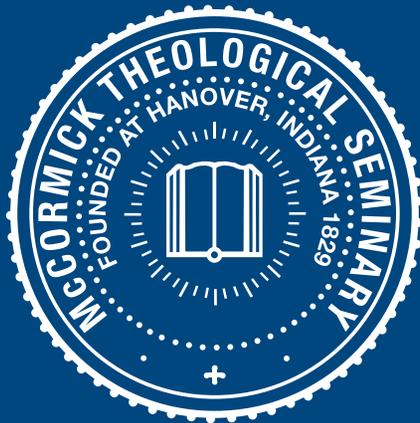


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EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION AND FIELD STUDIES PROGRAM

Field Studies is one type of experiential education which offers students an integrative program of experience, study, reflection, praxis and assessment. It combines both classroom-based educational opportunities and field-based learning experiences in the practice of ministry under supervision in churches and agencies.

Students engaged in experiential education and field studies are in a process of spiritual, academic, personal, and professional formation while simultaneously developing, practicing, and refining the arts and skills of ministry. This integrated approach presents the student with opportunities to reflect critically and theologically as they interact with the wisdom of the supervising mentor, the care of ministry site members / participants and their classroom cohort. Students will explore the relationships between theology and experience, between private convictions and public actions. These understandings are vital to those seeking to provide ministerial leadership in church and community.

TEACHING SITES

Supervisors:

The Field Studies experience is designed to serve both the learning goals of the student and the mission goals of the teaching site. A teaching site provides students the opportunity to be involved in the practice of ministry under supervision while enrolled in the Masters' Degree program at McCormick Theological Seminary. Supervisors are committed to the educational process of supervision, ordinarily have served in the position for at least three (3) years and hold a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent.

Teaching sites should;

- Have a commitment to theological education and the formation of leaders
- Offer a context for learning that engages students in diverse experiences of ministry
- Submit the Ministry Description form which can be found on the website <http://mccormick.edu/content/experiential-education>

Responsibilities;

- Attend Field Studies Participant Training scheduled the first Friday of September
- Commit to weekly supervisory meetings with students

- Help students develop a mutually agreed upon Learning Serving Covenant addressing the following areas:

Pastoral Care/Giving

Preaching

Teaching/Education

Administration

Public Ministry

- Provide feedback in a descriptive and timely manner (mid-year and final evaluations)
- Make sure the Lay Ministry Support team is in place

Lay Ministry Support Team:

The Lay Ministry Support Team is made up of members of the congregation or agency that will provide a perspective on the community to the student and act as an additional resource for the student and site supervisor.

To provide support to the student, including;

- Welcoming the student and facilitating her/his entry into the community
- Interpreting to the student the history and vision of the congregation or agency

To provide feedback and evaluation to the student about her/his ministry, including:

- Monitoring the Learning Serving Covenant
- Participating in the mid-year evaluation of the student's ministry which is written by the site supervisor and writing a year-end evaluation of the experience
- Sharing with the student from your ministry, your involvements in the church/agency and community, and personal faith journey