

THE M.DIV. INTERNSHIP

The M.Div. program requires the satisfactory completion of a supervised internship carrying 12 term hours of academic credit. While the student may register for six hours of internship credit during each of two consecutive terms, the internship degree requirement is satisfied only upon completion of the 12 term hours. M.Div. internships presuppose satisfactory completion of at least 39 term hours including six term hours of required biblical studies, The Church in Its Social Context (three term hours), Christian Heritage I and II (six term hours), Introduction to Theology (three term hours), Interpretation of the Christian Message (six term hours), Introduction to Preaching (three term hours), and Word and Worship (three term hours). United Methodist students, who are required by the *Book of Discipline* to take courses in United Methodist history, doctrine, and polity, are advised to take these courses prior to the internship. Comparable advice is given to students from other traditions.

All internships are negotiated through the Intern Office. Students considering internship should contact the Intern Office during the year in which they will complete 39 hours of academic work to begin the placement process for their internship.

Internships are of three types:

1. In the *full-time internship*, which may be seven months (summer plus the fall term), nine months (fall and spring terms of one academic year), or 12 months in length, the intern faculty places the student in a full-time ministerial role in a setting conducive to learning and, if possible, appropriate to the student's vocational goals. The majority of internships are served in congregations, but placements have also been negotiated in campus ministry, community service organizations, hospital chaplaincy, and other ministries. Serious consideration is given to the denominational preference of students during the placement process.

Full-time interns may not take any additional course work while on internship. Students who wish to take a limited number of additional academic courses during internship may apply for the concurrent model.

The full-time intern receives a cash stipend. Because the student is doing full-time ministry, no outside employment is permitted.

Students who hope to do internships outside the immediate 5-state area (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma) must initiate an early conversation with an Intern Faculty member, preferably in the first year of seminary but no later than the second year.

NOTE: *Student pastors* who are appointed as the sole or senior pastor of a church may choose to apply for either the full-time or concurrent internship. If full-time, the student pastor must elect a nine-month or 12-month internship, and the student charge must be related to a nearby congregation whose pastor serves as mentor pastor. Salary replaces the mandated stipend for a full-time student pastor.

2. The *concurrent internship* is designed for students who are already employed on a church staff or in a student pastorate and who wish to use that setting for internship while continuing their academic work. The program extends over 12 months beginning June 1 and requires at least 20 hours per week of remunerated employment in the internship placement. During this time the student continues academic course work, carrying not fewer than three and not more than six hours a term in addition to the internship. The concurrent intern may take no more than three term hours in the summer and in the January term. Additional employment outside the internship placement site is strongly discouraged.

3. The *Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship* requires a full-year CPE residency (usually four units) at an ACPE approved site. An intern faculty supervisor will be assigned to the CPE intern and will consult with the CPE supervisor regarding satisfactory completion of the internship requirement. Students considering a CPE internship should be aware of the following: 1) A student may not receive six elective hours of credit in Pastoral Care for an introductory unit of CPE AND 12 credit hours for a CPE residency internship. 2) Many CPE programs require students to complete an introductory unit before they begin the four-unit residency. 3) Most CPE residencies run from August to August, which may affect a student's planned graduation date.

The internship is designed to help students gain skill and self-confidence in carrying out the functions of ministry, learn to reflect theologically on the practice of ministry, become more effective in interpersonal relations, and gain emotional and spiritual maturity, thereby increasing their ministerial self-awareness and competence.

The intern faculty, though not directly responsible for on-site ministerial supervision, is integrally involved with the internship through the placement process, the training of mentor pastors and lay teaching committees, supervision of the intern peer group, the conducting of the midpoint and final evaluations, the awarding of a final grade, and participation at any time necessary to insure a productive internship.

The internship course begins with a required two-day Intern Orientation conducted by the intern faculty in May. Then, early in the internship and with the guidance of the intern faculty, the student begins writing a "Covenant for Work and Learning," which provides a blueprint for the internship and a basis for subsequent evaluations of the intern's progress. Throughout the internship the student meets regularly with both a mentor pastor and a lay teaching committee, who aid in the formulation of the intern's learning covenant, provide ongoing supervision, and participate in the midpoint and final evaluation process. In addition, the student meets frequently with a peer group led by a consulting specialist in human behavior, in some cases assisted by the intern faculty. The intern faculty and a consultant also work with the mentor pastors to improve supervisory skills.

Interns are encouraged to be in relationship with the placement-area district superintendent or corresponding judicatory officer.