**INTERNSHIP COURSE COMPETENCIES**

*\*Competencies for the first eight weeks of internship*

**Master of Divinity**

*The faculty supervisor will provide guidance to students*

*in contextualizing the required competencies.*

*Thematic Requirement:* Students will disclose how they have critically reflected on social location and personal identity in ministry situations, and how their own location and personal identity affected awareness of themselves, others, and their context.

Section I: Be Aware

\*1. Students will develop and practice a spiritual discipline throughout the internship to prepare them for life as a Christian leader.

\*2. Students will develop and practice listening skills with laity and constituents of the larger community.

3. Students will strengthen their capacity for ethical leadership as they engage in interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships in order to lead a healthy Christian life.

\*4. Students will strengthen their capacity to address personal physical concerns in order to have a healthy, Christian life and ministry.

5. Students will develop and implement a practice of continuing theological and professional, ministerial growth.

\*6. Students will develop the capacity to become aware of the underlying assumptions that impact how they communicate with those with whom they differ, through reflecting on the life experiences/values that formed these assumptions. They will demonstrate this growth in their theological reflection papers and conversations.

Section II: Think Theologically

\*7. Students will develop the capacity to write theological reflection papers and to have serious theological conversations *in the midst of* daily ministry.

8. Students will demonstrate their capacity to critique the theological adequacy of their "in the moment" pastoral responses, characterized by how their inner dialogue integrates theological questions and insights.

\*9. Students will develop their capacity to articulate and appreciate diverse theological frameworks and experiences as they apply these to the ministry experiences that are the subject of the Theological Reflection Papers.

10. Students will demonstrate their capacity to develop a theology of Christian ministry that arises out of their internship ministry experiences. This paper will 1) define Christian ministry using a central Scripture and, if desired, a metaphor/image; 2) critically reflect on the current institutional and intersecting power dynamics (life and death concerns) that affect our society and our Christian churches’ witness within society; and 3) offer a vision for Christian ministry practices and the theological framework, theologians and other Scriptures that inform these. This assignment is part of the Final Evaluation Paper.

Section III: Lead Faithfully

\*11. Students will demonstrate their capacity to lead laity and staff in a theological conversation on the outcomes of a student-led contextual study of the congregation and/or agency's mission, ministry/programs and resources and how these relate to the community it strives to serve. The study will begin early in the internship and be completed by a deadline set by the faculty supervisor. The faculty supervisor sets the specific guidelines. A report of the study (5 to 8 pages written, PowerPoint, video, audio, etc.) will be submitted to the faculty supervisor, mentor pastor, the placement supervisor (if not the mentor pastor), and the lay teaching committee.

\*12. Students will demonstrate theological leadership for effective worship experiences that include worship planning, public prayers, and regular preaching (no fewer than four sermons over the course of the internship).

\*13. Students will initiate and/or participate in leadership roles within the church/agency and also in leadership roles in the larger community. Students will choose at least one leadership role in which they have not had prior experience. The student will demonstrate a capacity for effective leadership that includes setting a vision for ministry, working with staff and laity for a sustainable implementation. Examples of these include but are not limited to:

* imaginative leadership for social change in partnership with the local and/or global community;
* pastoral care leadership in crisis or non-crisis situations;
* stewardship and/or fundraising leadership;
* educational ministries (nurturing, discipleship, formation, etc.);
* social justice advocacy and entrepreneurial ministries;
* and social services (charitable) ministries.

**Part-Time Interns will choose two leadership role responsibilities.**

**Full-Time Interns will choose three or more leadership role responsibilities.**

*\*Students will choose* ***one*** *leadership role responsibility in the first eight weeks.*

\*14. Students will demonstrate their capacity to manage their schedules effectively in order to meet their responsibilities to the Internship course, ministry, self and family.