



Field Education Information for Congregations Claremont School of Theology

Field Education combines supervised ministry experience with structured reflection on that experience, through an internship placement and weekly on-campus seminar. The role of an intern is to learn through participation in ministry service. The overall outcomes for the field education program are that by the end of the field education experience students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate increased knowledge and skill for ministry service and leadership.
2. Connect theological knowledge with the practice of ministry.
3. Show skills for forming and sustaining relationships.
4. Act with contextual awareness and cultural competence.
5. Demonstrate increased vocational and spiritual maturity.

The congregation's commitments

- Provide the intern with experiences in five areas of ministry, involving 8-10 hours per week:
 - Worship leadership and preaching
 - Religious education
 - Pastoral care
 - Administration
 - Outreach (may include evangelism, community service, and/or justice ministry)
- Work with the student from the beginning of September through early May.
- If possible provide a stipend of at least \$500 per month, September through April.
- Provide a supervisor (usually the pastor).
- The supervisor and the student develop a learning/serving agreement stating goals, activities, and responsibilities in all five ministry areas. This is due in September.
- The supervisor meets with the intern for an hour each week, for guidance and reflection
- In most placements the congregation provides a teaching placement committee of 3-6 people; the committee meets with the intern once a month for guidance and reflection.
- The supervisor and the teaching placement committee submit written evaluations of the intern's work in December and May.
- Supervisors and committee members participate in an online orientation session in late August or September.
- In the summer before the internship begins students, supervisors, and teaching placement committees receive information including important dates, requirements and guidelines.

Other information about field education at Claremont School of Theology

- ❖ Students arrange their internships in consultation with the Director of Field Education.
- ❖ Students usually are required to move from their home churches, or from their current ministry positions, to a new location for ministry. The process of learning about and building trust within a new community adds significantly to a student's educational experience.
- ❖ Students participate in a reflective seminar and receive academic credit for their field education.
- ❖ Students usually are taking other courses during their internship year.
- ❖ Most but not all interns are placed in churches. The variety of placement settings enriches the experience of all students.

For further information, please contact:

Karen Dalton, Associate Dean and Director of Field Education
Claremont School of Theology, 1325 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 447-2534 kdalton@cst.edu