



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 concurrent 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)
- ➤ If the intern is also a staff member, make sure that the internship expectations are distinguished from staff responsibilities.
- ➤ 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 participate in an online orientation session in late August or September.
- ➤ In the summer before the internship begins students and supervisors receive information including important dates, program 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 may be asked 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 throughout the year and receive academic credit for their field education.
- ❖ Students usually are taking other courses during their internship year.

❖ Interns are placed in churches and a variety of other settings.

For further information, please contact:

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