



STARTING AN INTERNSHIP AT WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Philosophy/Theology of Beginning

We live in a broken world where people are crying out to God for help. In response, God raises up prophets and priests, ministers and chaplains, teachers and social workers, and the list goes on, to be vessels of God's love and healing. Our desire in Field Education and Student Life is to walk with you as you discern the specifics of your calling to participate in the Triune God's ongoing redemptive work in the world.

Beginning Questions

These are some of the questions we want to attend to as we imagine with you a place to learn, a mentor to guide, and habits to instill.

Part of discerning is creating **habits of listening** to God's generative word in our lives.

A calling is not receiving an assignment and then proving we are capable of accomplishing it.

- When has God spoken to you? Who has God called you to serve?
- Are you regularly returning to God's word to you and giving God's word space to be heard again, to be generative each day, to be new every morning?

Another part of discerning is the **practical/embodying of ministry**. The calling puts on flesh and dwells among the people.

- What things do you need to learn/practice to be obedient to God's call?
- Who embodies those things and can mentor you in them?

Discernment also requires **theology**. The social/cultural landscape is ever-shifting. There is no full preparation for ministry in every context, or really for any context (much less any context 10 years from now). We must learn how to do theology, not just know what our theology is. The how of theology is a matter of habits, habits that should last throughout your life.

- What practices cause you to think through things theologically?
- What resources and patterns/rituals will you need for ministry?
- What groups of people will challenge and/or inspire you?
- How can you facilitate the movement from theology to practice as well as from practice to theology?

Nuts and Bolts

The following are general guidelines/expectations for internships. Some are requirements having to do with accreditation for seminaries. Some of the practices WTS has found most helpful for students' learning. All are up for discussion because the ultimate goal is our listening with you to God's call on your life.

- Internships involve four Practice of Ministry courses (PR 411, 412, 413, 414), 1.5 credits each, generally spread over 4 semesters
- Internships require about 10 hours a week of work for the duration of each semester
- When needed, internship requirements can be fulfilled in one year: 10 hrs a week over two semesters to fulfill PR411 and 412 and then 40 hrs a week over a summer to fulfill PR 413 and 414
- Steps to begin an internship:
 - Near the end of your first year at seminary – have a discussion with the Director of Field Education, Dr. Tim Basselin
 - Find a mentor and site of service with the help and approval of the Director of Field Education
 - Mentors should be willing to meet with mentees once a week and be willing to fill out an evaluation of the student at the end of the internship
 - In collaboration with your mentor, create an internship plan utilizing the [internship covenant document](#)
- When the internship begins – the student, the mentor, and the Director of Field Education will review the Internship Covenant document together

For more information or to set up a meeting, please contact either:

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