Table of Contents

Contact Information 2

Master of Divinity Program Guidelines 3
  Degree Requirements 5
  A Typical Course of Study 8
  Scholastic Residence 9
  Colloquium and Practicum 9

Field Education: Overview 10
  Field Education: Year-long Site Placement 10
  Learning Agreement 12
  The Action Plan 13
  Field Work Elective 14
  Clinical Pastoral Education 14

Senior MDiv Thesis and Project 16
  Purpose 16
  Defining the Issue and Approach 16
  Schedule 16
  Public Presentation 17
  Evaluation Guidelines 18

Dual Degree Programs 19
  Application 19
  Financial Aid 19
  Registration 19
  Field Work (SSA dual degree only) 20
  Curriculum and Integration 20

Chaplaincy concentration and Certificate programs 21

Additional Resources 22
  Hyde Park seminaries 22
  Advising 23
  The Committee on MDiv Studies 23
  Religious Practice and Community Life 24
  Swift Hall Groups and Resources 25
  Resources for Aid in Personal Growth 26

Appendices 27
  Appendix A: Learning Agreement Form 27
  Appendix B: Action Plan 29
  Appendix C: Site Placement Evaluation 31
  Appendix D: Field Work Contract Form 33
  Appendix E: Senior Thesis Cover Sheet 35

<1>
Contact information

The University of Chicago Divinity School
1025 East 58th Street, Chicago IL 60637-1577

Cynthia Gano Lindner
Director of Ministry Studies
Swift 400C | (773) 702-8280
clindner@uchicago.edu

Erika Dornfeld
Director of Field Education and Community Engagement
Swift 400B | (773) 834-4693
dornfeld@uchicago.edu

Dean of Students Office
Assistant to the Dean of Students: Americia Huckabee
Swift 104 | (773) 702-8217
DivinityDOS@uchicago.edu

Anita Lumpkin
Associate Dean of Students
Swift 107 | (773) 702-8249
lumpkin@uchicago.edu

David Nirenberg
Dean of The Divinity School
Executive Assistant to the Dean: Tiffany Annett
Swift 101 | (773) 702-8221
tannett@uchicago.edu

Bursar
(773) 702-8000

Registrar For grades and fees, see https://registrar.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations
(773) 702-7891

Student Loan Administration
(773) 702-6061 970 East 58th Street, Fourth floor

Student Health Services
(773) 702-4156 5841 South Maryland Avenue, Suite R100

Student Counseling Services
(773) 702-9800 5555 S Woodlawn Avenue
Master of Divinity

The following pages offer detailed descriptions of the MDiv course of study; readers are encouraged to consider it a map of the terrain with some suggested routes, rather than simply a prescription of requirements. As our MDiv program is committed to training leaders from a wide range of religious communities, preparing students for service in a variety of venues and roles, the language of this guidebook strives to reflect the commitments of multiple traditions, and to articulate practices consonant with a range of vocational settings.

Introduction to the Course of Study

The MDiv program prepares religious and spiritual leaders representative of a variety of religious traditions who are equipped to serve in diverse contexts and who will continue a lifelong pursuit of learning in their religious practice and leadership. To this end, the MDiv curriculum provides a sequence of studies that requires the student to (1) establish a breadth of competence in religious studies; (2) develop a thorough understanding of textual, historical, and theoretical foundations for religious leadership; and (3) integrate this classical program of learning with rigorous and reflective practice.

The field education component of the program offers students rich opportunities for practical experience in religious communities and other faith-informed settings. First-year students participate in field sites selected by the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement through an introduction to Chicago’s South Side neighborhoods during their year-long Colloquium, Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice. Second-year students work for nine months—the entire academic year—engaged in supervised field education in a community of practice in the Chicago area, chosen by the student in consultation with the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement and the community’s leaders. This assignment aims to provide broad exposure to the life of a religious community and various practices of spiritual leadership. A third field work component offers the opportunity for students to engage in a unit of hospital or campus chaplaincy, community advocacy, or other specialized training in some aspect of religious leadership and practice. This third field work requirement may be satisfied by working at the site full-time for three months or spreading out the work over a longer period for the same number of hours.

Each year of the MDiv program offers required courses which serve as exercises in practical theology and religious reflection, and these courses provide a common structure for the work of all students in the program. These include: Theology in the Public Square course (taken the first year, taught in winter quarter) along with the Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice (a year-long integration seminar during the first year, an ongoing conversation or “Colloquium”); the second-year Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice sequence with the concurrent year-long Practicum; and the third-year Senior Thesis Seminar culminating in the completion of an original thesis and its public presentation.

Theology in the Public Square, taken by all first-year students, analyzes the historical and cultural contexts of particular instances of American religious communities and religious leadership, while in Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice students identify, examine, and synthesize the core practices of public religious engagement: attention, conversation, and reflection. Students are encouraged to think about their preparation for leadership as one oriented towards multiple publics—the religious/spiritual community, the academy, and wider society—and to cultivate a lively and ongoing conversation, internally as well as externally, between these audiences.
The Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice, a three-quarter sequence including Ritual and Speaking; Spiritual Care and Counseling; and Community, Leadership and Change, offers both theoretical perspectives and practice labs for cultivating skills pertinent to these distinct but overlapping aspects of religious life. On the one hand, this coursework relates these perennial features of religious leadership to the Divinity School’s historical, theological and cultural exploration of religions. On the other hand, it relates knowledge about religious practice to students’ concrete experiences in their second-year field education settings, and the embodied wisdom of communities of practice.

The Senior Thesis Project consists of a thesis and a public presentation that draw together the student’s coursework and field experience to construct an appropriate exploration and an intellectually plausible judgment about some aspect of religious thought or practice. The specific balance among theoretical and practical resources will vary according to the student’s interests and the faculty advisor with whom they work.

Additionally, as students engage in these exercises of practical theological reflection and in fieldwork, they are expected to extend their knowledge of their own traditions, with courses in the languages, texts, thought, and history of their religious communities. Students will also select an upper-level theology or philosophy course for which they will produce a constructive paper—considering a central theological or philosophical question, reckoning with the position of a major thinker, and coming to a critical judgment of the question.

Finally, MDiv students are encouraged to investigate course offerings in other departments of the University which might broaden a student’s cultural competence or deepen their knowledge or skill set in a particular area of interest. MDiv students often find the coursework at the SSA, the Harris School, the Division of Social Sciences, and the Committee on Human Rights particularly useful.
Degree requirements

The MDiv degree requires registration for three full years of scholastic residence, with the completion of a minimum of 27 courses distributed across the Divinity School’s areas of study. Along with acquiring a broad foundational knowledge about religion, students are encouraged to anchor themselves more deeply in one of the school’s academic areas of study. Entering students will negotiate a course of study proposal with the Director of Ministry Studies and the student’s faculty advisor which will be revisited in the spring quarter of each year of study, in the student’s annual progress review. The proposal and subsequent reviews assure that the student is meeting the program’s curricular goals:

- to establish a breadth of competence in religious studies
- to develop a thorough understanding of the student’s religious tradition(s) or practice
- to cultivate awareness and appreciation of other religious traditions, and the ability to situate one’s own tradition or practice on a broader religious canvas
- to integrate learning and scholarship with rigorous and reflective field work
- to integrate personal and professional competence through disciplined attention to self-awareness, critical conversation, collegial accountability, and sustained spiritual practice

The following course requirements correspond to the competencies enumerated above:

Religious studies

* Introduction to the Study of Religion or Classical Theories of Religion

Language study

* At least three courses in a classical language pertaining to the student’s tradition(s) of focus, or else in a modern language approved as relevant to the student’s intended work in religious leadership

Texts/Scriptures

* Three courses in core texts/scriptures (one of these can be in another religious tradition)

History, Theology, Ethics and Philosophy

* Four courses in history, philosophy or theology/ethics (one of these can be in another religious tradition) including an upper-level course for which the student will complete a constructive paper

Cultivation of Professional Identity

* Introduction to the Study of Religious Leadership (Colloquium).
* Arts of Religious Leadership: Ritual and Speaking, Spiritual Care, Community, Leadership and Change
* Reflection on the Practice of Religious Leadership (Practicum/Field Ed)
* Senior Ministry Thesis Seminar
First Year

_These requirements are most often completed during the first year of study:_

1) The masters-level introductory course, “Introduction to the Study of Religion” (DVSC 30400). (Some students may choose to substitute “Classical Theories of Religion.”)

2) Theology in the Public Square (CHRM 32500).

3) Coursework in the classical texts and/or history of the student’s chosen tradition.

4) Introduction to Theology (THEO 31600) or a comparable course in the philosophy or thought of the student’s chosen tradition.

5) Participation in the weekly reflection seminar and field education experience for first-year students, Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice: Colloquium (CHRM 30500).

6) Acquisition of basic skills in a relevant textual language such as Koine Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Quranic Arabic, Sanskrit, or Tibetan. A typical course of language study consists of three courses, or in the case of Biblical Hebrew or Koine, two courses plus an exegesis course. Alternately, MDiv students can choose to study a modern language pertinent to their anticipated vocational engagement—for example, Spanish or ASL. Typically three courses are required, and students must demonstrate their ability to employ the language in some aspect of field work. Students should consult with their academic advisor and the Director of Ministry Studies in the selection of the appropriate language curriculum.

Second Year

_These requirements are most often completed during the second year of study:_

8) The Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: a three-quarter sequence including Ritual and Speaking; Spiritual Care and Counseling; and Community, Leadership, and Change (CHRM 35150, 35202, 35300).

9) Three quarters of field education in a community of practice, including successful completion of the practicum (Field Work Practicum I, II and III) which meets weekly across the entire second year.

10) One course, selected in consultation with the instructor and the Director of Ministry Studies, for which the student submits a constructive paper; to be completed before participation in the Senior Thesis Seminar in year three.

Third Year

_These requirements are most often completed during the third year of study:_

11) Completion of the Senior Thesis Project, including enrollment in the Senior Thesis Seminar which meets monthly across the year. The project consists of two parts:

   a) A thirty-five page thesis.
b) The oral presentation of the project in an appropriate public forum that includes student colleagues, the project’s advisor, the Director of MDiv studies and other faculty, and wider audiences as appropriate.

Any of the three years

These requirements may be completed at any time across the three years of MDiv residence:

12) At least two history courses in the student’s chosen tradition.

13) At least one course in a religious tradition other than the student’s own.

14) An additional unit of approved and supervised field work.

Accountability

All MDiv students are expected to maintain a grade average of at least B-. A student whose grade average falls below B- may be placed on academic probation or asked by the Committee on Degrees to terminate his or her program of study. As the MDiv is a professional degree, requiring the integration of study and practical engagement, failure to satisfactorily complete the first-year Colloquium or the second year field placement and Practicum will result in the student’s withdrawal from the program.

Students are advised to avoid the accumulation of “incomplete” courses on their transcript. Students who have three or more incomplete courses on their transcripts (indicated by missing grades, NGR, or I) will be required to develop a plan of completion with the Dean of Students’ office, and will be unable to register for more coursework until satisfactory progress is made towards resolving incomplete work.

Students are required to maintain a portfolio of selected work and other evaluative documents which will form the basis of an annual spring quarter progress review, conducted by the Director of Ministry Studies and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. Permission to advance in the MDiv curriculum—for example, approval of a second year field placement or enrollment in the third-year thesis seminar—is contingent on the satisfactory completion of the annual review.
# A Typical Course of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Language Study</td>
<td>+ Language Study</td>
<td>+ Exegesis course/language study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Intro to the Study of Religion</td>
<td>+ Theology in the Public Square</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Text or history course</td>
<td>+ Text or history course</td>
<td>+ Intro to Theology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Throughout: Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice (Colloquium)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second year</th>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Ritual and Speaking</td>
<td>+ Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Spiritual Care and Counseling</td>
<td>+ Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice: Community, Leadership, and Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Text or history course</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td>+ Advanced course in Theo/Phil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>++ Throughout: Field Work Practicum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Throughout: Field Education)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer: Field work or CPE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Third year</th>
<th>Autumn</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ History course</td>
<td>+ Senior Thesis Seminar</td>
<td>+ Course in another religious tradition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td>+ Elective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring: Senior MDiv Thesis Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above diagram illustrates the distribution of courses across the three years of the MDiv program. **Bold print highlights the courses that must be completed in a specific year;** the timing of the other required and elective courses will vary according to the student’s interests and the courses offered. Three courses per quarter is the normal course load for students in the MDiv program. The University’s residence system, however, allows some flexibility. For example, it is possible to take two courses in one quarter, four the next, and still graduate on time.

Depending on previous language study, students take a minimum of seven elective courses to fulfill the requirement of twenty-seven courses for the degree. Students may choose these electives from other departments and divisions of the University, as well as from the courses offered by The Divinity School. Students may also take up to four electives (and in some cases, as many as six, by permission of the Committee on MDiv Studies) in the neighboring seminaries that make up the Hyde Park Cluster of Theological Schools, or other Chicago area denominational schools such as Garrett Evangelical Seminary, provided these courses do not duplicate offerings at The Divinity School.

As a general rule it is desirable to complete degree requirements (e.g., languages, text, history and thought courses) earlier rather than later in the course of study. It is also important, however, to distribute elective coursework throughout the three years in order to develop interests that may contribute to the Senior Thesis Project. These twin considerations can compete, requiring students to strategize. Counsel from the Director of Ministry Studies, as well as faculty in relevant areas of study, can be essential in making curricular decisions.
Scholastic Residence

MDiv students register for three full years of Scholastic Residence. If, at the conclusion of this time, the student has not completed all requirements, they may register for up to one year of Advanced Residence. Tuition for Advanced Residence is reduced (approximately one-third of Scholastic Residence), and financial aid from the Divinity School is standard for all students (it covers approximately 80 percent of the University charge.) MDiv students in Advanced Residence may not normally enroll for more than one course in a given quarter.

MDiv students are expected to complete the required coursework for the degree while registered in Scholastic Residence. The requirements completed in Advanced Residence should be more cumulative in nature (e.g. editing the Senior MDiv Thesis) or elective coursework.

Colloquium and Practicum

Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice (Colloquium) is a weekly, required seminar for first-year MDiv students. It runs concurrently with classes during all three quarters of the first year (though students register for the course only in the autumn quarter) and is designed to provide a forum for academic, professional, and personal integration, and for vocational development. Students in this course will also participate in introductory field experiences at South Side field sites selected by the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The Introduction to Religious Leadership and Practice supports and supplements the academic work of the first-year experience. Students receive one credit for this course.

The Field Work Practicum (Practicum) is a weekly required seminar for second-year MDiv students. It runs concurrently with classes and the student’s field placement during all three quarters, meeting Wednesday mornings. The course provides a forum for practical theological reflection. Students spend substantial time reflecting on their field experiences in facilitated small groups, as well as exploring broader themes of religious leadership in communities, through workshops, speakers, and selected readings. Students receive one credit per quarter--three, in sum, for this course.
Field Education: Overview

The field education components of the MDiv program offer students the opportunity to combine practice and reflection in their professional preparation. The aim of field education is not only to provide practical experience in the arts of religious leadership, but also to foster mutual enrichment between the academic study and the practice of religious leadership.

Toward this end, each student participates in three field education exercises concurrent with their MDiv coursework:

- In the first year of study, students participate in a community engagement experience in conjunction with their Colloquium course, spending time in a field setting on the South Side of Chicago.
- During their second academic year, students participate in a year-long site placement in a local religious community under the supervision of a Site Supervisor and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement.
- Each student also completes an additional field work elective, which may be another broad-based internship in a community of religious practice, or a more focused experience in some particular facet of religious leadership such as chaplaincy or advocacy.

The Director of Field Education approves all student field experiences and serves as the contact point between the Divinity School and the field site.

Field Education: Year-long Site Placement

In the 2nd year, each student works 15–20 hours per week in a local religious community of practice, under the direction of an on-site supervisor. Students participate in the process of site selection, in consultation with the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The student meets with their appointed supervisor for at least an hour each week to reflect on their work and learning goals. The student is strongly encouraged to form a support team of three to five people from the community for additional feedback during the year.

In conjunction with the year-long site placement, students are enrolled in the Practicum course for the year. As part of the course, the Director of Field Education visits the student’s site in order to observe their leadership in action, such as leading a workshop, giving a talk, or similar. The Director, student, and supervisor will meet at the end of fall and spring quarters to discuss the experience and evaluate progress of the learning goals. At any point in the year, additional meetings between the student, supervisor, and director are possible if deemed needed.

Students engaged in the second-year field education placement receive stipendiary aid from the Divinity School in the amount of $6000 ($2000 per quarter). Field placement sites are not expected to make further financial contributions, although considerations can be made to cover student transportation costs if the site requires extensive travel.
Timeline for Placement

End of Spring Quarter, First Year:

**Placement Selection:** The student and director work together to compile options for a site placement that best match the students interests and needs. Students are then highly encouraged to visit each site at least once. Finally, students approach site leadership to see whether the commitments of hosting a student are of mutual interest and need. If the site and student agree to the expectations set out by the Divinity School, as outlined in the Learning Agreement, it is signed and submitted.

**Submit Learning Agreement:** The Learning Agreement outlines the expectations and responsibilities of each party for the year ahead. The document is completed when all three parties—student, site supervisor, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement—have agreed that the site will serve as the student's placement. Signed learning agreements may be submitted beginning in April of the first year and should be completed no later than the end of Spring Quarter.

**NOTE:** The Learning Agreement is only meant to document the broad expectations for students and supervisors. There will be an additional document, the Action Plan, that will ask for the student’s learning goals and a plan to meet them. Even though it is not due until the fall quarter of the second year, it is wise to discuss the Action Plan with your Site Supervisor when you complete the Learning Agreement.

Fall of Second Year:

**Ethics and Boundaries Workshop:** At the start of their internship year all students pursuing a placement in a religious community of practice will participate in a required workshop on ethics and boundaries for religious leaders. This workshop is designed to introduce and address some of the specific issues potentially encountered as a student religious leader.

First Two Weeks of Fall Quarter:

**Submit Action Plan:** The student and the Site Supervisor agree on an Action Plan, which outlines concrete goals for the year and outlines a plan to meet them. The Divinity School asks that the Site Supervisor consider how to introduce the student to the full range of tasks involved in religious leadership. The Action Plan identifies four categories of such leadership that should be covered during the year:

- Public Conversation and Ritual Performance
- Interreligious and Denominational Identity
- Community and Care
- Leadership and Authority

The Director of Field Education and Community Engagement must also approve the Action Plan.
End of Fall and Spring Quarter:

**Evaluations:** The student and supervisor meet with the Director of Field Education and the end of the quarters on site (if possible) to reflect on the experiences of the field placement and review progress. Prior to the meeting, the student and supervisor fill out a written evaluation using the Action Plan as a benchmark. Site Supervisors are required to complete written evaluations at the end of the autumn and spring quarters. The spring quarter evaluation will be a comprehensive review of the internship year.

End of Winter Quarter:

**Observations:** At least once before the end of the winter quarter, students will be observed on-site the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement, at a time of the student’s choosing. This observation date should be an occasion that exemplifies some aspect of their work or community, and for which they would like additional feedback. Each student must supply at least one observation date each quarter, though only one observation for both Fall and Winter quarters is required.

Learning Agreement

**Student**
- The student will be involved in the fullest range of leadership duties the placement affords for no less than 15 and no more than 20 hours per week (including transportation).
- The student will be enrolled concurrently in the Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice sequence and the Field Education Practicum.
- The student will complete quarterly evaluations, written or oral, and will participate in fall and spring quarterly meetings, and winter upon request, with the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement and the student’s supervisor.
- The student will participate in the Divinity School’s Ethics and Boundary Training Workshop, a training specific to issues of serving in a religious community as a student leader.

**Site Supervisor**
- The Site Supervisor and student will engage in conferences for one hour each week, or the equivalent. This is in addition to any regular staff meetings in which the Supervisor participates.
- The Supervisor will submit to the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement written summaries of the field education experience at the end of the fall and spring quarters.
- The Supervisor is eligible for library privileges at the Regenstein Library. They are also welcome to audit Divinity School courses, with the consent of the instructor, and to attend events at the Divinity School open to the public and also by special invitation.
- Site Supervisors are invited to participate in workshops and training sessions to engage pedagogy, supervision, and continuing education held throughout the academic year.
- As part of the evaluation process, the Site Supervisor will meet with the student and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement for fall and spring quarters, and winter if needed, to review accomplishment of goals as stated in the Action Plan.

<12>
The Divinity School

- The Divinity School will provide all field sites with a copy of the University policies regarding appropriate student conduct. During the internship year the student is expected to maintain the proper bounds of conduct as outlined by University policy. Any student who violates these policies while serving as a field intern will be subject to University disciplinary action. Additionally, the field site is expected to maintain an appropriate workplace environment free from harassment and discrimination.

- The Divinity School does not conduct criminal background checks on students. Students are asked to self-disclose any criminal history upon an offer of admission. Students are also asked to grant the Divinity School permission to disclose this information to potential field sites under appropriate circumstances. While keeping within the protection provided under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Divinity School will disclose any relevant history of criminal activity or harassment prior to the placement of any student. The Divinity School respects the rights of institutions to require criminal background checks of its staff and interns; however, these checks will require student consent and will be conducted at the expense of the field site.

- The Director of Field Education and Community Engagement must approve the terms of the field education placement.

- In addition to the year-end evaluation conference, the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement will visit the student on-site at least once during the year.

- The Divinity School will provide the student with a stipend for Field Education. Although the site placement may provide the student with limited and appropriate reimbursements, the Divinity School requires no such compensation.

The Action Plan

At the beginning of the Fall term, the student will design an Action Plan in consultation with the Site Supervisor, Community Support Team, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The purpose of the Action Plan is to provide the student with a structured set of goals in each of four areas related to religious leadership and practice:

1. Public Conversation and Ritual Performance
2. Interreligious and Denominational Identity
3. Community and Care
4. Leadership and Authority

Learning Goals: In addition to articulating tasks and projects associated with the four areas of religious leadership and practice identified above, students are required to name 2-4 Learning Goals to be addressed throughout the course of their site placement. These goals should be clear, specific, and able to be assessed (though not necessarily measured quantitatively) at the end of each quarter. Broad, unmeasurable Learning Goals such as “I want to learn how a church works,” or “I want to think more about religious leadership,” will not be helpful. Clearer goals with specific metrics will be of better use to the student and supervisor. An example of such goals might be, “I want more experience in offering extemporaneous prayer,” or “I want to consider critically the challenges and opportunities of working with volunteers vs. a paid staff in this religious community.” Students may amend the Action Plan during the year and refine their learning goals as needed, in consultation with the Site Supervisor and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement.

The formal Action Plan, developed in consultation with your Site Supervisor, your Support Team, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement, is not due until the fall quarter of your second year, but it is wise to discuss the Action Plan with your Site Supervisor when you complete the Learning Agreement in the spring of your first year. Plans can always be adjusted mid-stream. This is a normal and
even healthy reflection of the ever-changing dynamic of practicing religious leadership in the context of community. The Action Plan can be found in Appendix C.

Field Work Elective

A third field work component offers the opportunity for students to engage in elective training in some aspect of religious leadership and practice. Unlike the second-year internship, this requirement can be accomplished outside of a religious community, and is an intentionally open-ended requirement, thus it’s “elective” status. Regardless of where it occurs, it still functions as a workshop for the integration of academic study and theory with religious leadership and practice. Likewise, this field work should foster the continuing commitment to deep reflection on religious leadership and practice in the context of a closely supervised working relationship with a professional practitioner.

Often this requirement is met by exploring a specific vocational path such as hospital chaplaincy, campus ministry, community organizing, adjudicatory administration, or other specialized areas. This requirement may be satisfied by working at the site full-time for three months or spreading out the work over a longer period for the same number of hours. The particulars of the field work experience are open to the specific interests of the student, provided that the student can demonstrate that the internship offers some direct involvement in the practice of religious leadership. Students may choose to complete their field work requirements at any stage of the program, with the exception of the 2nd year (hours must be completed separately from site placement). Many elect to use the summer after their first or second year to engage their particular field work selection.

All students must have their field work approved in advance by the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. In some instances where the internship is in a less structured setting the student may be required to make additional supervisory arrangements with the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The Divinity School provides a stipend of $1,500 for all field work, and up to $1,000 towards tuition for an accredited unit of CPE or similar field work program. The Field Work Contract is due by the eighth week of the spring quarter to ensure payment of the stipend.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Completing one unit (summer intensive) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is one way to fulfill the Divinity School’s field work requirement. Although not required by the Divinity School, many Christian denominations do require one unit of CPE for ordination, consecration, or certification. It is also a requirement for any student pursuing certification in chaplaincy. CPE, however, is open to students of all religious affiliations. All students are thus encouraged to inquire about their religious tradition’s policies regarding completing a unit of CPE.
**Students working to complete a unit of CPE need only submit their supervisor’s final evaluation and their final self-evaluation in lieu of the field work contract and evaluations.**

Here is brief description of CPE from the website of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education:

“Clinical Pastoral Education was begun in 1925 as a form of theological education that takes place not exclusively in academic classrooms, but also in clinical settings where ministry is being practiced. CPE is offered in many kinds of settings: in hospitals and health care including private, university, military, and veterans facilities; in prisons and correctional institutions; in parishes and congregations; in hospices and other places that care for the dying; in psychiatric facilities and community care; in business, industry and other workplace settings; in retirement homes and geriatric centers; in rehabilitation centers such as those for physical illness and injury as well as those working with the addicted; and in communities, both urban and rural. The textbooks for CPE include in-depth study of ‘the living human documents.’ By ‘living human documents,’ we mean both the people who receive care as well as a study of ourselves, the givers of care. Through the practice of ministry and the reflection thereon with supervisor and peers, the experiential learning that is CPE takes place.”

There are many CPE programs available locally in and around Chicago as well as throughout the country. For more information on the history and practice of CPE, including application forms and a list of centers that offer CPE, please consult the National Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (www.acpe.edu.) More information on specific opportunities for CPE units offered in the Chicagoland area is offered at the Divinity School’s annual “CPE Info Night”, hosted at the beginning of the autumn quarter.
Senior MDiv Thesis and Project

Purpose
The Senior MDiv Thesis and Project is an in-depth exploration of a question or issue in religious leadership that demonstrates a student’s ability to foster thoughtful, rigorous, and relevant dialogue between university, religious community, and society. In the thesis writing process, students have the opportunity to research a contemporary problem or possibility of religious life or leadership, trace the intellectual heritage of a selected issue and make a thoughtful contribution to the practical theological conversation. As such, the Senior Thesis Project serves as the culmination of the student’s Divinity School work.

Thesis ideas might emerge from course readings and lectures, classroom discussions, observations from site placements or other field work; in every case, the articulation of the problem, as well as the statement of a thesis and elaboration of an accompanying argument will be grounded in the textual, historical, and constructive studies that are integral to the MDiv curriculum. Ideally, the thesis makes use of research and writing from previous courses and is informed by the student’s practice and reflection in field education and fieldwork.

Successful completion of the Senior MDiv Thesis Project consists of three parts:
- Participation in the Thesis Seminar (register for this course in the autumn quarter; the seminar meets throughout the year.)
- Completion of a 35-page paper, due at the end of winter quarter of the third year
- A public presentation of thesis findings in the spring quarter of third year

Defining the Issue and Approach
It comes as no surprise that most people begin research projects with a topic that interests them. The initial task of research is to transform that interesting topic into an issue, question, or problem that the research will be designed to resolve by creating a hypothesis, an argument, or an interpretation. Different issues require different resources and methods in order to address them effectively. One might ask, for example, “How did things get to be the way they are?” The question assumes that a historical method will supply important parts of the answer. On the other hand, one might ask, “How is this idea or practice related to that idea or practice?” For questions of this systematic and relational type, the scholar frequently turns to such disciplines as theology, philosophy of religion, or ethics. The movement from topic to issue is the crucial first step of effective scholarship, and students can find helpful suggestions about this process in The Craft of Research, by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams.

The articulation of the thesis issue should arise and draw its principal resources from the educational experience of the University of Chicago—broadly conceived to include faculty, courses, field education, experience of religious leadership and practice, and fellow students. That is to say, the thesis engages both the lived experience and wisdom of communities of practice, and the critical and constructive resources of our classrooms. It is conceived in and aimed towards mutually enriching conversation among multiple stakeholders.

Schedule
It is wise to keep the senior thesis in view from the time a student matriculates in the MDiv program. Students should be attentive to the questions raised by their study and practice, and should plan coursework that will promote proficiency in a particular area of study or theological method, as well as accumulating experience and insight into an identified issue in religious leadership and practice.
During the spring quarter of the second year and the following summer, each student works independently, confers with the seminar leader or Director of Ministry Studies, and consults other faculty members to (1) define the issue in religious leadership or practice that the thesis will explore, (2) clarify the method or approach, (3) identify an advisor, and (4) identify primary resources.

A thesis proposal with approval from the faculty advisor is due during the fall quarter of the third year. (The seminar leader will establish the deadline.) The thesis proposal (no more than 5–6 pages, or 1,500 words) includes the following elements:

- A statement of the issue in religious leadership or practice
- The thesis about that issue
- A description of the approach or method to be employed in exploring the issue
- A 1–2 page annotated list of primary resources—texts and possibly resource persons—to be consulted
- The name of the faculty member who has consented to advise the thesis

The proposal is to be submitted with a cover sheet signed by the student and faculty advisor. This proposal reports to the Committee on MDiv Studies the student’s intention to participate in the thesis process, the thesis title, and the name of the faculty advisor. An example of this cover sheet is included in the appendix section of the Handbook.

Beginning in the autumn quarter of their final year, students will meet in regular seminar sessions to sharpen their proposals, consider various aspects of the project, and present work in progress. The thesis is submitted on the established deadline at the conclusion of winter quarter, with copies sent to both the student’s thesis advisor and the seminar leaders. A final copy of each thesis is bound and archived in a file in the ministry suite for others to read.

During the spring quarter, students will make a public presentation of the central findings of the thesis. A brief description of the presentation design, with a presentation date, venue, and title, is also due on the last day of the winter quarter.

**Public Presentation**

The intent of the public presentation is to foster creative communication and wider discussion of the Senior MDiv Thesis; as the thesis is an exercise in practical or public thought, it is important to keep the public presentation in view from the inception of the writing process. The presentation assumes a diverse audience with interest in, but not necessarily previous exposure to, the paper’s findings. Students are encouraged to consider the public presentation as an adult education event that builds on the written project but is quite distinct from it.

Presenters should resist the temptation to make the public presentation a synopsis of the thesis. Instead, identify a major point from the thesis and then create a form of presentation that will explore that point in an appropriate and memorable way with the audience. Past presentations have utilized a range of formats—panel discussions, interviews, ritual experiences or sermons with discussion afterwards, curriculum creation with opportunities for groups to experience some dimension of the learning material, arts exhibits with artist talks, and one-act plays followed by conversation between audiences and actors.

Students are encouraged to plan presentation times and formats to maximize participation by a healthy representation of publics; fostering robust attendance at the presentation is part of the student’s leadership responsibility, and part of the MDiv cohort’s collegial responsibility to each other. Audiences should include the thesis advisor, the thesis seminar leader and Director of Ministry Studies; final scheduling must be done in consultation with these persons.
The Divinity School will promote the presentations in its calendar, but students are encouraged to learn the useful art of promotion as part of the work of public leadership.

**Evaluation Guidelines: Senior MDiv Thesis**

The grade for the Senior MDiv Thesis will be assigned in consultation between the thesis seminar leader and the faculty advisor for the thesis. Final grades for the course will be submitted after the successful public presentation of the project in the Spring quarter. Faculty are asked to evaluate the thesis with reference to the following rubric:

**Questions toward Evaluation of the Thesis**

**Formulation**
How well does the project define its main issue? Is there a clear statement of its question or problem? Is it appropriate to the project’s purpose, scope, and audience?

**Research**
How thoroughly has the project been researched? Does the thesis demonstrate adequate knowledge of the literature in its field, and of appropriate field research methodology, if relevant?
How well does the project employ relevant scriptural/textual, historical, and theological resources?
How effective is the project’s organization or argumentation? Is the thesis convincing?

**Audience(s)**
How well does the project engage its intended audience, context, and/or vocational location?

**Originality**
Each project should be a unique exercise in practical theological or spiritual reflection. Both the student and the project’s faculty advisor are encouraged to describe at least one original consideration for evaluation.
Dual Degree Programs

The Divinity School offers dual degree programs with the School of Social Service Administration and the Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies. These programs serve students who wish to combine education for religious leadership with training for social work or expertise in public policy. In addition to making these pursuits formally possible at the University, the dual degree programs allow students to complete an MDiv and an AM in social work or public policy in four years, rather than five if the two degrees are pursued separately. Students in the dual degree programs register for eight quarters in the Divinity School and four quarters in the cooperating school. The recommended arrangement is the completion of two years (six quarters) at the Divinity School, followed by one year and one quarter (four quarters) at the SSA or Harris School, followed by two final quarters at the Divinity School. Students enrolled in a dual program complete all of the ordinary requirements for the MDiv, but need take only 24 courses for the degree with SSA, or 22 courses for the degree with the Harris School, rather than the full twenty-seven required for the MDiv degree.

Additionally, the Divinity School and the Law School offer a dual degree program for students whose professional plans require training both in religion and in law. Students may apply to do a dual AMRS/JD, AM/JD, MDiv/JD, or PhD/JD. For more information about these programs, please contact the Dean of Students Office.

Application

Applicants must gain acceptance to both schools to enroll in a dual degree program. Normally, the prospective student will apply to both schools prior to matriculation, and indicate on each application his or her intent to pursue the dual degree. First-year MDiv students may, however, submit their application during their first year to the relevant AM program and enter the dual degree program upon acceptance by the SSA or the Harris School. At each school, offers of admission are for the autumn quarter. Admission to one program is advantageous, but does not guarantee admission to the other; be advised that these programs have admission limits and so it is important to apply to SSA or Harris School at least a year before you intend to begin there.

Financial Aid

Students enrolled in the dual degree program are eligible for financial assistance from the institution at which they are registering, that is, for eight quarters of assistance from the Divinity School and four quarters from the SSA or Harris School. The financial aid policies of the three schools differ significantly, and students should anticipate that tuition charges and financial assistance will vary depending on where they are registered for a particular quarter.

Registration

Students in the dual degree program register for a total of eight quarters at the Divinity School and four quarters at the SSA or the Harris School. As mentioned above, the recommended sequence is for the student to spend the first two years (six quarters) at the Divinity School, the third year (three quarters) and the first quarter (autumn) of the fourth year at SSA or the Harris School, and the final two quarters (winter and spring) at the Divinity School. This arrangement has the greatest potential to ensure that the student will participate fully in each program. It is essential that the student devote a full academic year to the required curriculum of the SSA or the Harris School, and, given the collegial nature of the program, it is best for MDiv students to complete the first two years of the MDiv in the company of their entering class. This sequence also has administrative advantages. Each school counts quarters of registration as a requirement for the degree, so the student must be registered for the required number of quarters at the respective school. It is also least disruptive to the student’s registration and financial arrangements (for example, for loans and Work
Field Work (SSA dual degree only)
The MDiv from the Divinity School and the AM from the School of Social Service Administration each require students to complete two field education components. For the Divinity School, these requirements are (a) the field education internship (the second-year placement in a local religious community under the supervision of a Site Supervisor and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement) and (b) an elective unit of field work (a more focused field experience, usually completed after the field education internship).

The SSA requires two year-long field work assignments (first year: 480 hours for the Core, second year/summer: 640 for Clinical Concentration and 496 for Administration Concentration). Students in the dual degree program must meet the field education requirements of both schools, but are usually able to arrange for the second year-long field work requirement at the SSA to fulfill the second field work requirement of the Divinity School as well. They are thus able to complete the field education requirements for both degrees with three field placements, rather than the four that would be necessary if the degrees were completed separately. This arrangement is subject to the approval of the Director of Ministry Studies at the Divinity School. Approval should be secured before beginning the second year-long assignment for the SSA, or before electing to complete the second SSA internship over the summer.

Curriculum and Integration
The dual degree programs have much to recommend them, but they do not provide the student with as much latitude in arranging his or her curriculum as would be the case if the student were pursuing the degrees separately. Particularly in the fourth year, when completing the second year of study at the SSA or the Harris School, the Senior MDiv Thesis, and culminating coursework at the Divinity School, students can experience conflicts in scheduling that, while inevitable, nonetheless frustrate good intentions. It is wise for students to aim to complete a substantial portion of the coursework required for the MDiv during the first two years at the Divinity School. We encourage students to use the Senior Thesis Project as a way to formally synthesize their work in the two programs. It is highly recommended that students retain co-advisers, one from the Divinity School, and one from the SSA or Harris School, to assist them in a Senior Thesis Project that will facilitate this integration.
Chaplaincy Concentration

MDiv students who anticipate careers in institutional chaplaincy will benefit from interdisciplinary coursework providing deeper insight into various systems such as health care, higher education, the carceral system, or the military. The chaplaincy concentration requires students to complete one unit of fieldwork in a setting that is supervised by a chaplain, plus 3 courses:

*A core course in chaplaincy, taught in the Divinity School every other spring quarter (required)

Plus two of the following:

*An elective course in an applicable policy topic at the Harris School (education policy or health care policy)

*An elective course pertinent mental health issues at SSA (ie, Death and Grief, Trauma-informed practice)

*An elective course in some aspect of chaplaincy as practiced in student’s tradition (from one of our sister institutions, or taught here by visiting practitioners).

UChicago Certificate Programs

Several University departments offer interdisciplinary certificate programs that are open to all graduate students, providing the opportunity for MDiv students to think broadly and critically about some aspect of public engagement. The structure of these programs vary, as do the application processes. See, for example, the certificate in global conflict studies at Harris School, the certificate in health administration and policy at SSA, and the graduate certificate in gender and sexuality studies at the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality.
Additional Resources

Hyde Park Seminaries

MDiv students may take up to four courses in the neighboring theological schools: the Catholic Theological Union, Chicago Theological Seminary (United Church of Christ), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, McCormick Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Church, USA), and/or Meadville/Lombard Theological School (Unitarian Universalist). Students may also enroll for courses with Seabury Western and Garrett Evangelical Seminary. MDiv students ordinarily enroll in such courses to meet ordination or other professional requirements. Students do not ordinarily take courses at the seminaries that parallel those offered at the Divinity School.

The Director of Ministry Studies must approve each course in advance. This approval is certified by completion of a registration form available from the Div School registrar’s office, or on the Divinity School’s website, at https://divinity.uchicago.edu/forms-paperwork.

1) Students should print and complete the form, have the Director of Ministry Studies and the Dean of Students sign it
2) Students should make two copies (in addition to the original), keeping one copy for their records, and submit one copy to the Dean of Students’ Administrative Assistant. Next, submit the original to the registrar of the institution offering the course.

For registration at institutions with which the Divinity School does not currently have a formal registration agreement, the following should be followed:

MDiv students who wish to enroll in a course at a seminary or theological school with which the Divinity School does not have a formal registration agreement should confirm the viability of one-off course registration with the institution in question and then, in consultation with the Director of Ministry Studies and Dean of Students, craft a petition for ad hoc bi-registration. The petition should name the course (title, instructor, course code, and schedule) and institution of registration, briefly articulate the rationale for taking the course, and specify the course tuition. (Note that ancillary fees, such as those of affiliation, are the student’s obligation.) The petition should be signed by the student and by the Director of Ministry Studies and should be submitted to the Divinity School’s Dean of Students for processing.

Students pursuing a situation of ad hoc bi-registration will be enrolled in a Reading and Research course with the Director of Ministry Studies in the appropriate University of Chicago quarter; this placeholder course will be graded pass/fail, where a passing grade is a B- or better, upon receipt of a final transcript (recording the course title and grade). It is the student's responsibility to negotiate the registration process at the institution of ad hoc bi-registration and to arrange to have a final transcript for the course sent to the Divinity School Dean of Students office. If allowable, students may arrange to have their tuition bill sent directly to the Dean of Students office at the attention of Americia Huckabee; otherwise, they should submit the tuition bill to Ms. Huckabee upon receipt.

Further logistical considerations:

Students should be advised that since most area seminaries are on the semester system (and the Divinity School is organized in quarters) special attention must be paid to seminary starting dates: early September, for the autumn semester (these course listings are available in April) and early February for the spring semester (these course listings are available in November). Students will not be allowed to join a seminary class after the first week of the semester.
Once the petition has been approved by the Divinity School and submitted to the seminary registrar, students register for this course online during the regular Divinity School quarterly registration process. Students should register for autumn semester seminary courses during the Divinity School’s Autumn Quarter registration and for spring semester seminary courses during the Divinity School’s Spring Quarter registration. (Seminary “J” term courses are generally not eligible for University credit). In special circumstances and with the approval of the Director and the Dean of Students, MDiv students may petition the Committee on MDiv Studies to take up to two additional courses in these schools.

MDiv students should note that the University Registrar records grades for these courses on a Pass/Fail basis; no letter grades are recorded. (Grades of B- or better constitute a pass.) In order to have this P/F recorded on your U of C transcript, the student must request that the seminary send an official transcript to the Divinity School Dean of Students.

**Advising**

First-year students are assigned a faculty advisor and are encouraged to consult with that person throughout the year as their academic interests develop. Should those interests suggest changing advisors, students are encouraged to notify both faculty members, and report the change to the Director of Ministry Studies and the Dean of Students’ office. MDiv students are encouraged to consult with various faculty in their areas of interest throughout their courses of study, and will be asked to secure a faculty thesis advisor as part of the proposal process for the Senior Thesis.

The Director of Ministry Studies works closely with students from the outset of their course of study, with an eye towards each student’s integration of academic pursuits, spiritual formation, and the development of vocational identity. The Director of Field Education and Community Engagement has particular responsibility for advising and directing MDiv students in the completion of their field education requirements. The Dean of Students office has special responsibility for matters pertaining to registration, financial aid, disciplinary issues, and graduation.

**The Committee on MDiv Studies**

The Committee on MDiv Studies oversees curriculum, degree requirements, the conceptual foundation of the program, and it also reviews student petitions. Its membership includes a revolving group of faculty (one of whom serves as chair of the committee) and several standing members: the Dean of Students, the Dean of Disciples Divinity House, the Director of Ministry Studies, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The Committee meets twice per quarter. Its agenda is set by the faculty committee chair, in consultation with the Director of Ministry Studies.
Religious Practice and Community Life

MDiv students have a dual challenge and opportunity in their first year: to explore the breadth of spiritual practice in our city, locating a community that will support and deepen your own practice during your studies, and to begin the process of identifying a field placement site for your second year (and it doesn’t hurt to start looking as early as autumn quarter). The following are a few different options in the immediate neighborhood (and on campus).

Bond Chapel services
Located immediately southwest of the Divinity School, “the Joseph Bond Chapel was opened in the fall of 1926 to be a place of worship for students. University members who worship here seek to find ways to discern how spiritual life and formation are a vital part of their learning experience. We invite you to find the place already prepared for you here, and to make it your own.” Some Bond Chapel opportunities include:

- **Open Space**
  Open Space is exactly that—an intentional space for non-sectarian, multi-religious community which centers reflection and prayer. This weekly 30-minute gathering provides the Divinity School community with unique opportunities for conversation, reflection, and fellowship around the things that enliven us, weigh on our hearts and minds, and give our work here meaning. All are welcome to come hear from diverse members of the community, to be opened and buoyed by music or reflective silence that points us beyond ourselves, and to wrestle (sometimes ritually) with the tensions we—as individuals who are apart but yet a part—see in our lives and in our world. To volunteer to speak and get involved Open Space, please contact 2nd-year student Benny Vanderburgh at bvanderburgh@uchicago.edu. Also follow us on Instagram: @uchiopenspace. During fall quarter 2020, join us for Open Space on Zoom at 12:45 on Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 7.

- **Episcopal Eucharist**
  Please visit the website (https://stateofthechaplaincy2020.brenthouse.org/#pandemic) for Brent House and Rev. Stacy Alan’s online services during the Pandemic.

- **Jumu’ah Prayer times**
  Insha’Allah, Jumu’ah prayer is hosted by the UChicago Muslim Students Association. For more information, please visit their website (msa.uchicago.edu) or contact the Advisor for Muslim Affairs in the Spiritual Life Office.

- **Meditation**
  “Twenty Minutes Still” offers twenty minutes of meditative quiet before the start of classes every weekday at 8 a.m. Please visit Spiritual Life Office’s website (https://spirit.uchicago.edu/events) for more information.

**Gentle Yoga Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30 pm; Yoga Flow Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm.**
Please visit Spiritual Life Office’s website (https://spirit.uchicago.edu/events) for more information.

**Roman Catholic Eucharist**
Mass is offered at a variety of times online at the Calvert House, the Catholic Center at the University of Chicago. For more information, please visit their website (www.uofccatholic.com).
Hillel
UChicago Hillel is the center and catalyst for Jewish life at the University of Chicago. Hillel welcomes students of all backgrounds and hopes to foster an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. Visit Hillel at 5715 S. Woodlawn Ave. or online (www.uchicagohillel.org).

For more options for spaces and gatherings (both on-campus and off, in Hyde Park and around Chicago) from a wide variety of traditions and practices, check out the Spiritual Life Office website for an extensive list of options (spirit.uchicago.edu/spaces).

Swift Hall Groups and Resources

Divinity Students Association (DSA)
The Divinity Students Association (DSA) is an organization run by and for University of Chicago Divinity School students. Every registered Divinity School student is automatically a DSA member. The organization contributes to many spheres of life in the Divinity School, including academic, professional, and social. Above all else, the DSA strives to foster a true community of Divinity students from every degree program. The Divinity Students Association was founded in the early 1960s and has operated as an independent nonprofit (501c3) within the Divinity School since 1968. The DSA is focused on pursuing three goals:

1. to enhance student life and research;
2. to foster collegiality and social cohesion;
3. to work with the Divinity School administration in areas pertaining to student needs.

Throughout the academic year, the DSA hosts events, including the (in)famous 4-8’s and pub nights, supports students through grants, the Swift Cares Fund, myriad academic clubs, and serves as liaison between the student body and administration. To receive information about DSA events and activities, contact DSA at contactdsa@lists.uchicago.edu, subscribe to the DSA listserv at https://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/dsa, find them on Facebook, or visit their website (dsa.uchicago.edu).

The DSA funds several clubs for the benefit of the student body and the Swift Hall community. There are three types of clubs:

- Affinity Groups: These groups are organized around identities that are under-represented and/or marginalized in the Divinity School and they build community and space for people of those identities.
- Student-Founded Clubs: These are clubs organized by students around particular interests not covered by the Academic Area Clubs or Identity Clubs.
- Academic Clubs: These are clubs organized around the Divinity School’s areas of studies. Some are partially funded by the area or by CAS.

Please check the DSA website (http://dsa.uchicago.edu/clubs) for the full list of clubs and descriptions. Please contact DSA CO-Presidents Salman (salmansafir@uchicago.edu) or Sierra (smeszaros@uchicago.edu) to get in contact with club leaders.

BONDS (Building Opportunities and Networks for Divinity Students) Peer Mentorship Program
Peer mentors support emotional and academic well-being of incoming students through regular email check-ins, Zoom meetings, and social events. Peer mentors may answer questions about campus and student life, moving to Chicago, experience with remote and on-campus courses, languages, etc. They may also direct students to the appropriate person in the Dean of Students Office or on campus for additional support. For more information about the Dean of Students office, visit the website (https://divinity.uchicago.edu/our-community/dean-students).
Resources for Aid in Personal Growth

Graduate school is a time of growth and self-development. With that growth can come stress and the need for formal self-reflection. Many students seek guidance in the form of spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, or therapy, especially when offering spiritual support to others in field work settings. Here are a few options to consider if you are looking for spiritual growth or a place to go for help with crises large or small.

**Student Counseling Services**  
5555 S. Woodlawn Ave., 773-702-9800  
All students are permitted up to ten free visits with a counselor at SCS, after which counselors can refer students to therapists and counselors approved by student insurance.

**Spiritual Life Office**  
Ida Noyes Hall, Room 034, spirit@uchicago.edu  
Spiritual Life serves as a destination for all things spiritual and religious at the University of Chicago. We address the complexities of religious encounter in the 21st century and provide a space for members of the University community to ask big and small questions about meaning and purpose.

**Institute for Spiritual Leadership**  
5498 South Kimbark Avenue, 773-752-5962  
Several MDiv students have made use of the spiritual direction at ISL. ISL describes itself as “an independent, not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to enhance in all persons the capacity for spiritual leadership essential to facilitating growth and transformation in people, of organizational systems, and of societal structures thereby promoting a more just, humane and sustainable world.”

**Center for Religion and Psychotherapy**  
30 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1920; 312-263-4368  
The Center for Religion and Psychotherapy is a not-for-profit organization with offices throughout the greater Chicago area. The Center provides in-depth psychotherapy that attends to religious and spiritual, as well as psychological concerns. In addition, CRPC offers consultative services, as well as continuing education opportunities for clinicians, academics, and religious leaders. Members of the faculty and staff represent a variety of different religious traditions and approaches to religious and spiritual life.

**The Claret Center**  
5536 S. Everett, 773-643-6259  
Located on the east side of Hyde Park, Claret offers psychotherapy, massage therapy, spiritual direction, and other services. More information is available at [http://www.claretcenter.org](http://www.claretcenter.org).

**Khalil Center**  
info@khalilcenter.com  
The Khalil Center is a psychological and spiritual community wellness center advancing the professional practice of psychology rooted in Islamic theology.

**Intraspectrum Chicago**  [Intraspectrum-chicago.com](http://Intraspectrum-chicago.com)  
773.750.3505; intake@intraspectrum-chicago.com  
A variety of counseling services (individuals, couples, group and family) for the LGBTQI community.
Appendix A: Learning Agreement Form

Field Education Learning Agreement

Student

- The student will be involved in the fullest range of leadership duties the placement affords for no less than 15 and no more than 20 hours per week (including transportation).
- The student will be enrolled concurrently in the Arts of Religious Leadership and Practice sequence and the Field Education Practicum.
- The student will complete fall and spring written evaluations and will participate in fall and spring quarter meetings with the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement and the student’s supervisor.
- The student will participate in the Divinity School’s Ethics and Boundary Training Workshop, a training specific to issues of serving in a religious community as a student leader.

Site Supervisor

- The Site Supervisor and student will engage in conferences for one hour each week, or the equivalent. This is in addition to any regular staff meetings in which the Supervisor participates.
- The Supervisor will submit to the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement written summaries of the field education experience at the end of the autumn and spring quarters.
- The Supervisor is eligible for library privileges at the Regenstein Library. They may also audit Divinity School courses, with the consent of the instructor, and to attend events at the Divinity School open to the public and also by special invitation.
- Site Supervisors are invited to participate in workshops and training sessions to engage pedagogy, supervision, and continuing education held throughout the academic year.
- As part of the evaluation process, the Site Supervisor will meet with the student and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement at the end of fall and spring quarters to review accomplishment of goals as stated in the Action Plan document, to be completed at the beginning of fall quarter.

The Divinity School

- The Divinity School will provide all field sites with a copy of the University policies regarding appropriate student conduct. During the internship year the student is expected to maintain the proper bounds of conduct as outlined by University policy. Any student who violates these policies while serving as a field intern will be subject to University disciplinary action.
Additionally, the field site is expected to maintain an appropriate workplace environment free from harassment and discrimination.

- The Divinity School does not conduct criminal background checks on students. Students are asked to self-disclose any criminal history upon an offer of admission. Students are also asked to grant the Divinity School permission to disclose this information to potential field sites under appropriate circumstances. While keeping within the protection provided under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Divinity School will disclose any relevant history of criminal activity or harassment prior to the placement of any student. The Divinity School respects the rights of institutions to require criminal background checks of its staff and interns; however, these checks will require student consent and will be conducted at the expense of the field site.

- The Director of Field Education and Community Engagement must approve the terms of the field education placement.

- In addition to the year-end evaluation, the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement will visit the student on-site at least once during the year.

- The Divinity School will provide the student with a stipend. Although the site placement may provide the student with limited and appropriate reimbursements, the Divinity School requires no such compensation.

Signatures

Student Name:________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone:________________________________________________________________________________________
Email:________________________________________________________________________________________

Supervisor Name and Title:________________________________________________________________________
Phone Number:________________________________________________________________________________________
Email:________________________________________________________________________________________

Teaching Site:________________________________________________________________________________________
Address and Phone Number:________________________________________________________________________
Website:________________________________________________________________________________________
Start Date:_________________End Date:________
Vacations (if known)________________________________________________________________________________
Site Reimbursements (if applicable):___________________________________________________________________
Appendix B: The Action Plan

Focus Areas of Religious Leadership and Learning Goals

Due at the beginning of Fall quarter, the student will design an Action Plan in consultation with the Site Supervisor, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement. The purpose of the Action Plan is to provide the student with a structured set of responsibilities and participation in each of the four focus areas related to religious leadership and practice. Students may amend and adjust the Action Plan during the year and refine their learning goals as needed, in consultation with the Site Supervisor. This is a normal and even healthy reflection of the ever-changing dynamic of practicing religious leadership in a community. Please list the identified ways the student will engage each:

1. Public Conversation and Ritual Performance

2. Interreligious and Denominational Identity

3. Community and Spiritual Care

4. Leadership and Authority
Learning Goals: In addition to articulating tasks and projects associated with the four areas of religious leadership and practice identified above, students are required to name 2-4 Learning Goals to be addressed throughout the course of their site placement. These goals should be clear, specific, and able to be assessed (though not necessarily quantitatively) at the end of each quarter. Broad, unmeasurable Learning Goals such as “I want to think more about religious leadership,” will not be helpful. Clearer goals with specific metrics will be of better use to the student and supervisor. An example of such goals might be, “I want more experience in offering extemporaneous prayer,” or “I want to consider critically the challenges and opportunities of working with volunteers vs. a paid staff in this religious community.”

Learning Goals

Goal 1: ______________________________________________________________________
Goal 2: ______________________________________________________________________
Goal 3:* ______________________________________________________________________
Goal 4:* ______________________________________________________________________

Additional Site Resources (lay persons, additional religious advisors, etc):
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Student's signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________
Supervisor's signature: _________________________________________ Date: __________
Director signature: _____________________________________________ Date: __________

This form should be completed by the end of the second week of the autumn quarter.

The student, Site Supervisor, and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement should each retain a copy of this agreement. This agreement, once signed, will not be amended until all parties are consulted.

Erika Dornfeld, Director of Field Education and Community Engagement
The University of Chicago Divinity School
1025 East 58th Street
Chicago IL 0637-1577
Telephone: 773-834-4693
e-mail: dornfeld@uchicago.edu
Appendix C Site Placement Evaluations

Practicum Fall Quarter Self-Evaluation

The following self-evaluation will set the agenda for our in-person Fall quarter evaluation. Each student should submit a written response to the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement and their supervisor prior to this in person meeting. Answers may be brief, and will guide our conversation when we sit down together for our end-of-quarter meeting.

1. Which experience(s) / ministry encounter(s) this quarter have been the most instructive or challenging?

2. Looking forward to next Quarter, what experiences, skillsets, and/or opportunities have yet to be engaged? Do any changes to the Action Plan need to be made?

3. Are there ways you imagine that this current internship might inform or be connected to future work? This might include your next Field Ed experience/internship, your Senior Thesis Project, other academic projects, a future career path, etc?

All end-of-quarter meetings between the student, supervisor(s), and the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement should be completed before the end of the quarter.
Final Evaluation (Spring Quarter)

The following evaluation should be completed by both the MDiv student and the Site Supervisor. Responses should be made available to all parties (the student, Site Supervisor, and Director of Field Education and Community Engagement) at or before the in-person meeting at the end of the quarter. Answers may be brief, and they will guide our conversation when we sit down together.

1. Considering the student’s overall work and learning this past year, what do you see as their strongest gifts for religious leadership? In what areas do you find the most experience, skill, or promise?

2. Considering the Action Plan, are there any areas of work that have been left undone or unexplored? For future Field Education, which areas or skillsets would be most helpful to revisit, re-examine, or spend more time?

3. Mutual Feedback: Supervisors, what might you recommend to our student in terms of pursuing future learning and developing growing edges? Students, what might you offer to your supervisor in terms of receiving future interns at this site?

All end-of-quarter meetings should be completed before the end of the quarter.
Appendix D: Field Work Contract Form

Field Work Elective Contract Form
(Please complete both sides of form.)

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student Name: ____________________________________________

Student title at site: ____________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________

Starting date: ________________ Ending date: ________________

Vacations (if known): _____________________________________________

Site Reimbursements (optional): ________________________________

**SITE INFORMATION**

Site Name: _________________________________________________________

Site Supervisor Name and Title: _______________________________________________

Supervisor Email and phone: _______________________________________________

Site Website: ___________________________________________________________
Field Work Contract Form (continued)

A. Briefly list the ongoing duties of student at placement.

B. Itemize resources available to student to perform duties at placement.

C. Identify the reporting responsibilities of student.

D. What is the anticipated outcome of the student's work?

E. List any additional expectations or goals for the Field Work placement.

We ask that both student and supervisor submit written evaluations of the student’s work. If Field Work is completed in the summer, only one evaluation (at the end) is required. If the Field Work is completed during the academic year, we ask for one evaluation at mid-term and one at the end of the year. Evaluations should be mailed to the Director of Field Education and Community Engagement.

Student's signature: Date:

Supervisor’s signature: Date:

Director of Field Education and Community Engagement: Date:

Erika Dornfeld
Director of Field Education and Community Engagement
The University of Chicago Divinity School
1025 East 58th Street, Chicago IL 60637-1577
Telephone: 773.834.4693
Fax: 773.834.4581
Email: dornfeld@uchicago.edu
Appendix E: Senior Thesis Cover Sheet

TO: The Committee on MDiv Studies
FROM: [Student Name]

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Student phone number ________________________________
Student e-mail address ________________________________

Having completed my second year of MDiv coursework and the year-long site placement, and participated in a thesis proposal colloquium with my proposed faculty advisor and participants from the Committee on MDiv Studies, I record with the Committee on MDiv Studies

1. my intention to participate in the Senior Thesis Seminar in __________ (quarter / year).

2. my senior thesis title, _____________________________________________________

3. I have obtained the consent of _____________ (faculty name) to serve as my faculty advisor for this thesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis seminar leader</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<35>