

REL 3986: Part-time Internship with Practicum
Yale Divinity School 2016-2017
Practicum: Thursdays 4:00-5:30pm

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with Practicum Facilitators

What is Part-time Internship with Practicum?

Part-time Internship with Practicum is a credit-bearing course that combines hands-on ministry experience (internship) with critical, theological reflection on the nature, practice and context of ministry (practicum). It is taken for two consecutive semesters starting in September.

Goals of the Part-time Internship with Practicum

- To allow students to test directly their vocational commitments;
- To bring together theological thinking and action (theory and praxis);
- To enable students to gain personal confidence, identity, and authority as pastoral theologians;
- To broaden the base of empirical knowledge and to encourage students in their critical reflection;
- To stimulate the discovery and the lifelong cultivation of competencies requisite for ministry in varying situations;
- To provide a competent supervision process which will support personal and spiritual formation, critical reflection, shared ministry, and professional competence;
- To develop within students an ongoing self-assessment process, utilizing self-perceptions and feedback from others, for the purpose of stimulating further growth.

Part-time Internship

Through the internship a student gains firsthand experience--at least 370 hours--while serving in an approved **sites** under the supervision of a qualified **supervisor-mentor**. The internship is guided by a **Learning Covenant** that the student creates in collaboration with the ministry supervisor-mentor. In some cases where a theologically trained supervisor is not available at the internship site, a student may also be assigned a theological mentor to provide ongoing theological reflection. The internship undergoes a collaborative assessment twice a year, once at the end of the first semester and once at the end of the year. This collaborative assessment is guided by the Learning Covenant and includes the student's written self-assessment as well as written observations from the supervisor-mentor (and theological mentor, if applicable).

Practicum

Practicum supports critical, theological reflection on the nature, practice and context of ministry as experienced in the internship. Practicum takes place in a collaborative learning community of 8-10 student peers and is facilitated by a qualified ministry practitioner.

2016-17 Practicum Facilitators

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| • Rev. Dr. Daphne Burt, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamden | S-101 |
| • Katie Byrnes, Assistant Chaplain, Fairfield University | SG-54 |
| • Alison Cunningham, Executive Director, Columbus House | S-101 |
| • Rev. William Mathis, J.D., Pastor, Springs of Life-Giving Water Baptist Church | S-104 |

- Rev. Shepard Parsons, Pastor, First Church of Christ, Woodbridge S-204
- Kyle Pedersen, Episcopal Deacon; Director, Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation S-212
- Rev. Tracy Johnson Russell, Priest-in-Charge, St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Hartford S-151

Facilitators use a variety learning modalities to engage peer reflection and encourage individual and shared learning. Students remain in their group and with the same facilitator for the entire course. In this setting, they gain the experience of collegial support and feedback from their peers while building a foundation for lifelong learning in ministry.

Practicum focuses on the following core areas:

- Theological Reflection
- Ministry Identity
- Vocational Calling and Discernment
- Professional Competencies
- Context and Culture of Ministry
- Lifelong Learning

Learning Objectives of Practicum

- Participate in a learning community that supports and enhances your professional development and preparation for ministry.
- Discover and discuss elements of ministry in a variety of settings and contexts.
- Develop self-awareness by giving and receiving feedback on personal experiences in ministry.
- Become a "reflective practitioner" by practicing theological reflection on your experiences and behavior using the theological frameworks you are developing at YDS.
- Introduce an approach to educational ministry, grounded in theological action and reflection that students can offer future communities they will serve.

Attendance Policy and Credit

REL 3986/7 is graded Credit/No Credit and receives three credits each semester. Completion of both semesters is required before credit is granted for supervised ministry. According to YDS faculty standards, work must be at the level of HP- or better to earn a grade of Credit for the course. Credit in the course is determined by:

- **No more than two (2) Practicum absences each semester.** If a student misses more than two (2) Practicum sessions in either semester, that student must drop the course and will not receive credit for the supervised ministry. In an effort to model professional practice, students are expected to communicate about any absence in advance to their group.
- Contribution to Practicum;
- On-time completion of all practicum assignments;
- On-time submission of required self-assessments and reports;
- Completion of the expected hours and tasks at the internship location, as agreed upon with the site supervisor(s), reported on time logs, and described in the supervisor's End-of-Year Report.

SCHEDULE

Sept 1 PLENARY - INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICUM

Sept 8 Focus: Group Covenant

Explore and articulate values and practices that will inspire and support our work together.

Sept 15 Focus: Learning Covenants

How am I directing my learning? How will I use the Learning Covenant in the internship, practicum and personal reflection?

Preparation: Review Learning Covenant and Complete Learning Goal worksheet

Sept 22 Focus: Personal Identity

Exploring the faith stories that have brought us to this point in our lives and see how our stories connect with or relate to the stories of others in the group.

Preparation: Complete Faith Time Lines exercise

Sept 29 Focus: Personal Identity

Biographical statements – practice self-presentation

Who am I and how do I describe myself to others?

Preparation: Read and complete Personal Asset Starter, by Luther Snow

Oct 6 Focus: Site Identity

Sharing from Ministry Context exercise.

Preparation: Complete Ministry Context exercise

Oct 13 Focus: Site Identity, continued

Sharing from Ministry Context exercise.

Oct 20 CONVOCATION-NO PRACTICUM

Oct 27 Focus: Peer Learning Community

Explore and identify what we want to learn together.

Preparation: Selected reading(s) on peer learning

Nov 3 Focus: Introduction to case study

What are case studies and how can we learn from them?

Preparation: None

Nov 10 PLENARY - FACULTY PANEL DOING CASE STUDIES

Nov 17 Focus: Case studies (to be selected)

Preparation: None

Nov 24 THANKSGIVING-NO PRACTICUM

Dec 1 LAST PRACTICUM

Focus: Semester review.

Preparation: Ministry in Six Words

SEMESTER END

2ND SEMESTER

Jan 19 Focus: Learning Covenants

Review and discuss Learning Covenants. Identify personal goals for the remainder of the internship.

Preparation: None

Jan 26 Focus: student ministry presentation

Preparation: Writing assignment TBD (e.g. public prayer, book review, newsletter article, bulletin announcement)

Feb 2	PLENARY - BRIDGING FAITH TRADITIONS
Feb 9	Focus: student ministry presentation
Feb 16	READING PERIOD - NO PRACTICUM
Feb 23	Focus: student ministry presentation
Mar 2	PLENARY - SOCIAL MEDIA
Mar 9	Focus: student ministry presentation
Mar 16	SPRING BREAK - NO PRACTICUM
Mar 23	SPRING BREAK - NO PRACTICUM
Mar 30	Focus: Open Session
Apr 6	Focus: Open Session
Apr 13	MAUNDY THURSDAY - NO PRACTICUM
Apr 20	Focus: end of year review
Apr 27	LAST PRACTICUM - CELEBRATION