**Summary:**

The Theological Mentor engages interns in critical reflection on the integration of their theological training and ministry as experienced in the internship. The purpose of the internship is for students to gain firsthand experience in the nature, practice and context of ministry while serving in approved internship sites under the guidance of a qualified Supervisor-Mentor and to reflect on that experience with the guidance of a trained theological mentor. In most cases, the Supervisor-Mentor is also the theological mentor, but in some internship settings (e.g., nonprofit, social services, advocacy, education), the Supervisor-Mentor may not have the required theological training to do so. In such cases, a student will partner with a Theological Mentor to provide ongoing theological reflection.

The internship is guided by a Learning Covenant that the student creates in collaboration with the ministry supervisor. 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. Summer internships have a single assessment at the end of the summer. 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, with input from any co-supervisors or internship committees that might be contributing to the internship.

The theological mentor is someone who has spent considerable time being formed by God in the same or similar type of ministry and is thus able to help the student begin integrating their practice with their theological education. Theological reflection is exploring ministry experience in dialogue with the wisdom of the Christian heritage for the purpose of living into an integration of new truth and meaning in one’s emerging (professional) identity. It is an aspect of formation aimed to produce a reﬂective practitioner of Christian ministry in a variety of settings.

**Responsibilities:**

* Review, discuss with student, and sign the Learning Covenant before the due date in May.
* During the course of the internship, meet with student intern on a regular weekly basis to guide and engage the intern in critical theological reflection.
* In conversation with the student intern, prepare and submit to the Director of Supervised Ministries, a brief written collaborative assessment at the end of each semester addressing: core themes from weekly meetings; the intern’s capacity to reflect theologically on the nature, practice and context of ministry; and any other observations pertaining to the intern’s competencies and readiness for ministry. Summer internships undergo only one assessment at the end of the summer. .
* Communicate as needed with the program director regarding the intern’s performance.
* Be familiar with the internship program and YDS academic calendar.
* Be familiar with the intern’s Learning Covenant.
* Participate in any training offered through the program.

**Benefits (some of these might not be accessible by mentors at a distance):**

* Free auditing of YDS courses
* Reduced tuition for YDS Summer Study
* Yale library privileges
* Membership in the Ministry Resource Center
* Faculty rate for Payne Whitney Gym membership
* Colleague support gatherings organized by the program directors.
* Regular communication about continuing education opportunities and other special events on campus.
* 10% discount at YDS bookstore

**Required Education and Experience:**

* Graduate degree in theological or ministerial studies equivalent to an M.Div. or more
* Minimum three years experience in current or related profession, beyond degree
* Minimum one year in current position
* Demonstrated experience in the profession
* Demonstrated experience teaching, supervising or working with graduate-level students
* No history of professional misconduct

**Core Values of YDS Internships:**

* Student-Centered Learning
* Contextual Education
* Theological Reflection/Imagination
* Competency Development
* Mentorship/Apprenticeship
* Peer Learning and Support