ALTERNATIVE FIELD EDUCATION (INTERNSHIP) OVERVIEW

Jesus taught and equipped His disciples in the context of relationship with them. The Field Education Program at ATS seeks to foster a similar Mentor / Intern relationship for our students. Learning in the context of relationship is our main goal. Many of our students do this in the context of our “traditional” Field Education (Internship) Program.

We understand that many seminary students are ordained ministers and have already had a significant amount of ministry experience. Therefore, we have developed the Alternate Field Education Program. The Alternative Field Education Program meets the ATS requirement for Field Education, and affords the experienced student an opportunity to take a thorough look at his / her journey thus far. Moreover, with the guidance of a more experienced mentor, the student may prayerfully seek God’s further guidance for his / her future.

ALTERNATIVE FIELD-ED REQUIREMENTS

1. All MPS and M.Div. programs require successful completion of an approved Field Education experience. Eligible students may do this through the Alternative Field Education Program.

2. Eligibility for the Alternative Field Education Program is based on the number of years in ministry, the type of ministry involvement, and future ministry goals. Each request is handled individually.

ALTERNATIVE FIELD-ED PROCEDURES

1. The student should first meet with the Field-Ed Coordinator, prior to beginning his / her Field Education.

2. Students seeking Alternative Field Education should submit the “Internship Description” requested below. Upon review, Field Education Coordinator will determine whether a student is eligible for the Alternative Field Education Program, or if s/he should pursue a traditional Field Education experience instead.

3. Students approved for the Alternative Field Education Program should register for SF603. The number of credits requested should be approved by the Field Education Coordinator.

4. The student must find an appropriate Mentor.

5. The Intern and his / her Mentor must attend the initial Intern / Mentor Meeting for the 1st semester of his / her Field Education.

6. The Intern and his / her Mentor must set up and conduct 6 Leadership Development Sessions. A list of suggested session guidelines are available, or the Intern and Mentor can develop topics germane to the Intern’s individual situation.

7. The Intern should complete the requirements as delineated on the Alternative Field Education Worksheet below. This should be approached in the context of the mentor/mentee relationship, and should reflect discussions held during the Leadership Development Sessions.

8. At the end of the 6 sessions, after all Intern and Mentor assignments have been completed and returned to the Field Education Office, the student should contact the office to schedule an Exit Interview.

9. At the conclusion of the Exit Interview, the Coordinator of Field Education will confer a grade for SF603.
INTERNSHIP INFORMATION

Intern Name: 
Mentor Name: 
Intern Email: 
Mentor Email: 
Intern Phone #: 
Mentor Phone #: 
Intern Degree Program: 
Internship Site Name & Address: 
Intern Campus (please circle one) :
   Rockland 
   NYC 
   Puerto Rico

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Due prior to approval of Alternative Field Education.

INTERN: In 1-3 pages, please:
   • List & describe your ministry experience (how long, positions held, locations, hours involved, responsibilities, etc.), or attach a current résumé.
   • Describe your spiritual journey / formation, and give an appraisal of your current development.
   • List & describe 2 or 3 of your most significant learning experiences in the context of ministry. What were some of the key lessons you learned through these experiences?

CRITICAL INCIDENTS & EVALUATION

Due prior to 1st Leadership Development Session.

INTERN: In 1-3 pages, please:
   • Provide a personal ministry assessment. Evaluate your ministry strengths & weaknesses.
   • Describe a time in your ministry when you thought, “Now, I know I’m a leader.”
   • Describe an experience when you saw someone else and thought, “That’s what leadership should be.”

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Due midway through the Leadership Development Sessions.

INTERN: In 2-4 pages, please tell us the following:
   • My ministry dreams for the future are . . .
   • The areas in my Christian character development that I probably need to work most on are . .

MENTOR: In 2-4 pages, please provide us with a response to the Intern’s Plans for Development.

BOOK INTEGRATION

Due after end of Leadership Development Sessions.

INTERN: In 2-4 pages, please:
   • With the help of your Mentor, select a book to read & discuss at 1 Leadership Development Session.
   • Write brief reflections & personal applications of the book in light of dialogue with your Mentor.
ALTERNATIVE FIELD EDUCATION

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS
Minimum 6 sessions, 2 hours each, with Mentor.

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<th>Intern’s Initials</th>
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Additional Sessions?

INTERN’S FINAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION & ASSESSMENT

INTERN: In 6-8 pages, please:
- Provide an overall, complete description & assessment of the project(s) you focused on during your Alternative Internship.
- Keep focus on the items delineated in your Plan For Development, and the topics covered in your Leadership Development Sessions with your Mentor.

MENTOR’S ASSESSMENT & SUGGESTIONS

MENTOR: In 2-4 pages, please:
- Provide an overall assessment of the Intern, based on the Intern’s Plan For Development and the 6 Leadership Development Sessions.

PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS ASSESSMENT (PDA)

INTERN & MENTOR, please:
- Discuss the PDA form together, then sign & date it before submitting it to the Field Ed Office.

WRITTEN & ORAL EXIT INTERVIEWS

INTERN, please:
- Thoughtfully complete the Exit Interview form and submit it by the due-date to the Field Ed Office.
- After you have submitted all of the assignments, but before the last week of the semester, make an appointment with Tim Binkele, Field-Ed Coordinator, to conduct your Oral Exit Interview.