STUDENT HANDBOOK

Revised August 2017

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Leaders for the Next.
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The Student Handbook is an announcement of the Seminary and is subject to change. The Seminary reserves the right to change policies, requirements, or fees when necessary. While certain rules, regulations, and academic procedures of the Seminary are briefly described, additional information on these matters may be found elsewhere. Questions may be directed to the Office of the Academic Dean.
I. Overview of the Seminary

Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) was founded in 1855 by Congregationalist churches from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan. The oldest continuing institution of higher learning in Chicago, CTS is today an affiliated seminary of the United Church of Christ with an ecumenical, interfaith faculty and student body. Throughout its history, CTS has been a pioneer in educating religious leaders to address critical issues affecting diverse communities in multiple contexts. Unafraid of issues simply because of the controversies they create, the Seminary has a distinguished record of setting trends in religious life and leadership for more than 150 years. Today it offers six accredited degree programs and various other educational programs.

Vision Statement

Chicago Theological Seminary shall be an international force in the development of religious leadership to transform society toward greater justice and mercy.

Mission Statement

Chicago Theological Seminary, closely related to the United Church of Christ, serves Christ and the churches and the wider faith community by preparing women, men, and non-binary persons in the understandings and skills needed for transformative religious leadership and ministry to individuals, churches, and society.

Commitment Statement

In fulfillment of our Vision and Mission Statements, and being led by the mission and ministry of Jesus and the Spirit of God, Chicago Theological Seminary is a community of faculty, students, alumni, and supporters joined in learning from each other and in commitment to preparing persons who will be leaders of ecclesial and social transformation in anticipation of the divine reign of justice and mercy. To this end we undertake the following specific commitments:

- We are committed to a curricular structure in all degree programs that encourages academic excellence and free inquiry, that focuses on the issues of transformative leadership, and that fosters cooperation between communities of faith and other community-based organizations to promote the power of life against the forces of death.

- We are committed to confronting the spiritual impoverishment of our time characterized by meaninglessness, lovelessness, and hopelessness with the message of the divine call, love, and promise.

1 For an account of the Seminary’s history up to the mid-sixties, see No Ivory Tower by Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr. For an account of the Seminary’s history from 1960 to 1980, see Challenge and Response by Perry LeFevre.
We are committed to enabling communities of faith to effectively engage in public ministry, articulating the cry of the dispossessed, the transcendent claim of true justice, and helping to heal the wounds and divisions that disfigure the social body.

We are committed, in a world stratified by social and economic class, to liberation from want, homelessness, hunger, and disease as companions with the poor, challenging structures and decisions that cause poverty, while fostering the year of God’s favor for all.

We are committed, in conscious response to the Holocaust and in recognition of the toll taken by religious division in our world, to fostering better understanding and collaboration among religious traditions, paying particular attention to cooperation between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam toward the end of realizing the aims of the prophetic traditions.

We are committed, in a society riven by racism, to equipping leaders who honor cultural and racial diversity while resolutely combating the forces of division and domination.

We are committed, in a world in which sexism remains a powerful force, to fostering leadership for gender justice, including developing a more mature masculine spirituality, and engaging feminist and womanist spirituality.

We are committed, while church and society are threatened by new forces of division under the banner of homophobia, to developing leadership for a more inclusive church and society.

We are committed, in recognition that the divisions of society are global as well as local and national concerns, to fostering the international collaboration of institutions that have a similar commitment to the transformation of church and society and to the equipping of individuals for this ministry in diverse settings around the world.

II. CTS Organizational Structure

Board of Trustees

The Board meets three times a year. The Board is responsible for the total well-being of the institution. It acts upon recommendations of the President, Academic Dean, and Faculty concerning faculty appointments and promotions, awarding of degrees, and curriculum.

The Board functions through the following committees:

1. The Academic and Student Affairs Committee is responsible for recommendations on policies affecting curriculum and student life. Each year two students chosen by the President and Dean from among the student representatives to the Academic Council will serve as student representatives to the committee and, by extension, to the Board of Trustees. Student representatives have voice but not vote.
2. The Business Affairs Committee is responsible for recommending the budget and policies regarding business and accounting records and systems, financial aid, buildings and grounds, business planning, legal functions, auxiliary enterprises, and non-academic personnel.

3. The Advancement Committee is responsible for recommendations or policies concerning the Seminary’s development programs and public relations efforts.

4. The Committee on Board Affairs, is responsible for nomination of Trustees and for evaluation of individual Trustees’ performance, Board structures, and committee performance.

5. Executive Committee
   a. Membership: The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, the President, and other members as determined by the Board.
   b. Duties: The Executive Committee may exercise the authority of the Board of Trustees in management of the Corporation during the intervals between meetings of the Board of Trustees, subject at all times to the bylaws of the Corporation, and the prior rules, regulations, and directives issued, adopted, or promulgated by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee shall annually evaluate the performance of the President and report its findings to the full Board.

Two students, chosen each year by the President and Academic Dean from the six elected student representatives to Academic Council, represent students to the Board.

The Academic Council

The Academic Council meets monthly, with the Academic Dean presiding. It exercises oversight of all academic matters such as curriculum, admissions, awarding of degrees, and student fellowships. Certain matters approved by Academic Council must go to the Board for final action. Final decisions concerning fellowship awards are made by the faculty, normally working through the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee or the PhD Committee.

The following shall be regular members of the Academic Council:

1. All full-time teaching faculty, the President, and the Librarian with voice and vote.

2. The Registrar and the Director of Recruitment with voice but no vote. Members of the Administrative Council will receive minutes of meetings and are welcome to attend the meetings.

3. Six student representatives, to be selected in a manner decided by the student body, each with voice and a collective maximum of two votes. No single student representative, however, may cast more than one vote.
4. Other members of the Seminary community may be invited to meetings of the Academic Council, on a regular or occasional basis, at the discretion of the Academic Dean or the President.

Much of the work of the Academic Council is carried on through committees, many of which have student members. Committee assignments are made by the Academic Dean in consultation with the President and the faculty.

The Administrative Council

This body (comprised of the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Director of Community Life, and a faculty member appointed by the Academic Dean) provides a central location for institutional planning and problem-solving, with particular attention to issues that affect student life (including student fees). Its activities may include setting and implementing administrative and financial policies; gathering and analyzing institutional data; coordinating school-wide planning (pre- and post-project/event); approving recognized student groups; and functioning within a culture of ongoing assessment regarding administrative matters. The council normally meets monthly and is chaired by the President.

Leadership Team

The Seminary’s Leadership Team is chaired by the President and meets regularly throughout the year. Members of the Leadership Team include the Academic Dean, the Vice-President for Finance and Administration, the Vice-President for Advancement, and other members appointed by the President. Responsibilities include strategic planning; oversight of the seminary’s budget, administrative and financial policies, and major events; regular communication with the Board; coordination and communication across multiple seminary offices; and ongoing evaluation of the seminary’s activities.

Faculty Caucus

Meeting at least monthly during the academic year, the Faculty Caucus convenes in order to proceed with issues pertaining to CTS’s Statement of Mission, Vision, and Commitment, focusing in particular on educational matters. Few formal votes are taken in the Faculty Caucus; wide-ranging discussions in Faculty Caucus more often serve as a common point for decision-making. In addition, issues like the MDiv Middler Review are the focus of certain Faculty Caucus occasions; Middler Review regularly occurs at least once per year.

Recognized Student Organizations

1. Receive recognition from the Administrative Council as student organizations eligible for CTS funds. Both new and continuing organizations apply to the Administrative Council for recognition. Questions about application for recognition should be directed to the Director of Community Life or the Office of the Academic Dean.
2. Receive equal organizational budgets from Seminary funds each academic year. The Administrative Council determines this amount yearly.
3. May choose to have an unpaid faculty or staff advisor.
4. Must have requisitions for funds approved by the Director of Community Life, within approved budgets.
5. Affirm (according to criteria established by Town Meeting in the Spring of 1990) that:

   “It is the mission of student organizations at Chicago Theological Seminary to foster unity in the body of Christ, to encourage community members from different life experiences and from diverse backgrounds to celebrate unique cultural traditions in worship, service and community life.”

Town Hall Meetings

Town Hall Meetings are held to provide opportunity for discussion of issues important to the CTS community. They may be convened to consider policies, aspects of Seminary life, events of concern, and other such issues. These meetings are not intended for determining formal action, but for encouraging better communication among students, faculty, staff, and administration. Town meetings are normally called and organized by elected student representatives to the Academic Council, by the President, by the Academic Dean, or by the Director of Community Life.

III. Academic Information

Admission

Students are admitted to six general degree programs at CTS: the first professional degree (MDiv or MARL), the second professional degree (DMin), and three additional academic degrees (MA, STM, or PhD). Admission to study in one of these degree programs is not equivalent to admission to candidacy. In all cases except MA and STM, students are required to contract degree proposals, meet performance requirements, and/or pass qualifying examinations in order to be admitted to candidacy for a degree.

Course work taken at CTS but applied to a degree received at another educational institution may be applied to a CTS degree subsequently if a petition for transfer credit is approved. When a student who has previously earned a Master’s degree in theological or religious studies is accepted in the MDiv Program, up to one year of coursework (or, 8 courses) applied to the previous degree may be transferred into the MDiv program.

Transfer Students

Because Seminary requirements and course work vary considerably from institution to institution, each transfer student is evaluated individually by the Academic Dean and the Registrar. Courses transferred to CTS must be at the graduate level and from accredited institutions, and students must have received a grade of B or better in these courses. In order
to graduate, students must complete at least one full year of study at CTS. For PhD students, the final determination of transfer credits is made in connection with a student’s degree proposal. Transfer of field education credit is determined by the Director of Theological Field Education in consultation with the MDiv Director, the Registrar, and the Academic Dean. Normally, course credits applied toward degree requirements should be earned within ten years of the awarding of the degree. Once students have matriculated at CTS, they will usually only transfer in elective credits. In the case of required courses, these must be substantially comparable to the CTS course they are replacing. A request to transfer in required courses as a current CTS student will require prior approval from the faculty.

Policy on Advanced Standing

All petitions for advanced standing for previous degree work must be evaluated by the Academic Dean, the Registrar, and the Director of the degree program in which a student seeks advanced standing. Degrees received prior to seven years before entering CTS may not be given full credit toward advanced standing. The amount of advanced standing granted depends on the relevancy of the previous degrees received to the CTS degree program in which the student is enrolled, the accreditation of the institutions where the degrees were received, and the academic performance of the student. Specific policies may be set for particular degree programs. In no case will more than one (1) year’s advanced standing be granted.

Student-at-Large (S.A.L.)

Enrollment as a Student-at-Large is contingent on completion of an application for admission (according to the instructions for S.A.L. applicants) and acceptance by the Admissions Committee. While there is no obligation on the Seminary’s part to admit a student into a degree program, applicants may pursue full admission to degree status after successfully completing four courses.

Students in the S.A.L. category can take courses for academic credit without pursuing a formal course of study. They can also choose to earn a certificate of theological studies after the completion of at least six courses.

Some students are admitted to S.A.L. status on a probationary basis. Some of these students may not possess a baccalaureate degree but otherwise can be shown by objective criteria to possess knowledge, academic skill, and ability that prepares them for theological study at the graduate level. A very few candidates in this category are considered for admission each year. Note: Consideration is given to unique life experience, age, and potential for ministry. Students may take no more than eight courses as a probationary S.A.L., after which time they must be admitted to a degree program to continue their studies.

Students-at-Large can choose to apply for admission to a degree program after successfully completing at least four courses. Students should contact the Registrar for information about this process.
Certificates

SAL students can pursue a Certificate of Theological Studies, which can be awarded at the student's request after the successful completion of six courses. Students who later go on to pursue a further degree at Chicago Theological Seminary and who wish to apply courses used for the Certificate to that program of study can do so only by rescinding the Certificate to the Seminary.

Students can complete a general Certificate, which includes any six elective courses, or they may pursue one of five concentrations in the Certificate.

The Ministry Preparation Concentration requires that students take at least the following:

1. 1 Bible course (from the Hebrew Bible or New Testament sections of the Course Listing)*
2. 1 Theology course (from the Theology section of the Course Listing)*
3. 1 Ministry course (any course designated LM)*
4. UCC History and Polity or an alternate Polity or Church History course as appropriate
5. 2 electives

* Generally an introductory level course.

Other Certificate Concentrations each require that the student take four elective courses in the Concentration area and two additional electives in any area of study. For the Certificate in the Study of Black Faith and Life, these courses must include Introduction to the Study of Black Faith and Life. For the Certificate in Interreligious Engagement, these courses must include Interreligious Engagement. For the Certificate in Chaplaincy Studies, these courses must include Introduction to Chaplaincy Studies, and, if the student has not already taken the equivalent, Introduction to Pastoral Care or Introduction to Pastoral Theology.

Class Attendance Policy

Class attendance policy is determined by each individual instructor.

Leave of Absence/Continuation Fee

Students may arrange to drop out of school for a period of time (be it one semester or longer) without jeopardizing readmission, if the intent to return is clearly stated in writing before a leave of absence is taken. While on leave, students are required to pay a continuation fee for each semester they are on leave (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). A student may not take a leave of absence for more than two years. Under certain circumstances, the seminary may act to put a student on leave of absence.
Inactive Student Status

Students who have not registered for classes, an appropriate continuation, pre-candidacy, or candidacy status, or requested a Leave of Absence in a given Fall or Spring semester will be placed on inactive status. There is no fee for this status. After four consecutive terms on this status for degree program students, or six terms for non-degree students (SAL or Certificate), the inactive student will be separated from the seminary. Students who have been separated can reapply for admission after a lapse of one year.

Financial Aid

CTS offers financial assistance to students in the form of merit-based scholarships and need-based institutional grants. These funds are not available for all academic programs. For details concerning eligibility requirements, the application process, and deadlines, students should contact the Financial Aid Officer. Students who have concerns about financing their education are encouraged to arrange a meeting with the Financial Aid Officer to explore all avenues of assistance, including church and foundation grants, fellowships, and the federal Direct Loan program.

In order to retain eligibility for federal student loans, masters-level students must enroll in at least four courses over the academic year and in no semester may they take fewer than two.

Students who are receiving loans will have their Satisfactory Academic Progress evaluated each semester to ensure their eligibility. For more details, see the Student Success Specialist or the Registrar. The full Satisfactory Academic Progress policy is available on the CTS website at https://www.ctschicago.edu/admissions_costs-and-financial-aid.

Registration

Advising

• Advising assignments will be communicated to incoming (on campus and online) students during Orientation or early in the first semester. Registration for a student’s first semester may be completed with advising by the Registrar.

• Students are expected to meet with their advisors at least once a term, during the registration period for the following term. At the conclusion of an advising conversation, the advisor will provide the student with an enrollment PIN. Students can then self-enroll in classes via the Student Web Portal. Students who cannot meet with their advisor in person will need to contact them by telephone or email.

• During faculty sabbaticals, interim advisors for all students other than PhD students will be appointed by the Dean. Students will be notified of the interim arrangements in advance of the term. PhD students normally retain their regular advisor during a sabbatical.
Changes in advising assignments are made by the Dean in consultation with advisors, potential advisors, and students. Students may request a change in advisor, but there is no guarantee that a specific faculty member will be available as a new advisor.

See individual degree program handbooks for additional information about advising for each degree program.

SAL students will, as much as possible, be assigned advisors by area of interest.

Certificate students will, as much as possible, be assigned an advisor by area of interest and/or from the corresponding Center’s advisory committee or another faculty member with expertise in the area of concentration.

Registration and Pre-registration

The registration process occurs three times a year:

- Summer for new and transfer students;
- Middle of Fall semester for J Term and Spring semester registration;
- End of Spring semester for Summer term registration and pre-registration for the next Fall semester.

1. New students will receive registration information from the seminary as part of their orientation process. Once enrolled, those students who intend to re-enroll the following term must register for the next semester during a designated registration time, along with other continuing students.

2. In order to register, all accounts (tuition, fees, rents) must be up to date (no balance due).

3. If tuition and fees are not paid by the second week of the term, late fees will be assessed (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee).

4. For continuation fees, accounts must be fully paid in order to proceed with formal advisement, scheduling of consultation or examinations, etc.

5. Exceptions to the above policies must be approved by the Administrative Council.

6. At the time of all registrations, students may sign up for health insurance coverage. Major medical health insurance coverage is strongly recommended for all degree students.

7. To register, students first meet with their advisors to discuss their choice of courses. No student may register for more than 7½ hours of classes in any one day. Students studying from a distance may contact their advisors by email or by phone. The advisor will provide the student with their registration PIN.
8. Once a student has received their PIN for the term, that student may register online through the Student Web Portal. Students who experience difficulty registering through the Web Portal, students taking ACTS courses, and students taking Directed Readings should contact the Registrar.

9. Students with any incompletes, who have matriculated in Fall 2015 and later, will not be able to begin Fall courses, and will be placed on inactive status until all incompletes have been resolved. Students with more than two incompletes who matriculated prior to Fall 2015 will not be able to begin Fall courses. PhD students are not covered by this policy, but PhD students with excessive or long-standing incompletes may be prevented from registering for additional courses by the PhD program committee.

Program Changes (Drop/Add)

Dropping and/or adding courses will normally be done only during the first two weeks of a semester. Students who need to withdraw from a course after the first two weeks of the semester should contact the Registrar about the process and may receive a partial refund of tuition based on the portion of the term completed. (See “Late Course Withdrawals,” below.) In all cases, the late admission of a student to a course is subject to the approval of the instructor. Students make program changes through the Registrar. Students will be refunded full tuition within the two-week long drop/add period.

Withdrawals During Intensive Courses

Students may drop an intensive course up through the end of the first day of the course, then will follow the regular withdrawal policy.

Audit

Students paying tuition for credit courses who wish to audit courses in any given term and have that fact recorded on their transcript, may do so for no additional charge. PhD students may audit classes during any term (Fall, J-Term, Spring, and Summer) for no cost if they are registered for courses, in pre-candidacy status, or in candidacy status the previous term, and if they have received the permission of the instructor to audit. All others wishing to have a recorded audit will be charged a fee (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). At the conclusion of the term, the instructor must verify to the Registrar that the student did, in fact, audit the course. Requirements for auditors are set individually by each instructor. There is no fee for an unrecorded audit. The instructor’s permission is required to audit whether it is recorded or unrecorded.

Course Work

Numbering

Introductory courses are usually numbered at the 300 level. Advanced courses are numbered in the 400s. The most advanced seminars are numbered in the 500s and 600s. First degree students are not excluded from advanced courses, but should check with the instructor regarding their readiness for a particular course prior to pre-registration.
Required Courses

Courses required for CTS degree programs are generally taken with CTS faculty. If students wish to substitute an ACTS course or a University of Chicago course for a required course, they should contact the Registrar about obtaining permission. Such permission will require approval by the Academic Dean or the faculty member who normally teaches the required course. Substitution is sometimes necessary when certain faculty members are on sabbatical leave. The suggested sequence of required course work found in the viewbook is not binding. Obviously there is a logic in the suggested sequence that students need to recognize, but there may be good reasons from time to time to alter the suggested order of course work. The suggested sequence also shows students which term the required courses are offered. If a required course is missed in sequence, the student may anticipate that it will be offered in the same term each academic year.

Electives

Although many courses are available at CTS, not all courses are offered on a regular basis. Individual faculty members have regular required course offerings, but rotate the electives they offer. A course listing is available from the Registrar’s Office, as well as a tentative schedule for upcoming terms of the academic year. Course offerings from all ACTS seminaries can be accessed on the ACTS website (http://www.actschicago.org/).

Directed Study for Advanced Students

Advanced students will sometimes be permitted to enroll in directed study courses with professors in topics not covered by available course work. Required courses may not be taken in directed study form. Students wishing to enroll in directed study should contact the instructor with whom they wish to work in advance of registration. In all cases, permission of the instructor is required. Normally, directed study courses are focused on advanced topics. Faculty members are limited to a maximum number of directed study courses per year, and priority will be given to the needs of PhD students rather than masters-level students in determining which directed study courses can be offered.

Online Communication

CTS uses multiple technology tools for communication. Among these, CTS uses a platform called Moodle (http://ctsonline.mrooms.net/) for online learning. All online courses have the course’s website on Moodle, and many of the face-to-face courses use Moodle’s discussion forum feature to enhance the temporal nature of the in-class discussion. CTS Connect (https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctsconnect/) is a social and academic networking tool with a particular emphasis on fostering the sense of community among students. CTS email (https://mail.ctschicago.edu/owa) is an important communication tool among faculty, students, and staff.

Because electronic communication is an integral part of our life as students in all of the above platforms, we need to be clear, polite, and compassionate in what we say so that our true intent can come across without creating any misunderstandings. The CTS Netiquette (etiquette on the Internet) statement, which can be found on every course’s Moodle page, should be
used as a guiding principle in our online communications. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this document and to abide by its principles.

**Theological Field Education Units**

Students starting in the MDiv or MARL programs should confer with the Director of Theological Field Education about requirements in Theological Field Education. See the MDiv and MARL program handbooks for more information regarding these requirements.

**The Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS)**

ACTS includes the following seminaries in the Chicago metropolitan area: Chicago Theological Seminary, Catholic Theological Union, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, McCormick Theological Seminary, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Mundelein Seminary, North Park Theological Seminary, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Bexley Hall Seabury Western Seminary Federation, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

**ACTS Courses**

Students are encouraged to select elective course work from offerings of the Chicago area seminaries, either by enrolling in regular electives offered at other ACTS institutions or by participation in interdisciplinary ACTS concentrations taught by several faculty from different institutions. Registration for course work taken in any of these schools normally requires no special procedure or fee other than filling out a few extra forms at the time of registration. However, some ACTS schools do not accept cross-registration by doctoral students. Doctoral students who wish to take an ACTS course should consult their advisor and the Registrar. Most ACTS courses can be accessed at [http://www.actschicago.org/](http://www.actschicago.org/).

**University of Chicago Courses**

All degree students may enroll in University of Chicago courses with the approval of the student’s advisor or the Registrar. All students are required to pay full bi-registration tuition and fees.

**CTS Courses**

Although CTS allows students to enroll in ACTS seminaries and the University of Chicago, students are normally expected to take a majority of their courses for any degree program with CTS faculty (whether full-time or adjunct). It is appropriate for the institution awarding a degree to be the primary focus of a student’s education. Normally, no more than half of the student’s courses may be taken at other institutions.

**Course Evaluations**

Course evaluations are an important part of the process of curricular assessment at CTS and are considered course requirements. Course evaluations are normally completed online at the end of each term. Students in online courses may also be asked to evaluate their courses mid-
way through the term. Instructions about how to complete course evaluations are provided by email.

**Academic Records**

**Grading Symbols**

The standard grading evaluation will be A (excellent), B (above average), C (average), D (below average), F (failure), I (incomplete), PI (permanent incomplete), and W (withdrawn). As a whole, and with permission of the instructor, a student may elect to take a course pass/fail.

**Grade Reports**

Student grades will be available on the Student Portal after the conclusion of each term. Grades will normally be posted no later than three weeks after the end of the term. Final papers are generally also available several weeks after the end of the term (please contact the individual professor for the method of return).

**Grade Point Average**

For purposes of computing the GPA (grade point average), the following values will be used: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0, W=0. Plus and minus grades may be assigned and have a value of +.3 and -.3 respectively. Students will not receive credit for a PI, but the PI will not be assigned a numerical value for the purposes of computing GPA.

**Retaking Courses**

Courses for which a student receives a poor or failing grade can be retaken. Students normally must pay tuition when they retake a course. Once the course has been successfully completed, the grade in for the original course will be replaced with an R (repeated course), and only the new grade will impact the student's cumulative grade point average.

**Transcripts**

Requests for official transcripts must be made in writing to the Registrar by the student (request forms are available in the Registrar’s Office and on the CTS website). See the Schedule of Fees for amount of transcript fee. Official transcripts will be issued only if the requestor is in good financial standing with the Seminary. No transcripts from other institutions will be sent out by CTS.

**Transfer of Credits**

Students taking accredited Seminary work elsewhere who wish to have that work officially transferred to CTS must make that request in writing to the Registrar. Courses to be transferred must be graduate level, and doctoral level for doctoral students, and normally will not have counted toward a prior degree. Courses with a grade of B- or below will not transfer in. Advanced standing without credit may exempt students from required courses, permitting the substitution of electives to fulfill CTS degree requirements. Transfer credits do not apply to
a student’s cumulative GPA, and the grades of transferred courses are not listed on a student’s CTS transcript. Any questions about what is an acceptable transfer credit should be referred to the Registrar, who will consult with the Academic Dean or other faculty members. Also, work done prior to seven years before entering CTS may not be considered for transfer credits.

Incomplete Policy

All students requesting to take an Incomplete in any given course must check with their instructor in advance. It is strongly recommended that students contact instructors in advance of the end of the term, because not all instructors allow Incompletes. The instructor may require the student to complete an Incomplete Form, which is to be filled out by the student and professor and filed with the Registrar. In some cases, instructors will choose to give a student an Incomplete grade at the end of the term without being previously contacted by the student. This is at the discretion of the instructor.

In all cases, incomplete work will be due by August 15th (for all courses from the previous Summer, Fall, J-Term and Spring). All incomplete work should be turned in to the Registrar, or the Registrar should be copied when the student sends work by email to the instructor.

If work is not turned in to the Registrar by August 15th, the student will automatically receive a grade Permanent Incomplete (PI), except in cases where faculty and students have agreed on a variation to the above policy (a different due date, a different default grade, etc.), using the Incomplete Form.

For students matriculating in Fall 2015 and later: Each Fall, students with any remaining incompletes will not be able to begin Fall courses, and will be placed on inactive status until all incompletes have been resolved.

For students who matriculated prior to Fall 2015: Each Fall, students with more than two incompletes will not be able to begin Fall courses. PhD students are not covered by this policy, but PhD students with excessive or long-standing incompletes may be prevented from registering for additional courses by the PhD Center.

Late Course Withdrawals

Course drops during the add/drop period carry no financial penalty. After the first two weeks of the semester, students are not permitted to drop courses. Instead, students can seek approval to withdraw from a course. Students who wish to withdraw from a course after the add/drop date has passed must contact the Registrar. The Registrar will initiate the withdrawal approval process.

That process is as follows:

- Withdrawal requires approval by the course instructor, the Registrar, the Academic Dean, and the Student Success Specialist.
- If the student has federal loans, the Student Success Specialist will review the student’s case and discuss the student’s responsibilities for tuition payment and loan repayment as necessary.
• If the student is withdrawing from all courses in a given term and wishes to remain in their Seminary program, they will be considered inactive for that term. The normal inactive student policy will apply.
• If the student is entirely withdrawing from the Seminary, this must be conveyed in writing to the Registrar.

Following a course withdrawal, a grade of “W” will be recorded for the course on the student’s transcript. The “W” grade carries no grade points and will not impact the student’s GPA.

Students will be responsible for tuition for withdrawn courses according to the following schedule:

• Up to 60% of the term, students will be responsible for paying the portion of tuition and fees that correlates to the percentage of the term they have completed. The percentage of tuition and fees correlating to the uncompleted percentage of the term can be applied to a future term.
• The percentage of the term will be calculated by the percentage of calendar days that have passed in the term. This calculation excludes the seven days the seminary is closed for reading week.
• After 60% of the term, no refund of tuition or fees will be made.
• In cases where a withdrawal decreases the student’s loan eligibility for the term, the student will be responsible to return any overpayment of loan funds. The Seminary will first draw on any surplus of funds in a student’s account due to course withdrawal to resolve the overpayment. The student will have 30 days following notification of overpayment by the Seminary to return any remaining overpayment directly to the Seminary. After 30 days, the Seminary will report overpayment to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and the student will be responsible for repayment directly to the Department of Education. This will also render the student ineligible for further federal student loans and in-school loan deferment until the overpayment has been resolved.

If a student does not follow the withdrawal process outlined above and ceases to participate in one or more courses, potential consequences include:

• Course failure
• Requirement to repay student loan funds either to the Seminary or directly to the Department of Education.

**Student Records**

Student records will be kept in the Registrar’s Office for five (5) years except for official transcripts which will be kept indefinitely. See Section IV, “Student Records Policies and Procedures,” for information regarding access to student records.
Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

Warning

A warning will be issued to students whose previous term’s academic performance was low, but whose cumulative record is not below the minimum graduation level.

Probation

Students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below the minimum standard for graduation in the degree program in which they are enrolled will be placed on academic probation at the beginning of the term following the term in which academic performance fell below the minimum.

Removal of Probation

If the academic performance of students during the probationary term raises their GPA above the minimum graduation standards, students are removed from probation at the beginning of the next term. If not, students continue on probation for a second term.

Separation

Students who, during two successive semesters on probation, do not raise their GPA to minimum graduation standards, may be separated from the Seminary. Separated students cease to have student status.

Readmission

If students who have been separated wish to re-apply for admission, this may be done, but normally no such application will be considered until the lapse of one year from the time of separation, and under no circumstances before the lapse of a semester. An application for readmission must show due cause why the Seminary should reconsider a student. All students readmitted after separation return with probationary status.

Graduation and Placement

Graduation

Degrees are regularly awarded at Commencement in May. Graduation without ceremony is also possible at the beginning of the Fall and Spring Semesters. Students planning to graduate must file a declaration of intent with the Registrar six weeks prior to graduation. A graduation fee is charged to help cover expenses (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). Graduation announcements are available approximately a month before Commencement. No
student with outstanding debts to the Seminary will be allowed to graduate or participate in the graduation ceremony.

Placement

MDiv students are encouraged early in their professional studies to affiliate actively with an appropriate ecclesiastical body if they are pursuing ordination or, in most cases, professional ministry. Announcements for openings in ministerial and academic positions are posted on the CTS website and also on the third floor bulletin boards near the student mailboxes.

Degree Programs

**Note: All students should consult the appropriate degree program handbook for more information about the requirements of the degree in which they enroll.**

Courses Required

The various degree programs at CTS require the following number of satisfactorily completed courses:

- **Master of Arts (MA)**
  - 16 courses
- **Master of Arts in Religious Leadership (MARL)**
  - 17 courses
- **Master of Divinity (MDiv)**
  - 25 courses
- **Master of Sacred Theology (STM)**
  - 8 courses
- **Doctor of Ministry (DMin)**
  - 10 courses, of which 4 are required intensives
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**
  - 12 courses

Most courses give one academic credit (3 semester hours). Exceptions to this policy will be noted on the course offering schedule.

**Master of Arts (MA)**

Students already possessing a first theological degree may petition the MA committee to design a program of study that includes either transfer credits or advanced standing (see “Transfer of Credits,” above). The following are course requirements:

- Interpreting the Hebrew Bible
- Interpreting the Gospels
- History of Christian Thought
- Christian Ethics or Global Sensitivity in Ministry
- Systematic Theology
- Master’s Writing Seminar
- 10 electives

Consult the MA/STM Program Handbook for further information, or direct questions to the Registrar or the Academic Dean.
Master of Arts in Religious Leadership (MARL)

The Master of Arts in Religious Leadership (MARL) at CTS is a single program with three concentrations: Interreligious Engagement, Social Transformation, and Word and Worship. All concentrations require a unit of supervised Theological Field Education, at a site consistent with a student’s vocational interests and concentration. The degree culminates in a project paper (written during a required seminar), which normally integrates a student’s field education experience and theological studies.

For students who began their program prior to Fall 2014, the program’s requirements are as follows:

Requirements common to all concentrations
Interpreting the Hebrew Bible
History of Christian Thought or History of Jewish Thought
Interpreting the Gospels or Interpreting the Epistles
Systematic Theology (or alternate by petition)
Theories of Change for Personal and Social Transformation
Leadership and Ministry in Context (two terms)
Project Seminar
Field Placement
Four free electives
Four courses specific to the concentration, as follows:

Religious Leadership for Word and Worship
  1 Preaching Course
  1 Worship Course
  2 electives in the concentration

Religious Leadership for Social Transformation
  Christian Ethics OR Dangerous Religious Ideas OR Explorations in Jewish Ethics
  Global Sensitivity in Ministry
  2 electives in the concentration

Religious Leadership for Interfaith Engagement
  Introduction to Interfaith Studies
  Global Sensitivity in Ministry
  2 courses in non-Christian religious traditions or in comparative religious studies

Students beginning study in the MARL program in Fall 2014 or later will develop a program of study customized according to background, experience, and interests. Each program of study must be approved by the student’s advisor and the MARL Committee, normally by the end of the first semester in the program. A draft program of study, approved by the advisor, should be submitted to the MARL Program Director by the beginning of December for Committee review.

The following requirements are shared for all concentrations:
Seven core courses:
- 2 courses in sacred texts
- 2 courses in religious thought/history
- 1 course in personal/social transformation
- Leadership and Ministry in Context
- 1 capstone seminar and project paper

One unit of Theological Field Education
Four courses in a student’s concentration
Five free electives

Students with an approved program of study will be evaluated on the basis of an assessment portfolio. For more details on the portfolio, see the MARL Handbook or contact the MARL Director, the Registrar, or the Academic Dean.

**Master of Divinity (MDiv)**

The following are course requirements:

- Interpreting the Hebrew Bible
- Interpreting the Gospels
- Two of the following three:
  - Interpreting the Epistles
  - Interpreting the Hebrew Bible II
  - Bible Elective
- History of Christian Thought
- Religion in North America
- Christian Ethics
- Systematic Theology
- Constructive Theology (includes an oral exam at conclusion of course)
- Theology elective
- Global Sensitivity in Ministry
- Leadership and Ministry in Context
- Introduction to Pastoral Care
- Preaching or Worship elective
- Living Our Commitments
- Ministry elective
- One elective course in a religious tradition other than Christianity
- Seven additional electives

Field Placement (taken in conjunction with Leadership and Ministry in Context)
Clinical Pastoral Education

Consult the MDiv Program Handbook for further information, or direct questions to the MDiv Director, the Registrar, or the Academic Dean.
Master of Sacred Theology (STM)

Objectives: The STM is a post-MDiv one-year degree primarily for students who wish to focus their study in a particular aspect of the theological curriculum.

Structures: A flexible program, its focus is designed by each student in tandem with the STM Director. Students must complete seven electives and participate in the Master’s Writing Seminar.

Consult the MA/STM Program Handbook for further information, or direct questions to the Registrar or the Academic Dean.

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Admission requires an MDiv, or a first graduate theological degree providing equivalent theological background, or its educational equivalent, from an accredited institution of higher education.

The course of study is designed to prepare women, men, and non-binary persons for responsible transformative leadership in a variety of settings. The degree may be undertaken to enhance endeavors, to broaden horizons, or to prepare for a new focus.

A minimum of three years ministry experience between reception of the MDiv degree and the initiation of the DMin program is expected.

An oral exam is held on the Project in Ministry paper.

Consult the DMin Program Handbook for further information, or direct questions to the DMin Director, the Registrar, or the Academic Dean.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The PhD program is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary degree emphasizing cultural criticism and textual hermeneutics oriented toward social justice. Students in the program have multiple areas of inquiry around which they can focus their studies.

The course of study includes 12 courses, 2 language exams, 4 qualifying exams, a dissertation proposal, and a final dissertation.

Consult the PhD Program Handbook for further information, or direct questions to the PhD Program Director, the Registrar, or the Academic Dean.

Concentrations

Students in the MDiv and STM programs may elect a concentration as part of their degree program. Concentrations include the Study of Black Faith and Life, Interreligious Engagement, LGBTQ Religious Studies, and Chaplaincy Studies. For more information about these
concentrations, consult individual degree program handbooks. MDiv and STM students planning to pursue a concentration should inform both the Registrar and their faculty advisor of this intention.

**Academic Review**

The faculty will undertake an academic review of MA, MARL, and MDiv students who have completed four courses, but before the completion of more than eight courses.

**Candidacy**

Admission to study at CTS is not admission to candidacy. All students except MA and STM students must prepare an acceptable degree proposal, or satisfactorily pass a candidacy examination in order to be formally admitted to a particular degree program. See degree program handbooks for details on the candidacy process.

**Level of Performance Required**

All programs require a cumulative B average (3.0) or higher for graduation.

**Statute of Limitations**

If a student approaches the limit, s/he must petition the relevant degree committee for an extension. The limitations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Limitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARL</td>
<td>five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDiv</td>
<td>six years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMin(part-time)</td>
<td>six years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STM</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>nine years (see PhD Handbook)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Doctoral Candidate Status**

Students in doctoral programs who have completed course work and continue to work on their dissertation or Professional Paper under faculty supervision must pay a candidacy fee each semester to retain candidate status (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). Students in the PhD program who have completed course work but have not been admitted to candidacy pay a pre-candidacy continuation fee each semester to maintain student status (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). The fee entitles the student to an ACTS library sticker. A student not maintaining status is no longer considered to be seeking a degree and must apply for readmission.
IV. Student Records Policies and Procedures

A college, university, or any institution of higher learning is required by Section 99.7 of the FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act) regulations to provide students annual notification of their FERPA rights.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, Chicago Theological Seminary (hereafter CTS) has used the following definitions of terms:

1. Student: Any person who attends or has attended CTS.

2. Education records: Any record (in handwriting, print, tapes, films, or other medium) maintained by CTS or an agent of the Seminary which is directly related to a student, except:
   a. A personal record kept by a staff member if it is kept in the sole possession of the maker of the record and is not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record.
   b. An employment record of an individual whose employment is not contingent on the fact that he or she is a student, provided the record is used only in relation to the individual’s employment.
   c. Records made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional if the records are used only for treatment of a student and made available only to those persons providing the treatment.
   d. Alumni records which contain information about a student after he or she is no longer in attendance at CTS and which do not relate to the person as a student.

Annual Notification

Students will be notified of their FERPA rights annually by publication in the handbook. Entering students will receive a copy of the FERPA rights in their registration materials.

Procedure To Inspect Student Records

Students may inspect and review their education records upon request to the Registrar. Students should submit to the Registrar a written request which identifies as precisely as possible the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

1. The Registrar will make the needed arrangements for access as promptly as possible and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. Access must be given in 45 days or less from the receipt of the request.
2. When a record contains information about more than one student, the student may inspect and review only the records which relate to him or her.

Right of CTS To Refuse Access

CTS reserves the right to refuse to permit a student to inspect the following records:

1. Letters and statements of recommendation for which the student has waived his or her right of access, or which were placed in file before January 1, 1975.

2. Records connected with an application to attend CTS if that application was denied.

3. Those records which are excluded from FERPA definitions of education records.

Refusal To Provide Copies

CTS reserves the right to deny transcripts or copies of record not required to be made available by FERPA in any of the following situations:

1. The student lives within commuting distance of CTS.

2. The student has an unpaid financial obligation to CTS.

3. There is an unresolved disciplinary action against the student.

Disclosure of Education Records

CTS will disclose information from a student’s education records only with written consent of the student except:

1. To school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the records.

   a. A school official is:

      i. A person employed by the Seminary in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position.

      ii. A person elected to the Board of Trustees.

      iii. A person employed by or under contract to the Seminary to perform a special task, such as the attorney or auditor.

      iv. A student serving a designated official role on the Admissions Committee (Admissions records only).
b. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official is:

i. Performing a task that is specified in his or her position description or by a contract agreement.

ii. Performing a task related to a student’s education.

iii. Performing a task related to the discipline of a student.

iv. Providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student’s family, such as health care, counseling, job placement, or financial aid.

2. To officials of another school, upon request, in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. (CTS will make a reasonable attempt to notify the student of the transfer.)

3. To certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, and state and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported education programs.

4. In connection with a student’s request for or receipt of financial aid as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount, or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.

5. If required by a state law requiring disclosure that was adopted before November 19, 1974.

6. To organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the Seminary.

7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.

8. To comply with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena.

9. To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency.

10. Directory information so designated by the Seminary.

11. The results of any disciplinary proceeding conducted by CTS against an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence to the alleged victim of that crime.

Fee For Copies of Records

1. There is a fee charged per transcript issued (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee).

2. There is a per page fee for copies of other documents in a student’s file (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee).
Types, Locations, and Custodians of Education Records

The following is a list of the types of records that CTS maintains, their location, and their custodians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Custodians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Records (including immunization forms where applicable)</td>
<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Academic Records (current students and 5 years after graduation or withdrawal)</td>
<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Academic Records (former students; over 5 years after graduation or withdrawal)</td>
<td>CTS Storage</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Records</td>
<td>CTS Finance Office</td>
<td>General Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciplinary Records</td>
<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Dean’s Office</td>
<td>Academic Dean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Record of Requests for Disclosure

CTS will maintain a record of all requests for or disclosure of information from a student’s education records. The record will indicate the name of the party making the request, any additional party to whom it may be disclosed, and the legitimate interest the party had in requesting or obtaining the information. The record may be reviewed by eligible students.

Directory Information

CTS designates the following items as Directory Information:

1. Student name
2. Address
3. Telephone number
4. Email address
5. Degree program
6. Student photograph

Directories may be published at the beginning of the Fall Term and distributed to the CTS community. Students will be asked at their initial registration for classes to fill out a “Directory Information Permission Form” and to either grant or deny permission to publish their directory information for the duration of their course(s) of study at CTS. A student desiring to change the status of permission previously granted/denied should notify the Registrar’s Office in writing before the end of the first week of any Fall Term.
Correction of Education Records

Students have the right to ask to have records corrected that they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights. Following are the procedures for the correction of records:

1. A student must ask the appropriate official of CTS to amend a record. In so doing, the student should identify the part of the record they want to change and specify why they believe it is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of his or her privacy or other rights.

2. CTS may comply with the request or it may decide not to comply. If it decided not to comply, the Seminary will notify the student of the decision and advise them of their right to appeal the decision.

3. If the student decides to appeal, the student presents a request to the Academic Dean. The Dean will review the information and respond to the student’s request in writing.

4. If the student wishes to continue the appeal, the student may petition the Academic Council. The council will prepare a written decision based solely on the evidence presented. The decision will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reasons for the decision.

5. If CTS decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s right of privacy, it will notify the student that he or she has a right to place in the record a statement commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision.

6. The statement will be maintained as part of the student’s education records as long as the contested portion is maintained. If CTS discloses the contested portion of the record, it must also disclose the statement.

7. If the Academic Council decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student’s right of privacy, it will amend the record and notify the student, in writing, that the record has been amended.

8. The decision of the Academic Council is final.

**NOTICE** As of January 3, 2012, the U.S. Department of Education’s FERPA regulations expand the circumstances under which your education records and personally identifiable information (PII) contained in such records — including your Social Security Number, grades, or other private information — may be accessed without your consent. First, the U.S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or state and local education authorities (“Federal and State Authorities”) may allow access to your records and PII without your consent to any third party designated by a Federal or State Authority to evaluate a federal- or state-supported education program. The evaluation may relate to any program that is “principally engaged in the provision of education,” such as early childhood
education and job training, as well as any program that is administered by an education agency or institution. Second, Federal and State Authorities may allow access to your education records and PII without your consent to researchers performing certain types of studies, in certain cases even when we object to or do not request such research. Federal and State Authorities must obtain certain use-restriction and data security promises from the entities that they authorize to receive your PII, but the Authorities need not maintain direct control over such entities. In addition, in connection with Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems, State Authorities may collect, compile, permanently retain, and share without your consent PII from your education records, and they may track your participation in education and other programs by linking such PII to other personal information about you that they obtain from other Federal or State data sources, including workforce development, unemployment insurance, child welfare, juvenile justice, military service, and migrant student records systems.

V. Smoking Policy

Students are required to follow Illinois state law with regard to smoking in public places. The law states, “Smoking in public places, places of employment, and governmental vehicles is prohibited. No person shall smoke in a public place or in any place of employment or within 15 feet of any entrance to a public place or place of employment.” Therefore, smoking in CTS classrooms, offices, or other indoor spaces is prohibited, as is smoking within 15 feet of any CTS building entrance. This policy covers cigarettes, pipes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, and comparable devices.

VI. Non-Academic Discipline Policy

The issues of non-academic discipline or potential dismissal for non-academic reasons include, but are not limited to, actions that are disruptive to the educational process and/or violate Seminary policies or procedures. The intention of the following procedure is to resolve such issues while providing immediate assistance to those persons so involved while maintaining confidentiality regarding this procedure.

1. Faculty members have the authority to dismiss a student from a class session for disruptive behavior.

2. Referrals from members of the Seminary community can be made to the Academic Dean regarding any student’s alleged misconduct, including disruptive actions that may result from the use of alcohol and/or chemical substances.

3. All concerns and complaints and documentary evidence should be forwarded to the Academic Dean for an initial assessment. The Academic Dean may then consult with outside professional resources including legal counsel in specific cases if necessary, but otherwise, the concern or complaint will be kept confidential within that office.

4. If possible, the Academic Dean will arrange an informal discussion with the student who is the subject of concern. This student may wish to bring a supportive person to this meeting. The Academic Dean may wish to include the student’s faculty advisor and/or
the director of the student’s program. The focus of an initial meeting will be the student’s actions and a discussion of the specifics of any concern or complaint lodged against him or her and to attempt to facilitate a resolution. The person who brought the concern may or may not be present at this initial meeting.

5. In all cases, the Academic Dean will exercise confidentiality at this stage, holding participants to such confidentiality. A series of such meetings may then occur.

6. In case the concern or complaint is not resolved, the Academic Dean will report and make recommendations regarding issues of non-academic discipline to the President of the Seminary. A copy of the report will also be sent to the student.

7. The student may be subject to probation, suspension, or dismissal, as decided by the President.

8. If dismissal is warranted, the student may elect to voluntarily withdraw from the Seminary. If he or she does not do so then he or she may appeal a dismissal decision to the Administrative Council of the Seminary. The Administrative Council, with the President of the Seminary participating without vote, except in the case of a tie vote, will decide on cases of dismissal after a hearing. A student ombudsperson elected by the student may participate during the hearing but with no vote. The student facing dismissal shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to present evidence and to confront adverse witnesses during this hearing. Neither the ombudsperson nor the legal counsel will be present during the taking of the deciding vote; said vote will occur during executive session of the Administrative Council. A written report of the proceedings and the decision of the Administrative Council will be made available to the student.

9. Decisions of the Administrative Council may be appealed to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the board of Trustees. Appeal is made by filing a written petition to appeal with the Academic Dean who will forward the petition to the Committee. The decision of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee shall be final.

Appeals to the anti-discrimination policy will follow the same appeals process as the non-academic discipline policy.

**VII. Plagiarism Complaint Procedure**

**Definition**

Plagiarism is commonly defined as the use of others’ ideas or words without acknowledgement or attribution.² Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

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² This discussion draws upon material published by the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/). For writing examples and links, see this site.
1. copying the words of others (whether published or unpublished) without proper indication (quotation marks, for example) or citation (sources, footnotes, etc.)

2. submitting the work of others in one’s own name (buying a paper, downloading or copying from the internet, having another person write for you)

3. failure to acknowledge the source of ideas you are using in your own work

4. paraphrasing the words of others with only minimal alteration and without attribution

Plagiarism is unacceptable at Chicago Theological Seminary. It is grounds for disciplinary action, including separation from the school.

Procedure

The following procedure represents a specification and codification of the practice of Chicago Theological Seminary.

1. A professor who believes that plagiarism has taken place shall notify the Academic Dean, specifying the terms of the complaint and the evidence. The student shall meet with the Dean to discuss the complaint, the evidence, and the applicable policies.

2. Depending upon the nature and severity of the complaint, and with the concurrence of the Dean, the professor may choose to resolve the issue directly with the student. This could be appropriate where the plagiarism is both minor and reasonably construed as unintentional or accidental. Examples of such resolution include (but are not limited to) failure for the particular assignment and resubmission of the work, additional work, research on standards for academic writing, ethical reflection, etc.

3. If, due to the nature and severity of the complaint, direct resolution is not deemed appropriate or possible, either the professor or the Dean may choose to bring a formal charge of plagiarism against the student. This charge shall be provided to the student in writing, with an explanation of the cause of the charge and the reasons for bringing the charge, based upon the definition of plagiarism contained within this policy. The Dean will invite the student to submit a written statement concerning the complaint within two weeks of receiving the charge, including any exculpatory evidence the student desires to be included in faculty deliberations. The student may invite another student or staff person to accompany them for clarification throughout this process. All participants will respect confidentiality. The complaint and evidence will be considered by an executive session of the Academic Council (faculty only). Other persons may be invited to this session by the Dean for cause.

4. The complaint may be either dismissed or upheld. Upon a finding that plagiarism has taken place, the faculty can apply such academic penalties as it sees fit. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to, failure for the course in question at that point (recorded as “Withdrawn/Failure” on the transcript), requirement to repeat the course for graduation (in the case of a required course), leave of absence from the Seminary for a stated period, or permanent separation from the institution. A student may be required to show evidence of changed behavior in order to continue or return to
students. Students permitted to continue studies will be maintained on academic probation until graduation. Appeals follow the procedures described in non-academic discipline.

5. The Dean will provide to the student in writing the rationale for the penalty determined regarding the complaint. Subsequently, the Registrar will be available to the student to seek and provide clarification regarding specific actions required of the student where they affect their program of study.

VIII. Accreditation and Student Complaint Procedures

The Seminary is accredited by two agencies:

1. The **Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools** in the United States and Canada has approved the following degree programs:

   MDiv – Master of Divinity  
   MARL – Master of Arts in Religious Leadership  
   MA – Master of Arts (Religious Studies)  
   DMin – Doctor of Ministry  
   STM – Master of Sacred Theology  
   PhD – Doctor of Philosophy

   In addition, the Association of Theological Schools has approved a Comprehensive Distance Education Program.

   Contact:  
   The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275, USA  
   Telephone: 412-788-6505, Fax: 412-788-6510, Website: www.ats.edu

2. The **Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association**, and the following degree programs are approved:

   MDiv – Master of Divinity  
   MARL – Master of Arts in Religious Leadership  
   MA – Master of Arts (Religious Studies)  
   DMin – Doctor of Ministry  
   STM – Master of Sacred Theology  
   PhD – Doctor of Philosophy

   Contact:  
   The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 4000, Chicago, IL 60602-2504  
   Telephone: 800.621.7440, Website: www.ncahlc.org
Students wishing to make complaints related to the failure of the Seminary to comply with the accrediting standards of the Association of Theological Schools or the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association may address their concerns to the office of the President. Records of such complaints are kept in the office of the President. Students who believe they have an unresolved complaint against the Seminary that may fall within the purview of our accrediting agencies can address such complaints directly to those agencies.

Copies of the accreditation standards and procedures are available from the office of the Seminary President.

**Veteran Benefits**

Chicago Theological Seminary works with veterans, members of the US Armed Forces, and their dependents to assist them in taking full advantage of their educational benefits. However, Chicago Theological Seminary does not participate in the Yellow Ribbon program. For information about accessing your educational benefits as a student at Chicago Theological Seminary, contact the Registrar.

**IX. Academic Grievance Policy**

The following process is modeled on, and incorporates some material from, Grievance Procedures developed by Luther Seminary.

These procedures for academic grievance are intended to ensure fair treatment of students in regard to educational or related concerns. A starting assumption for the use of these procedures is that faculty members have ultimate responsibility for the evaluation of student progress and the assigning of grades in their courses. A student’s unhappiness with a grade normally does not rise to the level of academic grievance, though disagreements about grades may be involved in academic grievance under exceptional circumstances.

Complaints regarding discrimination or harassment are handled under the Seminary’s Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment policies. Complaints about the fitness of a faculty member are handled under Faculty Discipline procedures.

**A. First Level:**

In a matter where there is disagreement between a student and a member of the faculty, or between a member of the faculty and other members of the Seminary community, the parties involved with one another should first speak with one another, clarifying the nature of the problem, the issues involved, and possible responses or solutions to the conflict, with the goal of coming to a mutually agreed upon resolution of the matter among themselves without additional participation from other members of the community.
B. Second Level:

If a conflict is of a nature or intensity that the procedure outlined in the First Level is not adequate or appropriate, any of the parties involved may request that the Academic Dean join them in a conversation where the following process will be followed:

1. The persons involved in the conflict will attempt to state the nature of the conflict and describe their understanding of what is at stake in the disagreement. Each party will also describe their involvement thus far in the situation.

2. The persons involved will then have the opportunity to suggest ways in which they believe the conflict might be resolved.

3. With the third-party involvement of the Academic Dean, the persons involved will work in a collaborative effort to explore and then choose a satisfactory response and resolution to the conflict. Such collaboration may involve a single meeting or several meetings.

4. If the Academic Dean is one of the subjects of a conflict, the President will fill the role of Academic Dean described above.

5. The Academic Dean may make a written recommendation to the parties at the conclusion of this process.

C. Third Level:

In a dispute where a resolution satisfactory to both parties is not achieved at the first or second level within 30 days, the Academic Dean will meet again with both parties as well as a senior faculty member (holding the rank of Full Professor), with each party involved in the conflict having the opportunity to describe:

1. The nature of the problem as s/he perceives it;

2. the intellectual, theological, communal, personal, or emotional issues involved; and

3. the significance of the issues and what is at stake for each person involved.

Either the student or the faculty member may choose to bring to this meeting a supportive student or faculty colleague. In cases where the Academic Dean is one of the subjects of a conflict, the President will fill the role of Academic Dean described above.

At such time, in a spirit of collaboration, each person in this group will suggest various responses and resolutions to this conflict. Where such collaboration is not possible because of the dimensions or intensity of the conflict, the Academic Dean and the senior faculty member will determine what measures will be taken in an effort to resolve the dispute. At this stage, possible remedies range from further mediation (informal or formal) to referrals to the policy on Student Non-Academic Discipline (described in the Student Handbook) or the policy on Faculty Discipline Procedures for Appointed Faculty (described further below).
X. Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment

General Policy Statement and Notice of Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment

Chicago Theological Seminary is committed to fostering the full humanity of all its members. All forms of discrimination and harassment impugn the full humanity of any human being and for this reason are not tolerated in this Seminary. Chicago Theological Seminary does not discriminate, or tolerate discrimination or harassment, against any member of its community on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex/gender, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law in matters of employment or admissions or in any aspect of the educational programs or activities it offers.

In furtherance of Chicago Theological Seminary’s commitment to the principles of equality and equal opportunity for students, staff, and faculty this policy and the associated procedures are established to provide a means to address complaints of discrimination or harassment based on the protected categories described herein.

The policy has been written with the express goal of protecting the rights and concerns of both complainant and respondent. The Seminary will make every effort to assure and protect these rights, and shall undertake no action that threatens or compromises them. Those entrusted with administering this policy are advised to look at the individual situation, the totality of the circumstances, and the nature of the acts involved and to use this policy as a guide on a case-by-case basis.

Overview of Prohibited Acts

Discrimination

No Chicago Theological Seminary student, faculty, or staff member shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in connection with any Chicago Theological Seminary service, program or activity on the basis of any of the following projected categories: race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex/gender, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

Note on Title IX: This policy also addresses the requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”). Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in federally funded education programs and activities. Title IX states as follows:

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

Discrimination on the basis of sex (i.e., sex discrimination) includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual violence. Sexual harassment of employees or other types of sex discrimination in employment may also be a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
Harassment

Harassment, including sexual harassment, is a form of discrimination. Chicago Theological Seminary does not tolerate any form of harassment and considers such behavior – whether physical or verbal – to be a breach of standards of conduct. Harassment is unwelcome conduct that is based on: race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex/gender, age, religion, disability, pregnancy, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. Harassment becomes unlawful when the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work or learning environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

Sexual Harassment

Prohibited conduct includes all forms of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, as well as sexual assault and sexual violence. Sexual harassment, which includes sexual assault and sexual violence, may take many forms. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other written or verbal abuse of a sexual nature when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of employment decisions or academic decisions affecting such individual; or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, academic, or social environment.

Examples may include, but are not limited: to verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic commentary about an individual’s body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies; derogatory or demeaning comments of a sexual nature about a woman or a man; leering at, fondling, pinching, or brushing against another body; offensive sexual language; displaying objects or pictures without clear pedagogical context which are sexual in nature in ways that create hostile or offensive environments. When such conduct is coercive and threatening, it creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to teaching, learning, or working. Sexual harassment may occur between persons in different Seminary status or between persons in the same Seminary status.

Sexual assault/sexual violence is a particular type of sexual harassment that includes physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim’s use of drugs or alcohol. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to inappropriate touching, sexual intercourse of any kind without consent, rape, and attempted rape.

Consensual Relationships

All members of the community are cautioned against the possible costs of even an apparently consenting sexual relationship in which power differentials exist. For example, a faculty member who enters into a sexual relationship with a student (or a supervisor with an employee) where a professional power differential exists, should realize that if a charge of sexual harassment is subsequently lodged, it may be difficult to maintain innocence on grounds of
mutual consent. Codes of ethics for most professional associations forbid professional-client sexual relationships. In the view of the Seminary, the professor-student relationship may often be comparable to the relationship of a professional and client.

The Seminary cautions its community for the following reasons:

i. The real power exercised by persons in supervisory positions (administration, professor, and staff) in regard to evaluations, recommendations, scholarships and awards, etc., greatly diminishes the supervisee’s actual freedom in regard to consent, should sexual favors be included alongside legitimate demands.

ii. As with a therapist or clergy person, the problem of transference or counter-transference can occur. In this example, the person in “authority” is an inappropriate object of sexual desire, advances, or relationship.

iii. Power differentials exist in many forms. The theological education community is composed of administrators, professors, staff, students, therapists, case conference leaders, adjunct faculty, field education supervisors, judicatory officials, home church pastors, youth, and children (while not inclusive, this list is meant to suggest that power differentials exist in many situations in which the Seminary shares or has responsibility). In each relationship, the individual in the position of greater power should be responsible for setting appropriate boundaries.

Retaliation

The Seminary prohibits any form of retaliation against any person for bringing good faith complaint of discrimination or harassment or providing good faith information about discrimination or harassment, even if evidence is not found to substantiate the complaint. Retaliation exists when action is taken against a complainant or participant in the complaint process that (i) adversely affects the individual's opportunity to benefit from the Seminary's programs or activities; and (ii) is motivated in whole or in part by the individual's participation in the complaint resolution process. Any person who is found to have engaged in retaliation in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action possibly including dismissal from the Seminary. Any act of retaliation should be reported in the same manner as acts of discrimination or harassment and will be investigated using the procedures described below.

Procedures for Addressing Discrimination and Harassment

Steps in Reporting and Inquiry

1. Any person wishing to report an instance of suspected or alleged discrimination or harassment should do so by contacting any Title IX Coordinator, any member of the Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force, the Academic Dean, or the President, in person, by telephone, by email, or in writing.

   Although there is no specific time limit for reporting a suspected violation of this policy, an individual who believes that he or she has been subjected to conduct that violates this policy is encouraged to contact an appropriate official as soon as possible after the alleged act of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation to discuss the available options for proceeding.
2. The Seminary will promptly and equitably investigate and resolve all suspected or alleged violations of this policy. Alleged or suspected violations of this policy will be investigated by either an Informal Resolution process, or by a Formal Resolution process as outlined below.

3. The Seminary will attempt to complete investigations within 60 days of the filing of a complaint or the date on which the Seminary becomes aware of a suspected violation of this policy, unless the Seminary determines in its discretion that more time is required to complete the investigation.

Chicago Theological Seminary is committed to the prompt and equitable resolution of all alleged or suspected violations of this policy, regardless of whether a complaint alleging a violation of this policy has been filed and regardless of where the conduct at issue occurred.

The Seminary’s ability to investigate in a particular situation, or the extent of the investigation in any given situation, may be affected by any number of factors, including whether the complainant is willing to file a complaint or to consent to an investigation, the location where the alleged conduct occurred, and the Seminary’s access to information relevant to the alleged or suspected violation of this policy. The Seminary is nonetheless committed to investigating all alleged and suspected violations of this policy to the fullest extent possible under the circumstances.

4. To the extent permitted by law, the confidentiality of all parties involved in the resolution of alleged or suspected violations of this policy will be observed, provided that it does not interfere with the Seminary’s ability to conduct an investigation and take any corrective action deemed appropriate by the Seminary.

Persons should be aware that, under certain circumstances, once an instance of suspected or alleged discrimination or harassment is reported to any of the persons listed above, the Seminary may choose to initiate an investigation, even if the person making the report does not wish to proceed with an investigation.

5. The Seminary reserves the right to suspend any member of the Seminary community suspected or accused of violating this policy or to take any other interim measures the Seminary deems appropriate, pending the outcome of the investigation or grievance. Such interim measures can include, but are not limited to, modifying course schedules and issuing a “no contact” order.

6. The Seminary also reserves the right to take steps to protect the complainant as deemed necessary during the pendency of the investigation and resolution process (e.g., allowing for a change in academic or work situation, issuing a “no contact” order to the accused, etc.). Any such interim steps will be taken in a manner that minimizes the burden on the complainant to the extent possible.

Informal Resolution

An informal resolution is a confidential intervention that does not trigger the formal complaint process and does not become part of official record. In cases in which an informal resolution is desired by the complainant and the accused and deemed appropriate by the Title IX Coordinator(s), in consultation with the President, the Title IX Coordinator(s) will name an impartial Informal Resolution Facilitator or Informal Resolution Facilitation Team. This Informal Resolution Facilitator or Informal Resolution Facilitation Team will seek informal resolution of
the issues that implicate this policy.

The informal resolution process is as follows:

1. The Title IX Coordinator(s), in consultation with the President, will appoint an Informal Resolution Facilitator or Informal Resolution Facilitation Team.

2. The Informal Resolution Facilitator/Informal Resolution Facilitation Team will speak with the involved parties, first separately, to gather pertinent information about the situation needing resolution.

3. The Informal Resolution Facilitator/Informal Resolution Facilitation Team may then contact both the complainant and the accused, to arrange a time for both to meet together with the Informal Resolution Facilitator/Informal Resolution Facilitation Team, for the purpose of seeking informal resolution to the complaint.

4. If informal resolution is met, to the satisfaction of the complainant and the accused, the Informal Resolution Facilitator/Informal Resolution Facilitation Team will report back to the Title IX Coordinator(s), and no further action will be necessary.

5. If resolution is not achieved, the formal resolution process may be invoked, via written complaint by the complainant or the Title IX Coordinator(s) on her/his behalf. Informal resolution is considered not to have been achieved if:
   
   a. The complainant reports that her/his complaint has not successfully been resolved via mediation; or
   
   b. The accused is dissatisfied with the proposed resolution.

N.B.: Allegations of physical assault or violence may not be resolved using the informal resolution process. An allegation of physical assault or violence will automatically invoke the formal investigation process outlined below.

**Formal Resolution**

The formal resolution process applies (i) to all matters involving alleged or suspected assault or violence; (ii) when any party so requests in writing; or (iii) when the Seminary elects to use the formal resolution process in any matter when the Seminary deems doing so appropriate.

When the formal resolution process is invoked, the President shall appoint an Investigation Team from among the members of the Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force. If members of the Task Force are accused of a violation of this policy, the President will appoint a replacement to the Task Force; if the President is the accused or the complainant, the Chair of The Board of Trustees will take charge of this appointment process.

The function of the Investigation Team is to gather information, make a preliminary determination regarding whether a violation of this policy has or has not occurred, and if, in their judgment, sufficient evidence exists to move to disciplinary procedures, recommend to the appropriate Seminary disciplinary body (as described below) for adjudication and final determination of appropriate sanctions or other corrective action.

The following procedures shall apply in all cases in which the formal resolution process is used.
1. The Seminary shall provide any individual suspected or accused of violating this policy with a written explanation of the suspected or alleged violations of this policy. Complainants and accused parties shall both be provided with the following in connection with the resolution of suspected or alleged violations of this policy.

- The opportunity to speak on their own behalf.
- The opportunity to identify witnesses who can provide information about the alleged conduct at issue.
- The opportunity to submit other evidence on their behalf.
- The opportunity to review any information that will be offered by the other party in support of the other party’s position (to the greatest extent possible and consistent with FERPA or other applicable law).
- The right to be informed of the outcome of the process (to the greatest extent possible and consistent with FERPA or other applicable law).
- The opportunity to appeal the outcome of the process.

2. To help ensure a prompt and thorough investigation, complainants are asked to provide as much information as possible, such as:

- A description of any relevant incident(s), including the date(s), location(s), and the presence of any witnesses.
- The alleged effect of the incident(s) on the complainant’s opportunity to benefit from the Seminary’s programs or activities.
- The names of other individuals who might have been subject to the same or similar acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- Although it is not required, any steps the complainant has taken to try to stop the discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- Any other information the complainant believes to be relevant to the alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.

3. Oral and written statements shall be gathered from the parties involved in the alleged policy violation, and from others who may have pertinent information.

4. The standard used to determine whether the policy has been violated is whether it is more likely than not that the accused violated this policy. This is often referred to as a “preponderance of the evidence” standard.

5. In a timely manner, both the complaining and the accused party will be informed in writing of the outcome of the investigation, including whether there has been a determination that this policy has been violated. This written notice will be issued concurrently to the complaining and accused parties unless the Seminary determines in its discretion that concurrent notification would not be appropriate. If there is a finding that this policy has been violated, the Seminary will take such action as it deems necessary to eliminate the policy violation, prevent the recurrence of the violation, and address the effects of the violation.

6. The Investigation Team must deliver written opinion to the appropriate Seminary body (see description below) that:

   o in their view no violation of this policy occurred or that the evidence is insufficient to determine whether or not it occurred;
o in their view a violation of this policy occurred and that disciplinary procedures should be invoked.

The standard used to determine whether the policy has been violated is whether it is more likely than not that the accused violated this policy. This is often referred to as a “preponderance of the evidence” standard.

If there is a finding that this policy has been violated, the Seminary shall take such action as it deems necessary to eliminate the policy violation, prevent the recurrence of the violation, and address the effects of the violation. In addition to its written opinion to the appropriate Seminary body, the Investigation Team shall make a recommendation to the President as to what actions the Seminary should take to eliminate the policy violation, prevent the recurrence of the violation, and address the effects of the violation.

a. The appropriate Seminary bodies are defined as follows:

   i. Reports regarding students are submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and are addressed according to the Non-Academic Disciplinary Policy as found in the Student Handbook;
   ii. Reports regarding staff members are submitted to the Vice President for Finance and Administration and are addressed according to the Disciplinary Policy as found in the Staff Manual;
   iii. Reports regarding faculty members are submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and are addressed according to the Faculty Disciplinary Policy as found in the Faculty Manual;
   iv. As the Seminary deems appropriate, any of these reports may go to judicatory officials and/or supervisors.

b. If there is a finding that this policy has been violated, these bodies will take action that may include, but is not limited to:

   i. Formal reprimand, with defined expectations for changed behavior;
   ii. Recommending or requiring psychological assessment and/or counseling;
   iii. Mandatory psychiatric assessment and/or treatment;
   iv. Probationary standing, with the terms of such probation clearly defined;
   v. Dismissal from the Seminary.

7. Appeals: Normal appeals procedure as outlined in student, staff, administrative and faculty manuals and handbooks of Chicago Theological Seminary will be followed. In matters involving allegations of discrimination or harassment (including sexual assault and sexual violence), both the complaining party and the accused party will be afforded the right to appeal as provided in the applicable manual or handbook.

**Title IX Coordinators**

The Title IX Coordinators are responsible for implementing and monitoring Title IX compliance on behalf of the Seminary. This includes coordination of training, education, communications, and administration of the complaint and grievance procedures for the handling of suspected or alleged violations of Title IX.
Title IX Coordinator
Lisa Seiwert
IRI Director
Office #144
773-896-2485
lisa.seiwert@ctschicago.edu

Title IX Deputy Coordinator
Michele Carr
Controller
Office #135
773-896-2442
mcarr@ctschicago.edu

Please review information posted throughout the school for details on other Title IX Coordinators.

Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force

An Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force will be established by the initiation of the President at the beginning of each calendar year. This Task Force has its portfolio from January to January to assure continuity over the course of the academic year. The Task Force will be reappointed by November 1 of each academic year and be trained and ready to function by January 1.

The Task Force consists of the following members:

- Title IX Coordinators
- One member of the Leadership Team of the Seminary, selected for two years, by the President;
- Director of Community Life;
- One faculty member, nominated by the President and approved by majority vote of the Academic Council for two years;
- One staff member nominated by staff and appointed by the President for two years;
- Two students; the two students will each serve two years, but be appointed by the President on alternate years from among student representatives to Academic Council.

The two main functions of the Task Force are to be available to adjudicate formal charges (by appointment to the Investigation Team) and to develop an educational program for the community around these issues in conjunction with the Title IX Coordinators.

The names of the members of the Anti-Discrimination/Anti-Harassment Task Force will be made available publicly as of January 1st each year.

Seminary Discretion

The Seminary reserves the right to interpret this policy and modify it as appropriate in the circumstances of particular case, in its discretion.

Disability Accommodations

In response to a request made by a qualified student with a documented disability, the Seminary will attempt to provide reasonable accommodation and academic adjustments necessary to afford the student an opportunity for full participation in Seminary programs. Students should report their academic needs to the Registrar, who is designated by the school to work with the Dean’s office on academic disability accommodations. Upon obtaining a student’s written permission and in consultation with the Academic Dean, the
Registrar will communicate with faculty members regarding accommodations to be made. Students should report their general (non-academic) needs to the President’s Office.

The person responsible for complying with and carrying out the seminary’s responsibilities under this policy in general matters is the President of the seminary; the person responsible with respect to academic matters is the Academic Dean, working with the Registrar.

X. Robinson and Janet Lapp Learning Commons

The mission of the Lapp Learning Commons is to continually build and provide access to materials that advance learning within the entire Chicago Theological Seminary community. Books are checked out and due based on a student’s degree program. The Lapp Learning Commons website provides information about use, policies, and regulations. The Lapp Learning Commons website can be accessed from the main CTS website or directly at http://commons.ctschicago.edu. Staff are available to answer students’ questions during business hours.

ACTS Libraries

As a member of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, CTS students have access to the collections of the other ACTS libraries. If you wish to use an ACTS library, please pick up an ACTS library card in the Lapp Learning Commons beforehand. Check their websites for current hours and access.

The ACTS libraries are:

- Catholic Theological Union, 5401 South Cornell Ave., Chicago
- JKM Library (for LSTC and McCormick Seminaries), 1100 East 55th St., Chicago
- Garrett-Evangelical’s United Library, 2121 N. Sheridan Road, Evanston
- Meadville Lombard Theological School, located at the Spertus Institute, 601 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
- North Park Theological Seminary Library, 5125 N. Spaulding Ave., Chicago
- Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2045 Half Day Road, Deerfield
- University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary Library, 100 E. Maple Lane, Mundelein
- Northern Theological Seminary Library, 660 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard

Borrowing Materials

Books may be borrowed from these libraries in two ways.

1. CTS students may go to the ACTS libraries in person. Admittance and checkout privileges are granted when the student shows his/her CTS ID card AND a current ACTS Library card.
2. Special requests may be made online or in person for Interlibrary Loan of books and journal articles not held by the CTS Learning Commons. These requests may require up to two weeks to fulfill.

**Computer Services**

The Learning Commons has computer terminals for public use. They all provide access to the internet and word processing. Learning Commons staff are always ready to assist patrons with their questions. Students must know their CTS email login information in order to log in to the computers or use the printer/photocopier/scanner. Students will have $25.00 deposited to their account for printing and photocopying each semester. To access these funds, students will need to swipe their CTS ID Card when they print or photocopy in the library.

**University of Chicago Libraries**

CTS students may easily access to the University of Chicago’s library resources. The Joseph Regenstein Library is the graduate research library and contains most of the collection. Students may need to visit the Regenstein Library Privileges Office to gain access to the building and for a user ID/password combination for wifi access in the building. Regenstein accounts must be renewed annually, in person.

**ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program**

The ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program creates an arrangement between participating North American seminaries to grant check-out privileges to each other’s patrons/students. A patron/student walks into a participating seminary library, shows proof of current enrollment in another participating seminary, and checks out materials based on the library’s local lending policies. Here is the [list of participating seminaries](#) in the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program.

**Interlibrary Loan**

All students can request interlibrary loans of articles and chapters of books. Requests can be made inside of some of our search tools as well as directly by emailing library@ctschicago.edu. Typically, this service is free of charge. An individual requesting a significant amount of materials may lead the Learning Commons to begin charging fees.

Interlibrary loan of entire books is only offered to students in the Chicago area. Students outside of Chicago are encouraged to begin by looking to their local public library. If your local public library does not offer interlibrary loan services, please email the Learning Commons a letter from the local library confirming that ILL is unavailable to you. In those instances only, the Learning Commons will only then offer ILL of entire books to students away from Chicago. Any student, in Chicago or far away, can request an interlibrary loan of a book chapter or journal article. Requests can be made the same way as book requests.
Privileges for Spouses

1. Spouses of CTS students are welcome in the CTS Learning Commons and have the same checkout privileges as CTS master’s degree-level students.

2. The ACTS libraries have no formal arrangement for privileges for spouses.

3. A spouse who wishes to use the University of Chicago Regenstein Library on a regular basis may purchase a reference pass. To obtain one, the CTS student and his/her spouse must present the student’s CTS ID card and a third piece of identification that shows that they live at the same address to the Library Privileges Office at the entrance of Regenstein. The reference pass only allows the spouse access to the stacks; only CTS students with a CTS ID may check books out of the Regenstein library.

XI. Facilities and Services

CTS Keycards/ID Cards

Every CTS student is entitled to a CTS keycard/ID card. This card identifies you as a CTS student, provides access to the building, provides borrowing privileges in the CTS library and in the Regenstein Library, and provides access to University of Chicago buses and shuttles. ID cards for new students will be distributed during new student orientation and during the first two weeks of the semester. To obtain a replacement ID, you will have to pay a replacement fee of $20.00. Please allow at least two weeks for the creation of a new ID card, and allow at least one week for the replacement of an existing ID card.

Security

Because security is a concern for all, please help keep our community a safe place. Doors which are normally kept locked should not be propped open. Do not share your ID card with non-CTS students. After hours, if you do not know who is trying to get into our buildings and that person does not have an ID card or appropriate identification, please use discretion and caution in combination with courtesy when responding to requests to open the door to strangers.

Newsletter

Dean’s Desk is the weekly announcement newsletter of CTS community activities and events and is produced by the Office of the Academic Dean during the academic year. Any CTS-connected activity, meeting, announcement, etc., should be printed in Dean’s Desk. The deadline for announcements is Fridays at 4:30 p.m.; distribution is on Mondays. Announcements for publication should be delivered to the Faculty Assistants or sent by email to facultyasst@ctschicago.edu.
Communications with Students

CTS has replaced paper communication with electronic communication wherever practical. All CTS students have an email address. This email account will be available to you for the duration of your studies at CTS and will be provided to you prior to the beginning of classes. If you graduate or otherwise cease to be a CTS student, this account will normally be deleted by the beginning of the next academic term.

If you already have an email account, our system can automatically forward messages from your CTS mailbox to your external mailbox. If you wish to have your mail automatically forwarded so that you only have to monitor one mailbox, please see the CTS Receptionist and complete a Request to Forward Electronic Mailbox form.

If you are not often on campus, you can still access your CTS email by connecting to the CTS website and clicking on the Webmail link. If you do not have access to the internet, many public libraries have free internet services that will permit you to access to your CTS mailbox.

There are student mailboxes on the third floor near the Student Commons for those times when something cannot be delivered by email. You should check your mailbox regularly.

IT Help Desk

Please contact the IT Department at help@ctschicago.edu or by phone at 773-896-2444 for technical support of the following:

- CTS Webmail
- CTS Moodle
- WebEx
- Wi-Fi Access
- Other pertinent technology questions

The IT Department’s business hours and response times are as follows:

- Normal business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Response time for a help desk ticket is within one business day
- During business hours, you will often receive a response within 2 hours

Best Practices

1. Backup your information to multiple locations including (but not limited to): a Flash Drive, Dropbox, your personal laptop/desktop, or Google Drive.
2. Protect your personal Windows machine with an anti-virus program. Note that because of Apple’s built-in security features, Mac users do not need to purchase anti-virus software.
3. Create a strong password for yourself with a minimum of 8 characters and a mix of symbols, uppercase and lowercase letters, and numbers.
4. Public computer use at CTS can be found mainly in the 3rd Floor Lapp Learning Commons as well as the public areas on the 1st and 2nd floors

Please note the IT Department cannot do the following:
1. Recover data from floppy disks
2. Loan out laptops or other mobile devices
3. Be held responsible for the well-being of your personal laptop/desktop/mobile device

Mail

CTS cannot accept first-class mail deliveries or package deliveries on behalf of students.

Emergency Closing Procedure

In the event that CTS needs to be closed due to weather, information will be available at www.emergencyclosings.com.

Parking

Parking in the gated lot: CTS has a small 50-car parking lot that is shared by students, staff, and faculty who pay for spots during normal business hours, 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The parking lot is open and available for guests and the CTS Community to park for free after 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. Current students can pay to park in the lot by semester. During intensive weeks, CTS students can pay for a spot by the week. During weeks when there are intensive courses, students can pay for parking by the week. Please contact the finance office to purchase a pass.

Parking in the metered visitors’ spots: Students can park in the visitors’ spots during the weekday by feeding the meter on an hourly basis. Please note that the meters only take quarters, have a three-hour limit, and must be fed again after this time runs out. You can request change at the reception desk. The visitors’ spots are first come, first served. If a car is parked at a meter and hasn’t paid, it is subject to ticketing and towing.

Additional parking options: All of the street parking around the building is free, non-permitted. There is a free University of Chicago parking lot with 100+ spots at 60th and Stony Island, only a short walk away from CTS.

Photocopying and Use of Seminary Office Equipment

There is a copier in the Learning Commons for general student use, with payment due per page copied. Students wishing to use any Seminary office equipment for Seminary class presentations, committee work, or other CTS activities should check this equipment out by inquiring at the Learning Commons’ front desk. You should be aware of copyright regulations when photocopying documents, and abide by the law. The Learning Commons staff can assist you if you are uncertain about these regulations.
Room Reservations

Students groups wishing to reserve space for CTS-approved functions should fill out the Student Group Reservation form on the CTS website or pick up a paper copy from the office of the Director of Community Life. Students wishing to reserve space for outside functions or private events should fill out the Meeting Planner Request Form, which can be found on the CTS website at https://www.ctschicago.edu/about/facility-rental. For questions, please email reservations@ctschicago.edu.

Transportation

CTA bus routes #170, #171, and #172, and #192 provide frequent, scheduled service throughout Hyde Park and north Woodlawn. See www.transitchicago.com for fares and schedules for these and other CTA bus and train services, as well as maps and status updates. If you are traveling at 5:00 p.m. or later, you can ride the free NightRide shuttles, which run into the early morning every day, and are available to anyone for free (see safety-security.uchicago.edu).

Weapons

Chicago Theological Seminary prohibits all persons who enter Seminary property from carrying a handgun, firearm, knife with a blade larger than that of a folding pocket knife, chemical, explosive, or detonating device or other weapon of any kind, regardless of whether the person is licensed to carry the weapon.

Pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65, a State of Illinois concealed carry licensee shall not knowingly carry a firearm on or into a higher education campus building. The only exception to this policy will be police officers, security guards, or other persons who have been given written consent by CTS to carry a weapon, and individuals who are required to carry a weapon pursuant to state law.

XII. Use Of University of Chicago and ACTS Facilities

ACTS Facilities

CTS students with a CTS ID that is validated with a current ACTS sticker and an ACTS Library Card may use the facilities and libraries (including checkout privileges) of ACTS institutions.

1. ACTS institutions in Hyde Park are:
   a. Catholic Theological Union
   b. Chicago Theological Seminary
   c. Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
   d. McCormick Theological Seminary
2. ACTS institutions outside of Hyde Park are:
   a. Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston
   b. Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies, Chicago
   c. Meadville Lombard Theological School, Chicago
   d. North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago
   e. Northern Theological Seminary, Lombard
   f. Bexley Hall Seabury Western Seminary Federation, Chicago
   g. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield
   h. University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein

Please note: The University of Chicago is not a member of ACTS, so the ACTS sticker does not entitle you to the use of University of Chicago facilities such as libraries, gym, health service, etc.

University of Chicago Student Privileges

University Health Service

1. For a per-quarter fee, students may have access to the U of C Student Health Services if they carry major medical insurance through the University (see Schedule of Fees for amount of fee). Those that take advantage of this service are required to file a medical history form with the Student Health Clinic prior to using it. This does not require a physical exam. Forms are available from the Student Health Clinic. The University Student Health Clinic is located in the Wyler Pavilion at 5839 S. Maryland, Suite R-100. A brochure describing all aspects of the Student Health Service is available in the Registrar’s Office.

2. Students may not use the Student Health Clinic prior to the first day of the academic year, except for emergencies; in such cases, emergency out-patient care must be paid for by the student. Students arriving on campus early for orientation and intensives, please note that you are not eligible to use the Student Health Service, except for emergencies, until the first official day of U of C’s Fall Quarter.

3. Students are entitled to one quarter of off-quarter Student Health Service privileges per year, for a quarter of non-enrollment. To be eligible, the student must have been a registered student the previous quarter and must be expected to be a registered student the following quarter. Off-quarter coverage is handled through the CTS Registrar. When the Student Health Service is closed, students in need of medical care should go to the Emergency Room at Mitchell Hospital. The entrance to the Emergency Room is on 58th and Maryland or through the hospital.

Student Health Insurance Plan

Chicago Theological Seminary students may purchase health insurance coverage from the University of Chicago. Enrollment and payment in the Insurance Plan are done on a quarterly basis at the time of registration. Coverage begins on September 1 and extends through interim periods for students in continuous enrollment. Contact the Registrar for more information.
XIII. Student Worker Program

Chicago Theological Seminary employs Student Workers for the following purposes:

1. To carry out responsibilities for which regular CTS staff and faculty do not have time or, in some instances, expertise.
2. To provide students with a source of additional income.
3. When possible, to provide students with career development opportunities.
4. To enhance the quality and diversity of the CTS working environment.

The following principles shall guide the hiring and employment of Student Workers:

1. CTS staff will seek out students who are most qualified for the particular skills needed.
2. CTS will ensure equal and open access to all students seeking to apply for positions.
3. In order to ensure that as many students as possible have the opportunity for employment, each position must be reposted at least yearly, if not more frequently.

These purposes and principles are reflected in the following “Practices for the Hiring and Employment of CTS Student Workers”:

1. Student Worker positions will have a specific term, normally September – December, January – May, September – May, or the Summer. There may also be occasional, short term positions for particular events or projects.
2. All positions will be posted via email to all students and on the bulletin board outside of the Lapp Learning Commons.
3. The filling of all positions will be by written application.
4. There will be a standard application form for all students.
5. All students will be eligible to apply for all positions.
6. Preference will be given, when possible and if qualifications are met, to students not currently employed in any other student worker position.
7. Student workers must reapply for positions when the specified term of employment is completed.
8. Rehiring a student is based on their availability, qualifications, and prior performance.

The following institutional Policies for CTS Student Workers will apply to all Student Workers:

1. Student Workers are considered “Occasional Employees” as defined by the CTS Employee Manual. As such they are not entitled to employee benefits but are subject to the protections and accountabilities pertaining to Occasional Workers as

2. As Occasional Employees, Student Workers will receive a copy of the Employee Manual prior to beginning employment and must sign a “Receipt of Employee Manual” form as part of onboarding.

3. Student Workers are not normally expected to attend CTS Staff meetings but may be invited by the President for agenda items relevant to their work.

4. If requested, a member of the Leadership Team, designated by the President, may convene a meeting for all Student Workers to hear concerns or suggestions that can strengthen the Student Worker Program. This meeting shall not be a forum for individual concerns which should be addressed in the supervisory relationship or through the grievance or internal complaint procedures above.

5. CTS will provide Student Worker supervisors with appropriate support and training.

The practices and policies in this document apply to all student workers with the exception of Teaching Assistants and Online Course Assistants.
XIV. 2017-2018 Schedule of Fees
(All rates are subject to change without notice.)

A. Semester Tuition
1. MA, MARL, MDiv, S.A.L., per course. .................................................................$2,304
   Cost for one-year full-time study = $18,432
2. STM, per course. .................................................................................................$2,646
3. DMin, per course .................................................................................................$2,166
4. PhD, per course ....................................................................................................$3,738
5. Recorded Audit, per face-to-face course (if not registered for other courses). $630
6. Recorded Audit, per face-to-face course, for alumni/ae ........................................$330
7. Recorded Audit, per online course (if not registered for other courses) ................$860
8. Recorded Audit, per online course, for alumni/ae ................................................$560

B. Student Fees
1. Online Course Fee (per course) ............................................................................$230
2. Tuition Late Payment Fee ....................................................................................$10% of amount owed
   Fees are due by the one week following the last day of the drop/add period or
three weeks into the term.
3. Master’s Continuation Fee for Approved Leave of Absence (LOA) ......................$125
4. DMin Continuation/Candidacy Fee ......................................................................$420
5. Doctoral Independent Research Status Fee (by approval) .....................................$200
6. PhD Not Registered Fee for Approved Leave of Absence (LOA) .......................$125
7. PhD Not Registered Fee (no approved LOA) .....................................................$534
8. PhD Pre-Candidacy Fee .......................................................................................$2,025
9. PhD Candidacy Fee .............................................................................................$2,727

C. Other Non-Refundable Fees and Deposits
1. Application Fee .....................................................................................................$50
2. Matriculation Fee ..................................................................................................$150
3. Graduation Fee ....................................................................................................$170
4. Transcript Fee .....................................................................................................$10 for 1st, $5 for each additional copy
5. Photocopies of other documents from student’s file ............................................ $2/page
6. Parking Pass (off-street, uncovered parking, subject to change) .........................$140/fall or spring term, $10/week during J-Term and summer intensives
7. I.D. Card Replacement Fee ...................................................................................$20

D. University of Chicago Fees (Fees subject to change)
The University of Chicago operates on a quarterly academic year. All fees are paid in
relation to their quarterly calendar.
1. Major Medical Insurance and Student Health
   Basic Plan – student only. ............................................................ $1,324 (per term, 3 payments/year)
   Spouse/Dependent Coverage ............................................................... $1,324 (per term, 3 payments/year)
2. Athletic Facilities (Ratner and Henry Crown) .............................................. ...$295/year or $120/3 months
3. Athletic Facilities (Henry Crown only) ........................................................ $195/year or $22 monthly
4. Tuition and Fees*
   a. One course .................................................................................................$4,217
   b. Two courses ..............................................................................................$6,326
   c. Three courses .............................................................................................$12,652

*Enrollment at the University of Chicago incurs a $388/quarter student life fee
regardless of number of classes taken.
XV. Academic Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL SEMESTER 2017</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Student Orientation</td>
<td>August 31-September 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fall Term – NEW STUDENTS</td>
<td>June 1-August 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLASSES BEGIN</td>
<td>September 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Drop/Add</td>
<td>September 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Pay Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>September 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Late fee charged (10%)</em></td>
<td>September 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>October 16-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration for January &amp; Spring Terms</td>
<td>November 6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Recess</td>
<td>November 23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester Ends</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 WINTER “J” TERM

| Term Begins | January 2 (Tuesday) |
| M.L. King Day (no classes) | January 15 |
| Term Ends | February 2 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING SEMESTER 2018</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLASSES BEGIN</td>
<td>February 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to Drop/Add</td>
<td>February 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Pay Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>February 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Late fee charged (10%)</em></td>
<td>February 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Week</td>
<td>March 19-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration for Summer &amp; Fall Terms</td>
<td>April 16-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester Ends</td>
<td>May 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>May 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily

Lapp Learning Commons hours (while classes are in session):
Mon.-Wed. – 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Thurs. – 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fri. – 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hours during breaks and reading weeks are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday. The Learning Commons will close on Friday, December 22, and reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Weekly

Community Worship on Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel, followed by Community Lunch in the Dining Room.

Monthly

The PhD/MA/STM Committee normally meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. in room 222.
Academic Council normally meets the 1st Thursday of month at 2:00 p.m. in room 214.
Faculty Caucus normally meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in room 251.
The MDiv/MARL/DMIn Committee normally meets the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in 222.
The Administrative Council normally meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in room 124.