“The City is our Campus.”

NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY:
Re-envisioning Theological Education for the 21st Century

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
...continuing The Biblical Seminary in New York

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MISSION STATEMENT

New York Theological Seminary is a diverse and inclusive community of learning grounded in biblical witness and Christian tradition, with a historic urban focus. The Seminary prepares women and men for faith-based ministries in the city and throughout the world.

VALUES STATEMENT

• NYTS is diverse and inclusive; it is evangelical, ecumenical, and increasingly multifaith
• NYTS is a rigorously intellectual community of learning with a commitment to academic excellence
• Grounded in the biblical witness, NYTS continues the heritage of Biblical Seminary in New York
• Led by the Spirit in response to the call of Jesus Christ, NYTS is faithful to the Christian tradition as it grows to serve the broader religious world
• NYTS educates leaders whose ministries are relevant to the life and work of the global urban world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR ALL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Graduates of NYTS from all programs will be able to demonstrate

• competence in biblical and theological reflection that is faithful to one’s own tradition, dynamic in its articulation, and relevant to contemporary intercultural and multifaith contexts
• the ability to identify, design, and put into practice diverse and inclusive models of ministry to achieve personal, ecclesial and social transformation and reconciliation
• the ability to engage in critical reflection that fosters spiritual formation and renewal of individuals, faith-based communities, cities and the world.

For further information on the programs listed in this brochure, please visit www.nyts.edu/prospective-students/academic-programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding admission to the Seminary, please contact Ms. Adriane Hill at 212-870-1212 or via e-mail at ahill@nyts.edu.

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**EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY: OUR PERSPECTIVE**

Education at New York Theological Seminary is a process of dialogue. Moving back and forth between action and reflection, we seek to bring questions and concerns that arise out of real life experience (both individual and collective) into dialogue with the disciplines of theological study. The result is

- a dialogue that always engages the Bible. We begin with the assumption that Scripture is authoritative for criticizing and reformulating the issues of ministry in contemporary society, and that it also needs to be consistently read anew from the changing perspectives of the world in which we live. Continuing the tradition of The Biblical Seminary in New York, we do not argue for any particular method of biblical interpretation and do not require students to affirm any particular doctrinal statement. We believe instead that the Bible is best read best from a variety of perspectives and methods.

- a dialogue that is multidisciplinary. We believe that the issues and problems of ministry require the best insights of history, theology, ethics, and the social sciences.

- a dialogue that is evangelical, ecumenical, and increasingly multifaith. The authenticity and integrity of one’s own faith tradition is best treated and developed in dialogue with other faith traditions. We believe that diversity intensifies learning in a manner that encourages creativity and presses students toward greater clarity in their own confessions and commitments.

- a dialogue with brokenness and bondage. Education must take sin seriously. Understanding the brokenness of individuals and the demonic forces that are loose in society is essential to understanding and experiencing change, forgiveness, and healing. For this reason education requires dialogue with the reality of sin at both the personal and systemic levels.

- a dialogue with the reality of God’s presence and reign in the world. We believe that education is to be in service to the living Christ who sought to serve others, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and committed to the values by which the reign of God is governed. We learn from and teach one another to gain a liberating perspective on ourselves, our life, our task, and our calling in this world. Above all, education is experienced in an environment of prayerful openness that reflects the openness of God.

The Seminary is committed to theological education that engages communities of faith as it seeks to transform the city and the world. Among our student body one will find individuals seeking ordination; working clergy who are currently serving as pastors of churches; religious leaders from who serve in a variety of faith based settings; and lay persons looking to utilize their gifts for ministry more effectively. Our purpose is to help men and women find answers to personal, theological, and vocational questions, to enable them to achieve the highest level of excellence and faithfulness, and to become more effective leaders in the world today.

Programs of study at NYTS are designed for mature, working men and women who are either already in ministry or who are contemplating a shift from a secular to a religious vocation. Classes are offered in the evening or at other times that are accessible to those who work in secular employment. Students will find the emphasis upon learning in community a recurring theme in the curriculum. The rich diversity of cultural, racial, confessional, and religious identities found within the classrooms of NYTS is seen as an important resource in this regard. Student will also find that a strong emphasis is placed upon the churches and other faith-based communities that are the Seminary’s partners in the educational venture as together we work to transform the world.

NYTS graduates have distinguished themselves around the world in a variety of ministries in churches, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, government service, and secular professions. They serve as pastors, bishops, chaplains, teachers, business leaders, university and seminary presidents, executives, lawyers, medical doctors, missionaries, and more. NYTS is often cited as a model for institutions around the world seeking to address the educational needs of those living in urban centers and facing the challenge of contemporary global economic and social context.
THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (CP) is a two-year non-degree course of study that provides a basic theological education suitable for both lay and ordained church leaders. Designed to be completed in two years, the program is offered in English, Spanish, and French at various sites throughout the New York metropolitan area and online. Classes are held mostly on Saturdays and online, with some sites offering classes on week-nights as well. The curriculum covers the basic theological disciplines of Biblical, historical, theological and practical studies, and many of the classes are taught by graduates of NYTS degree programs. The CP welcomes applications from women and men who possess a high school diploma or its equivalent, who seek to increase in both biblical literacy and spiritual understanding, and who desire to be better prepared for ministry.

THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN ISLAMIC STUDIES (CPIS) is a two-year non-degree course of study which will provide students with a comprehensive view of the Islamic faith tradition from the perspective of the moderate Muslim living in the contemporary urban community. This unique and dynamic learning experience will allow seekers of truth to explore the spiritual, moral and ethical principles of Islam, which are also inherent in the Jewish and Christian faith traditions. Students will learn of the rise of Islamic civilization and the impact it has had on the human family, and the contributions common people have made toward the advancement of human civilization.

THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN CONVERGENCE STUDIES (CPCS) is a one-year non-degree course of study taught online with two intensive classroom sessions during December and May. The program provides students with an introduction to the theology and practice of Ancient Future thought and philosophy which seeks to blend the essential elements of the Christian faith as represented historically through the three major streams of the church (Evangelical, Charismatic and Liturgical/Sacramental). The courses taught are made available for laity, as well as ordained or lay ministers, and other concerned Christians who are currently involved or interested in convergence ministry. This is a unique and dynamic learning experience not only because of the rich diversity of the participants in the program but also because of the rich amalgamation or blending of historical, liturgical and theological resources. Our students are Christians, young and old, from all walks of life and different denominations. Some have had limited educational opportunities, while others have college or advanced degrees. Classes are offered presently in English and we are at work diligently in hopes of being able to offer classes in Spanish.

THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP (CPML) is a two-year non-degree course of study which provides an introduction to theological disciplines for laity, as well as ordained or lay ministers, and other concerned Christians who are currently involved or interested in ministry. This is a unique and dynamic learning experience because of the rich diversity of participants in the program. Our students are Christians, young and old, from all walks of life and different denominations. Some have had limited educational opportunities, while others have college or advanced degrees.
THE MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDiv) is a 90-credit graduate degree designed for women and men who are already serving full-time in ministry, who are bi-vocational, or who are contemplating a shift from a secular to a religious vocation. The MDiv is the standard graduate degree for professional ministry in the United States and Canada. It is designed to provide exposure in considerable depth to the broader range of theological disciplines in a manner that integrates theory and practice, or reflection and action.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING (MAPCC) is a 48-credit graduate degree designed to prepare women and men to provide professional pastoral care and counseling and to address the pastoral care and counseling needs of congregations and other communities within a contemporary global urban context. The degree is designed both for those who are considering and those who are already engaged in some form of pastoral care and counseling ministry. The curriculum integrates theological learning with psychological training in order to enhance both skill and understanding.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (MARE) is a 48-credit graduate degree designed to prepare men and women to administer and lead educational programs in churches, religious institutions, and other academic settings. The program seeks to integrate several academic disciplines in a manner that contributes to the best educational practices in the field of religious education. It includes foundational work in Bible, history and theology designed to enable students to develop a deeper understanding of their own historical and theological identity; and introductory and advanced course work in religious education that teaches specific skills while allowing students to deepen their understanding of the educational, cultural, and religious context in which they will serve.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION (MARLA) is a 48-credit graduate degree designed to prepare individuals for leadership and administrative positions and responsibilities in churches, religious institutions and faith-based organizations. The degree integrates foundational theological disciplines with the best management and leadership practices germane to faith-based institutions and non-profit organizations. Students can expect to acquire significant analytical and strategic skills, concepts and methodologies that will enhance and promote growth, stability and teamwork in a religious organizational context. Graduates can expect to be prepared to serve as executive ministers, managers, or administrators in leadership of faith-based or non-profit organizations.

THE MASTER OF ARTS IN YOUTH MINISTRY (MAYM) is a 48-credit graduate degree designed to prepare individuals to serve in the area of youth ministry within congregations and other faith-based organizations. The program explores youth and young adult development, socialization, discipleship and spiritual formation primarily within an urban cultural context. Drawing from a wide range of interdisciplinary research within the field of religious education, leadership studies, youth development and socialization, courses attend to the theological, educational, psychological and socio-cultural foundations of youth and young adult ministry.
The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is an advanced professional degree appropriate for clergy and lay leaders with significant ministry experience who desire to deepen and improve their ministries through a disciplined and integrative process of action, reflection, and research. The primary objective is to develop professional competencies, critical skills for reflection on ministry, the capacity for focused advanced theological research and interpretation, and appropriate interpersonal skills for service in specific, constituency-based contexts. The program is designed especially to prepare church leadership for effective ministries of personal and social transformation in the context of a multicultural, globalizing, and urbanizing world.

The approach to learning is participatory, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and dialogical. Through the study of Scripture, religion and theology, ethics, the social sciences (sociology, history, politics, political economy, psychology, and counseling), and the arts of ministry, students and faculty from diverse contexts are mutually engaged in creating opportunities for critical and imaginative forms of ministry and mission.

An important feature of the program is its emphasis upon collegiality. Peer relationships with other students and close working relationships with faculty are expected to be developed. A commitment to mutual respect, trust, and cooperation is nurtured throughout the program. This commitment to collegiality is extended beyond the immediate participants of the classroom to those with whom the candidate is involved in ministry through the formation of a Site Team, which is a committee of persons selected from the context of the student’s ministry that works with the student for the duration of his/her program. Equally important is a commitment to the creation of pastoral leadership and identity, particularly as a practice of spiritual formation, through critical analysis, evaluation, and assessment.

The design of the program is based on the recognition that students are fully engaged in ministry and, therefore, may be limited in their work on campus. Toward this end, the Seminary has made provisions to accommodate the particular constraints under which the students may operate, even as it encourages students to improve their knowledge and skills and continue with their existing professional responsibilities. The Doctor of Ministry Program requires a minimum of three years to complete, and in all cases candidates are expected to complete their programs within six years of their matriculation. Program formats and designs are constantly being reviewed and re-structured to meet these needs.

Students are granted matriculation status upon entrance into the program. Upon successful completion of the course work and approval of the Proposal for a Demonstration Project, they are granted candidate status.

**Tracks and Cohorts**

**Congregational Ministry Track**
- General Congregational Ministries
- Bible Engagement
- Preaching

**Leadership Track**
- Community Organizing
- Radical Inclusion
- Military Ministry

**Multifaith Track**

**Pastoral Care Track**
- Pastoral Care
- Pastoral Psychotherapy
- Professional Pastoral Care
**Program Centers**

Education for ministry takes place in a variety of ways at NYTS. The primary delivery system for learning is in courses that are offered in a classroom, online, or through field-based supervised ministry experience, but these do not exhaust the possibilities. Learning at NYTS is student-centered. The Seminary supports several centers whose programs are an integral part of its overall life and learning even as they reach beyond the typical classroom or supervised ministry site placement.

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**Center for the Study and Practice of Urban Religion (CSPUR)**

In January of 2005, NYTS launched under the direction of the late Dr. Lowell Livezey, a new project entitled Ecologies of Learning. Funded by a major grant from the Lilly Endowment, Ecologies of Learning quickly grew to become a major resource not only for NYTS but for the churches and the wider religious community of the New York Metropolitan region. In 2009 Ecologies of Learning became the Center for the Study and Practice of Urban Religion (CSPUR). Its programs continue to reach far beyond the Seminary’s classrooms to engage pastors, lay people, congregations, denominational leaders, church agencies, educators, and students in interactive learning processes designed to help increase their understanding of the diverse urban ecology in which churches and other religious institutions are situated. The goal is to help students, teachers, scholars, church leaders, and others use knowledge of urban religion more effectively in ministry and practice.

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**The Center for World Christianity**

Established in 2004 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, the Center for World Christianity seeks to support the Seminary’s mission to prepare men and women for ministry in a global context. As an academic field, World Christianity encompasses the traditional areas of mission studies, ecumenical studies, and the study of world religions. The work of the Center at NYTS builds upon these disciplines as it seeks to move beyond them to engage areas of ministry in global urban contexts more intentionally. Programs of the Center include special courses, an annual major lecture, publication of the online Journal of World Christianity, research professor appointments, and a variety of collaborations with other institutions such as Auburn Seminary. Additional support for faculty and students interested in better understanding and engaging Christianity as a truly world religion today is also available.

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**Eleanor Moody-Shepherd Resource Center for Women in Ministry**

Since 1986, the EMS Resource Center for Women in Ministry sought to expand the commitment to “Gender Justice” through conferences, other learning experiences, and fellowship events designed to support lay and ordained women of faith. The Resource Center serves as an organizing forum for concerns and needs of women within the NYTS constituency. In its mission to facilitate dialogue among women in ministry, it pays particular attention to women’s ministries in a variety of cultural contexts, including African-American, West Indian, European-American, Korean, and Latina. The Center hosts monthly gatherings throughout the course of the school year, and in June of each year sponsors one or more intensive courses and a conference. Programs of the Center are open to both men and women.
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