

Assessment, Academic Performance & Professional Development

Assessment is integral to all aspects of learning at NYTS. The Seminary employs “outcomes-based” learning methods throughout its various degree programs. In addition, formal assessments are conducted several times a year and include academic performance as well as professional development. An adverse evaluation of a student in either of these areas may lead to dismissal from an academic program of the Seminary after due process, as described below.

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.

Additional learning outcomes appropriate to the various academic disciplines and specialized degree programs of the Seminary, as well as for each individual class, may apply. Regular opportunities for self-assessment and assessment by the faculty throughout the course of each degree program are an integral part of the overall learning experience at the Seminary as well.

As part of the overall process, the faculty reviews the academic performance of all students in degree programs at the conclusion of each semester. This review is based in part upon the grades received by the students, measured by the student’s cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA).

- Students in the MPS program whose GPA falls below 2.0 are placed on probation.

- Students in the MA and MDiv program whose GPA falls below 2.5 are placed on probation.

Notification of probation shall be given by the Academic Dean by regular mail to each student placed on probation within two weeks of the assessment review. Remaining on probation for at least two consecutive semesters without indication of academic improvement will be considered grounds for dismissal by the Faculty.

The Seminary is permitted to admit into the various master's degree programs a limited number of students who do not possess an earned bachelor's degree. Such students must complete the regular application process and undergo an interview with the Academic Dean to determine their readiness to undertake graduate studies. In addition, such students will be automatically placed on academic probation during their first year of studies, and will be expected to maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing.

NYTS is a professional graduate school whose primary mission is the preparation of men and women for ministries in Christian churches and in other religious communities. Candidates for its certificates and degrees are expected not only to maintain good academic standing as defined in this Catalogue and in the Student Handbook published annually for each program, but to demonstrate professional readiness for ministry as well. Professional readiness for ministry includes emotional, psychological, and spiritual dimensions of a student's preparation. Students are assessed regularly by the faculty of the Seminary in a variety of ways, including in confidential sessions that touch on these latter topics.

The faculty normally reviews the professional development of each student twice yearly in the student review process. However, a faculty member may request, at any time, an evaluation of a student's professional functioning if there are indications for concern. During these confidential assessment sessions faculty members may discuss issues of professional development of any candidate for a certificate or degree. Matters to be considered may include, among other things, psychological readiness for ministry, professional presentation, and personal conduct. Individual students may be requested

by the faculty to undertake an outside evaluation regarding the individual's readiness for ministry.

Failure to undertake such an assessment or evaluation may constitute grounds for dismissal by vote of the full faculty. Formal notification of dismissal for either academic performance or professional development shall be given by the Academic Dean by regular mail to the student within two weeks of the date that the action is taken by the Faculty.