

Requirements from Examining Chaplains: School for the Diaconate

The student will work with the Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, Robert Gepert; the Archdeacon of Deacons, Jane Miron; and the Dean of the Stevenson School for Ministry to reach the following competencies:

The student will choose courses that will result in the student being able to....

1. Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and experience and give examples among all canonical areas of study
2. Demonstrate the impact of the deacon's ministry on those with whom she/he has a relationship
3. Exhibit skills required to call out gifts and empower others for ministry
4. Evidence skills for raising awareness about contemporary issues and be the "stone in the shoe" of the church.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the deacon as interpreter to the church, and bring action into the world.
6. Display skills in community coalition-building
7. Demonstrates skills in group dynamics
8. Demonstrate skills in communicating the presence of Christ

Holy Scripture

The student will:

1. Identify books of the Bible and the Apocrypha
2. Explain the source theory of biblical development
3. Exegete a passage of scripture for use in ministry and sermon preparation
4. Use scripture in personal life and spiritual formation
5. Demonstrate sensitivity to the ways in which persons of other traditions come to the Christian story

Old Testament

The student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the general historical outline of the Old Testament, and the ability to put Old Testament history into a theological context
2. Acquire an understanding of themes in the Bible and how they relate to each other, (i.e., law, prophecy, history, apocalyptic)
3. Explain basic Old Testament theological terms such as covenant, sacrifice and people of God and apply to mission and ministry today.

New Testament

The student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic outline of the life of Jesus as presented in the four Gospels, with special emphasis on the Passion and Resurrection narratives
2. Identify the Synoptic Gospels and their relationship with the Gospel of John
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the parables as a teaching tool

4. Be familiar with the theology of St. Paul's epistles and the different viewpoints of the other epistles
5. Have a basic knowledge of the outline of the book of Acts and application to missiology and reaching out to the poor.
6. Be able to discuss different New Testament perspectives on the relationship between the church and the world
7. Have a familiarity with the New Testament development of the office of deacon

Church History

The student will:

1. Describe how the historical events preceding and throughout Jesus' ministry affected his life and teachings
2. Explain the roles and significance of church centers such as Rome, Alexandria, Antioch and Constantinople in the missionary expansion into Western Europe
3. Define "heresy" and demonstrate an understanding of the major heresies throughout church history
4. Articulate the development of the Anglican Church beginning with its Celtic roots and continuing through the Reformation and the Oxford Movement
5. Articulate the development of the Episcopal Church in the United States
6. Demonstrate a cultural understanding of the Episcopal Church in Central PA.
7. Articulate an understanding of the governance of the Episcopal Church on the local, convocational, diocesan, provincial, and national levels
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical role of the deacon.

Theology

The student will:

1. Interrelate scripture, tradition and reason to show how they form the foundation for Anglican theology
2. Describe the historical development and theological meaning of the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds
3. Define such basic terms as providence, faith, justification, salvation, sacraments/sacramental, grace and sin
4. Articulate the basic terms of the baptismal covenant
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the catechism in the Book of Common Prayer
6. Demonstrate an understanding of how contemporary theology has been affected by feminist, liberation, creation, African American and Native American theologies
7. Define a personal theology including personal preferences and biases
8. Articulate the theological foundations of one's own spirituality

Christian Ethics and Moral Theology

The student will:

1. Demonstrate how theology informs ethical decision making
2. Demonstrate steps and issues in the process of making ethical decisions
3. Clarify the ethical issues of authority
4. Articulate the ethical issues of ministry (servant ministry)
5. Correlate the relationship between ethics and contemporary social issues

6. Articulate the several understandings of Christian ethics and responsibility for taking action on any social issue
7. Articulate her/his own belief system of personal conduct as it relates to the ethical standards of a Christian in society today

Contemporary Society

The student will:

1. Identify and analyze social justice issues facing the Church today
2. Discern local language and/or cultural speech and customs in local issues
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of referral sources
4. Explain the dynamics of advocacy in social ministry
5. Describe the Episcopal Church's policy on a variety of social issues and/or the knowledge of how to find the policy
6. Demonstrate a commitment to the dynamics of nonviolent social change (i.e., political action, grassroots organizing and economic action)
7. Have the ability to clearly define racism and to articulate how racism has affected the student's own life

Liturgics

The student will:

1. Apply the role of the deacon in a variety of liturgical settings
2. Demonstrate facility with the Book of Common Prayer, Lesser Feasts and Fasts, Book of Occasional Services, Supplementary Liturgical Text, 1982 Hymnal and other appropriate resources
3. Identify the ministries of all four orders and their appropriate roles in the liturgy
4. Apply skills in sermon preparation, delivery and public reading
5. Be able to plan and lead the daily offices
6. Have knowledge of the role of the deacon in liturgy and how it relates to the wider ministry of the diaconate

Theory and Practice of Ministry

The student will:

1. Describe the ministry and the role of each of the three orders
2. Discover outreach ministries within the community, how to access their services and what volunteer opportunities they provide
3. Characterize the internal dynamics of a congregation within a community and the differences in the roles of the priest, the laity and the deacon
4. Understand national and diocesan canons, particularly as they pertain to diaconal ministry

Pastoral Care

The student will:

1. Explain basic approaches to pastoral care (i.e., family systems theory)
2. Demonstrate knowledge of pastoral care in life transitions and in a variety of settings
3. Demonstrate skills in providing pastoral care in issues surrounding ethical decision-making
4. Demonstrate self-care and self-awareness in the role of pastoral caregiver

5. Demonstrate an understanding of boundaries, with the use of personal limits and appropriate referrals
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the current policy and procedures for dealing with accusations of sexual misbehavior