



Practice Teaching Requirement

As one of the requirements for the Ph.D. degree, all students must satisfactorily complete a one-semester course of practice teaching in religious studies or an approved alternative. This teaching will normally be completed during the third or fourth year and must be completed no later than the end of the fifth year. The initiative for making arrangements to fulfill the teaching requirement rests with the student, who should consult with his/her advisor at least one year in advance.

There are two ways to meet this requirement. In the first, the student teaches a course of his/her own design, planned with the advice and under the guidance of the student's adviser or other supervising professor. Ordinarily the teaching venue will be Perkins School of Theology, but with the permission of the Director of the Program it may be elsewhere on the SMU campus or at another institution. Once the student and advisor have settled on a proposal, the GPRS form, "Proposal for Fulfillment of Practice Teaching Requirement" should be submitted for the Director's approval.

For any course to be offered at Perkins School of Theology, an official new course proposal must be approved by 1) the student's advisor, 2) the relevant Division of the Perkins faculty, and 3) the Perkins Faculty as a whole. Copies of the current Perkins new course proposal form may be obtained from the GPRS Program Secretary. The student's advisor can give guidance on how this form is to be completed.

In the second, the student meets the teaching requirement by serving as a Teaching Assistant in a course taught either at Perkins School of Theology or, with the permission of the Director of the Program, elsewhere on the SMU campus or at another institution. In this case, the student must be significantly engaged with the students taking the course in question, both in instruction and in the evaluation of their work. If it is to count as meeting the teaching requirement, the Teaching Assistantship must provide the student with the opportunity to lecture (or make equivalent presentations) at least twice and regularly to lead discussion sections. In addition, the student must prepare a full syllabus with the advisor's approval (or the supervising

Program the GPRS form, "Fulfillment of Practice Teaching Requirement" and submit it along with a copy of the syllabus that the student has prepared.