

**Academic Advising Program**  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Adopted by the PTS Faculty – May 2014

In order to support the larger mission of Princeton Theological Seminary, to strengthen the seminary's academic program, and to give further definition to the seminary's commitment to high quality residential theological education and formation, the Academic Advising Program aims to provide an effective, flexible, and multi-dimensional approach to academic advising.

**Academic Advising Program Goals:**

- Empower students to navigate the curriculum in ways that promote intellectual breadth and depth, integration, and effective vocational preparation
- Provide entering students with intensive academic advising in service to effective navigation of the curriculum across the course of their degree program
- Offer vocational discernment and spiritual mentoring in conjunction with academic advising for interested students

**Three Components of the Academic Advising Program:**

1. Online Academic Advising Module (currently available to M.Div. students)  
The Online Academic Advising Module allows M.Div. students to track courses taken and requirements remaining. The Registrar provides an introduction to this component at orientation for incoming students.
2. Faculty Advising (mandatory for all entering M.Div., M.Div./M.A. Dual, and M.A. students; elective for all returning students)  
Students are able to engage in one-on-one advising with a faculty member. During a designated day prior to the beginning of each semester, all entering students meet with faculty advisors in 20-minute blocks. First-year students sign up for an advising session through an online scheduling program. This component of the academic advising system is mandatory for all incoming students for the first and second semester. For all subsequent semesters, participation is on an elective basis. At the beginning of both semesters, second, third, and fourth-year masters' level students (who are not participating in cohorts) may sign up for a 20-minute advising appointment with a faculty member. Such advising is optional but available for all returning M.Div., M.Div./M.A. Dual, and M.A. students.
3. Voluntary Cohorts (open to limited number of returning students)  
If not already participating in a cohort, second-year M.Div. students and second and third-year M.Div./Dual degree students may apply to participate in a voluntary cohort of ordinarily fifteen students co-led by two faculty facilitators. Voluntary cohorts meet for two consecutive academic years and are organized around a thematic focus determined by the faculty facilitators. Academic advising takes place as a pervasive and integrated dimension of all cohorts. The cohorts begin and end the academic year with an on-campus retreat. The voluntary cohorts meet five times per semester, normally on a weekday evening for two hours. The regular meetings include Bible study, prayer, and a focus upon spiritual formation and vocational discernment. The activities may include discussions led by students or faculty facilitators, conversations with resource people from off campus, or other activities as determined by a particular cohort.