

**From the Dean's Desk:
A Quick-Start Guide to the Schedule for New Students**

The Andover Newton *Catalogue* provides helpful guidance to students selecting courses for the first time. The 2011-2012 *Catalogue* will arrive on or around June 17, so the 2009-2011 *Catalogue*, currently posted online, can offer some intermediate planning assistance.

The following are answers to some common and basic questions:

1. How many courses should I take?

Full-time students ordinarily take four courses during the fall and spring terms, and one course in January or June intensives. Part-time students modify that schedule. To take five courses during fall or spring is inadvisable, and taking more than one course during January or June is especially demanding.

2. Are there fall courses especially appropriate for first-year students?

Many first year students take introductory Old Testament (OLDT 509). NEWT 657, Matthew Reading Mark, is an appropriate New Testament course for first-year students. Basic courses in religious education (CMED 601 or 605), pastoral care (PSYP 625), and US Religious History (HIST 645) are good options for first-year students. Introduction to Christian Ethics (ETHI 601), Ministerial Leadership (CMLE 635), and Justice Matters (JUST 601) provide a good foundation for other courses.

3. Are there courses new students should avoid, or that are not open to first-years?

Systematic Theology (THEO 611) and any preaching courses (CMPR) are not recommended for first-semester students. P3 sections (see P3 before course number in the schedule) and Border-Crossing Immersions (see [BC] designation) require advance preparation and registration. In some cases, courses have prerequisites that will be named in *Catalogue* course descriptions.

4. What should an entering DMin student take?

Entering DMin students should take DMIN 801F and elective courses related to their areas of focus. All DMin electives must be taken at the 800-level. Students who wish to take a course that does not carry an 800-level designation can petition to take the course at the 800-level by contacting the Professor and Registrar. The Professor will modify assignments and course expectations appropriately.

5. What should an entering MA student take?

MA students should take the MA Colloquium, INTE 780, in their first term.

6. What if I am transferring graduate-level theological courses from another setting?

Students who wish to transfer courses from another graduate theological institution petition to do so via the Dean after October of their first year. In selecting first-semester courses, they should choose courses that are remote from areas where they seek to transfer credit so as to avoid duplication in meeting requirements. Policies guiding transfer credit, shared credit, and advanced standing are articulated in detail in the *Catalogue*.

7. Should I take electives in my first year?

Each degree program involves numerous electives or courses in a student-designed concentration. Students make use of this flexibility toward many ends: Exploring a passion, meeting denominational expectations, or earning a Focused Certificate (Ministerial Leadership, Spiritual and Pastoral Care, Ethics and Social Justice,

Interfaith Leadership). First semester students should not hesitate to take electives, as long as they have considered how the flexibility that electives provide can be best used in light of their goals.

**From the Dean's Desk:
Summary of Curriculum Changes for 2011-2012**

The 2011-2012 *Catalogue* will describe in detail degree program changes that will affect incoming students most and continuing students somewhat. The following guide will help continuing students to plan pending more explanation in the *Catalogue*, to be published on or around June 17.

Master of Divinity

Students who enter the MDiv program beginning in the fall of 2011 will have slightly different requirements than those stated for the MDiv in the 2009-2011 *Catalogue*. Continuing students may continue in their current plan by default or may opt into the modified requirements, beginning with registration for the fall of 2011.

The following is a summary of new requirements (listed in order of loosely recommended sequence):

- Scripture I, 2 introductory Old Testament
- Scripture II, 2 introductory New Testament
- Early Christian History, 1 introductory course
- Ministerial Leadership, 1 introductory course
- Christian Ethics, 1 introductory course
- Religious Education, 1 introductory course
- Pastoral Care, 1 introductory course
- Spiritual Practice, 1 introductory course
- Ethics and Social Justice, 1 course, any level
- Systematic Theology, 2 introductory courses
- Field Education, 2 semesters, contiguous fall through spring
- US Religious History, 1 introductory course
- Preaching, 1 introductory course
- Worship, 1 introductory course
- Practicing Theology, 1 course, any level
- World Religions or World Christianity, 1 course, any level
- Free electives: Any 7 courses

Integrative Catalysts are now designations upon regularly-scheduled courses. In order to earn a Masters of Divinity, students must take one of the above courses with each of the following designations and meet any special requirements related to meeting the Integrative Catalyst requirement in that course.

- Theology and the Arts [TA]
- Interfaith Engagement [IF]
- Professor-Practitioner Program (concurrently with Field Education) [P3]
- Border-Crossing Immersion (special assignments in designated classes) [BC]

To highlight the differences:

1. New students will participate in student-led orientation groups, but they will not earn 1 credit.
2. New students will be required to take one course in spiritual practice, CHRS.
3. Border-Crossing Immersion will earn new students 3 credits, rather than the current 2. A student who is continuing in the MDiv, and who earned 1 credit for spiritual formation, may take Border Crossing for 2 credits.
4. New students will take four introductory-level Bible courses, rather than the continuing students' three. They will take two 500-level OLDOT courses and two 500- or 600-level NEWOT courses.
5. New students will take Integrative-Catalyst designated courses in other academic disciplines rather than stand-alone Integrative Catalyst courses. Continuing students may take the designated courses to meet the Integrative Catalyst course requirement.

Master of Arts (Religious Education, Theological Studies, Theological Research)

MATR students are no longer eligible to take DMIN 802F as their research course. Rather, they will take INTE 702 in the spring semester on Thursday afternoons with Professor Valentin.

Doctor of Ministry

Entering students will now choose between the extended cohort, whose three DMin seminars meet Tuesday mornings every fall semester, and the intensive cohort which meets for one week in three sequential Junes. DMin students cannot “mix and match” these seminars but must choose at the beginning whether to participate in the extended or the intensive cohort.