Empowering a New Kind of Leader

The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers at Andover Newton offers a world of opportunities to develop your passion for service.

Integrating classical theological study with reflection and practice, an Andover Newton education engages your head, heart and soul. Through spiritually enriching curricula and community-based practical training, our graduate programs provide leadership and professional development for both traditional and nontraditional forms of ministry.

Like the Peace Corps, Andover Newton trains people to transform the world one community at a time.

Andover Newton is empowering a new kind of leader: intellectually curious, committed to service, engaged in the community and the world, and eager to experience faith on many levels. We challenge you to strive for a deeper understanding of your faith, and to find ways to put your faith into action.

Andover Newton prepares you to follow your call to service wherever it may lead you. We invite you to make Andover Newton the next stop on your journey.

Our Students

For over 200 years, the Andover Newton Theological School has been educating leaders guided by faith and dedicated to service. Today, our students include women and men of all ages from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds who belong to more than 30 different faiths and denominations. They form a close-knit community united by a commitment to service.

Like Peace Corps volunteers, Andover Newton students are engaged with the world and immersed in the communities they serve. They are intellectually and spiritually curious, hungering for a deeper understanding of their faith. They are open to new ideas and perspectives, and eager to take on new challenges.

Some students come to Andover Newton to prepare for a career change, while others want to explore new ways to integrate their beliefs into their current professions. We encourage all our students to apply what they learn in the classroom to their personal faith and how they live their lives on a daily basis. Andover Newton students gain spiritual leadership skills and practical training that prepare them to put their faith into service. They go on to pursue fulfilling careers in ministry, social services, education and many other fields. Andover Newton can help to you identify where you want to make a difference, and then help you to find ways to do it.
“My experiences in the Peace Corps were of prime importance in my spiritual formation. The Peace Corps was faith in action and helped propel me on a journey that led to Andover Newton for my Master of Divinity, to pastoring a church in Maine and now back to Andover Newton for a Doctor of Ministry. Like the Peace Corps, my times at Andover Newton have offered transformative experiences. And indeed for me the Peace Corps and Andover Newton are inextricably intertwined. My current research focuses on liberation theology, which I first experienced in Nicaragua during my Peace Corps days.”

John Woodward, Candidate for the Doctor of Ministry RPCV, Nicaragua (1975-1976)

The Coverdell Fellows Program

Programs of Study

The Coverdell Fellows Program at Andover Newton Theological School offers Returned Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to earn a Master of Divinity, one of three Master of Arts degrees, a Doctor of Ministry or one of five short certificates in Interfaith Leadership, Spiritual & Pastoral Care, Ministerial Leadership, Ethics & Social Justice, or Theological Studies.

Coverdell Fellows also gain practical experience in ministry through yearlong field-based internships in churches and community organizations in underserved American communities.

“Peace Corps service is often a life-defining experience, and because of it many volunteers recognize they have a lasting call to service. There is no better place for former Peace Corps volunteers to pursue that calling than through the in-depth preparation that a seminary can provide—especially Andover Newton, the nation’s oldest graduate school of theology and a leader in teaching multi-faith border-crossing skills.”

Nick Carter, President, Andover Newton Theological School

Benefits

The Coverdell Fellows Program offers financial assistance to Returned Peace Corps Volunteers for graduate study and degree-related professional internships in underserved American communities. At Andover Newton, Coverdell Fellows benefit from:

- 30 percent tuition discount worth $15,000 over three years
- application fee waiver (a $50 savings)
- practical experience and community engagement through a field-based internship in a church or community organization
- practitioner guidance in ministry and leadership development
- interfaith engagement within a supportive and close-knit community

Eligibility

Former Peace Corps volunteers who have satisfactorily completed their Peace Corps service have lifetime eligibility for the Coverdell Fellows Program for graduate study at the Andover Newton Theological School.

How to Apply

The Admissions Committee makes admissions decisions on a rolling basis except for applicants to the Doctor of Ministry program, who are notified in early June. Decisions are generally made within four weeks of application.

For more information, please contact our Admissions Office: www.ants.edu/admissions | (617) 831-2430 admissions@ants.edu

Please refer to the Andover Newton Catalogue available at www.ants.edu/courses/schedule which contains current academic policy and supersedes this descriptive brochure.
Practical education for successful theological leadership.

Take a stand.

When I came here I began to understand faith values in a different way. I learned to understand issues of race and gender and sexism and all those other isms. I’ve been challenged to move beyond my comfort zone.

Yes, I take a stand: I’m a Christian, I will do Christian Ministry. But now I’m able to understand Islamic people and Buddhist people and different communities of faith. I’m going back into the world – a broken world that needs us – with a broader mind-set, prepared theologically and in my spirit.

-Luis Alvarenga, M Div, 2006

Learning in a faith community

Vibrant worship and learning is the heart of community life at Andover Newton. Our new and cutting-edge curriculum is designed with a competency-based and multidisciplinary orientation. Student groups such as the Black Student Fellowship, Baptist Fellowship and Unitarian Universalist Community lead their own weekly worship services and every Wednesday the entire campus gathers for an ecumenical service. In addition, the President hosts “Spiritual Journeys,” a series of intimate gatherings that feature faculty members’ walks of faith, providing another important avenue to share how faith shapes our discipleship.

Ecumenical, cultural and professional diversity makes Andover Newton a rich and stimulating community. Some students come to Andover Newton soon after completing their undergraduate degrees while others have had successful careers as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers or business executives before pursuing second or third careers that call for a theological education. While more than half represent the United Church of Christ, American Baptist and Unitarian Universalist denominations, nearly forty other traditions come together to create a lively environment for theological inquiry. Students come from Newton, Brookline, Cambridge, Boston, greater New England, all over the United States and around the world. The connections and friendships our students forge with each other and faculty members continue long after graduation, sustaining them in whatever ministries or vocations they pursue.

Richness of being.

I enrolled at Andover Newton to pursue the M.A. in Theological Research, ideally preparing me as professor of Theology and the Arts. I found the curriculum at ANTS to best balance the call to donation (ministry) and transfiguration (artistry). There exists a richness of being on this campus, like no other. It is my prayer that here my interests (theatre, literary analysis, creative writing, music, philosophy, theology) will move from hobbies into hope, from complexities I study into compassion I exhibit.

-Ashley Gay, MATR, 2011

“Andover Newton is a place you can come to confirm your call, stretch your mind, enhance your faith, and broaden your horizons. The rich religious and cultural diversity in this community provides the perfect backdrop for theological study. Every new student adds to that diversity in important ways. Whatever your form of ministry, wherever you think your call may take you, Andover Newton can equip you for the journey. We encourage you to believe in your call, learn with us, and be prepared to lead when you leave.”

- Dr. Nancy E. Nienhuis, Dean of Students and Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
Academic Programs

Andover Newton invented the model for graduate theological education in 1807. The resulting Master of Divinity degree remains our flagship program. The program requires 81 credit hours in a mix of required courses, requirements with numerous options, and “integrative catalysts” that blend classroom learning with experiential learning. Integrative catalysts include:

- Interfaith Engagement
- Professor-Practitioner Program for ministerial professional formation
- Border-Crossing Immersions (on-campus and off-campus, from Boston to Bangalore)

We offer three Master of Arts (MA) degrees each requiring 48 credit hours. The Master of Arts (Theological Studies) degree (MATS) provides a broad background in theological study while allowing students to concentrate in a specific discipline or field of interest. Examples of student-designed concentrations include Psychology & Religion, Theology & the Arts, Ethics & Social Justice, and Interfaith Leadership. The Master of Arts in Religious Education degree (MARE) is a professional degree for students with a special interest in the ministries of religious education in churches, schools, denominations, agencies or the wider community. The Master of Arts (Theological Research) degree (MATR) provides focused study in a field of scholarly interest and prepares you for further graduate work (such as the Ph.D.). This program requires the preparation and defense of a thesis of approximately one-hundred pages.

Our Doctor of Ministry program is designed to foster creative practical and scholarly education. It is offered to clergy and lay leaders who have a previous post-baccalaureate degree in theology and three years of active ministry. The program consists of three seminars, six elective classes in a focused area of study, a Candidacy Review in preparation for writing a research project, and a comprehensive examination after the completion of the project. Two cohorts offer “intensive” and “traditional” options.

Five certificate programs, both general and focused, offer non-degree students a short course of study and also provide degree candidates with the chance to develop a focused expertise. Each certificate requires just 15 credits and can be completed in as few as five months. Choose from among the following programs:

- General Theological Studies
- Ethics & Social Justice
- Ministerial Leadership
- Spiritual and Pastoral Care
- Interfaith Leadership

Andover Newton students, including non-degree students with permission from the Dean, are eligible to cross-register at any of the nine other Boston-area seminaries which participate in the Boston Theological Institute (BTI). The BTI offers additional certificate programs in International Mission & Ecumenism and Religion & Conflict Transformation.
**Our Mission**

As a graduate theological school in the Reformed tradition, in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, we strive to educate leaders who are:

- **Enlivened** by rigorous study in a community embracing diversities of faith and life;
- **Devoted** to the renewing of church and society through ecumenical witness and creative expression of the gospel;
- **Committed** to enacting God’s ways of justice and love in the world.

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**Why Andover Newton**

- Andover Newton has, for more than 200 years, led the way in graduate theological education.
- We are a Christian seminary that has a multi-faith student body and institutional expertise in interfaith dialogue.
- We are recognized around the globe as a leader in helping our students develop the practical skills necessary for successful ministry.
- More than a school, we are a residential faith community just a few subway stops away from downtown Boston.
- Andover Newton is inclusive, open and welcoming of all intellectually curious persons.