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 2015-2016 Catalogue has been posted online on the Andover Newton website on the Catalogue and Courses page. Students should begin by making themselves familiar with the material outlining their degree program requirements.

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 505, New Testament Foundations, is an appropriate New Testament course for first-year students (taking both in one semester is not recommended). Basic courses in Pastoral Care (PSYP 600-level) and US Religious History (HIST 645) are good options for first-year students. Introduction to Christian Ethics (ETHI 601) and Ministerial Leadership (CMLE 600-level) provide a good foundation for other courses. The MA degree programs require that students take the MA Colloquium as one of their fall semester courses.

3. Are there courses new students should avoid, or that are not open to first-years?
Systematic Theology (THEO 611, 614) and any preaching courses (CMPR) are not recommended for first-year 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. 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, Spirituality 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. Note that some courses do have prerequisites that must be completed before a student can enroll in them.

5. What should an entering MA student take?
All MA students should plan to take the MA Colloquium (INTE 780) in their first fall term. MAGIL degree students should plan to take the required interfaith leadership course in either the fall or January term. Introduction to Theological Education (INTE 501) is recommended for all non-BA and provisionally-admitted MA students, as well as anyone with an interest in better preparation for theological study.

6. What should an entering DMin student take?
Entering DMin students should take DMIN 801 (the first of three required seminars) and one or more 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 already 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.
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 of the Faculty during their first semester. 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. Contact the Registrar’s office or web page for a Transfer Credit Request form.