

# SEMINARIANS IN THE CITY

*Spiritually Sound Socially Responsible*



## WHAT IS SEMINARIANS IN THE CITY?

City Mission's Seminarians in the City equips our future church leaders by creating a space for Boston Theological Institute students to actively engage the issues of faith and social justice as they pertain to urban ministry, while also meeting their educational demands and supporting their ordination process. Seminarians in the City provides seminarians a unique opportunity to address faith, justice, and theological issues in an urban environment by way of community partnerships, mentorship, and a structured educational program.

### Community Partnership

Each seminarian will partner with a community-based organization or an urban congregation with which they will engage in hands-on ministry or social justice projects.

### Educational Forum

Seminarians will take part in structured educational programming with weekly meetings, readings, and community projects, focused on reflecting theologically. Weekly written reflections and a final paper or project will allow seminarians to integrate the entire experience.

### Faith Formation

During the school year, City Mission will facilitate program-wide quarterly meetings where seminarians and their mentors will come together for presentations, worship, and sharing. These meetings will provide seminarians the opportunity to preach, create unique worship experiences, and engage with local people carrying out urban ministries.

## COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMINARIANS IN THE CITY

All students will have as a requirement both a Final Written Assignment and a Final Oral Presentation at City Mission staff meeting. Listed below are the guidelines for each.

### Final Written Assignment Guidelines

Goal: The goal of this assignment is to integrate your readings and personal experience with theological reflection. Based on what you have read and experienced, we want to know what you have learned and how you might apply this to future ministry.

Throughout the program, we encourage you to select some questions from your reflections with your supervisor which you can respond to within the contents of the paper. Submit a bibliography along with the final paper.

### Final Oral Presentation Requirement

Every student must complete a quality public presentation of their experience and share this with the City Mission staff.

### Goal

Seminarians in the City immersion placements provide an opportunity to confront the challenges of a social context other than one's own for social analysis, theological reflection, deeper self-knowledge, and the development of multi-cultural sensitivity and skills. This class/immersion seeks to deepen commitment to live one's faith through engaging with vital issues for the church and the world. Bearing witness to what one has seen and heard is a critical part of the experience. Developing the skill to evoke curiosity and hopefully some deepened engagement on the part of others around an issue is also an expectation.

## Program Eligibility

Program participants will generally have prior enrollment status in associated schools of the Boston Theological Institute, although we will consider highly recommended applicants who are unaffiliated. Priority applicants will be those who show a strong interest in engaging in urban ministry. Indicators of this interest include: service in an urban congregation; work in an urban social service organization; active in ordination track with a focus on urban issues. Participants will have completed at least one year of seminary, though two years (including at least one unit of field education) is preferred. In rare cases, undergraduate students with exceptional urban ministry experience will be considered.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

### Hours

- Participants in the summer program will work 20-25 hours per week for 12 weeks
- Participants in the school-year program will work 12-15 hours per week for 30 weeks
- “Border Crossing” experiences serving urban ministry sites for 10 hours/week per semester

### Class Work and Ministry Requirements

- Weekly assignments and theological reflection (2-3 pages)
- Weekly meeting with field education supervisor
- 10-15 pp. paper on theology of urban ministry (1 for summer; 2 for school-year)

### Application Procedures

- Applicants will submit a completed application and essay and be interviewed by City Mission staff
- The number of available slots varies from session to session

**For more information, please contact M.T. Davila @ [mariatdavila@gmail.com](mailto:mariatdavila@gmail.com).  
For an application please visit <https://citymissionboston.org/educate/seminarians>**



**14 Beacon Street, Suite 203, Boston, MA 02108**  
**[www.citymissionboston.org](http://www.citymissionboston.org) · [information@citymissionboston.org](mailto:information@citymissionboston.org) · [www.facebook.com/citymissionbos](http://www.facebook.com/citymissionbos)**