

CHURCH COOPERATIVE STUDY GUIDE

FOR MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENTS



FORGE
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Introduction to the Church Cooperative Study Program

Forge Theological Seminary is committed to serving the local church by providing faithful, rigorous, and accessible theological education. Our Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program is designed to equip men to serve in pastoral ministry and we recognize that some aspects of pastoral ministry are better learned in a local church setting under the guidance of an experienced churchman. The Church Cooperative Study (CCS) program provides an avenue for M.Div. students to devote approximately one-fifth of their program (i.e., eighteen credit hours) to directed service to their local church.

The goal of the CCS program is to recognize real-world ministry applications in the areas of proclamation, leadership, and outreach. CCS students will devote a period of twelve months to directed service in their local church through the following activities:

- Mandatory weekly or bi-weekly meetings with the supervisor. These meetings should involve conversations related to the student's performance, constructive criticism, areas for encouragement, and guidance.
- Preaching, pulpit supply
- Teaching Bible studies, in Sunday school classes, in weekly meetings, and(or) in a small group setting
- Street evangelism, open-air preaching, and(or) other evangelistic outreach
- Pastoral visitation or observation
- Counseling or counseling observation
- Conducting weddings or funerals
- Church administration activities (e.g., organization, scheduling)
- Conducting prayer meetings
- Youth or children's ministry

CCS students complete and forward a Monthly Ministry Summary (see p. 3) to the registrar's office via email by the fifth day of every month.

Credit/Program Information

The following M.Div. courses will be omitted in lieu of CCS: Apologetics II; Christian Ethics; Theology of Biblical Counseling; Pastoral Ministry I; Pastoral Ministry II; Capstone.

CCS must be completed concurrently with the balance of the student's program.

How to Apply for CCS

1. M.Div. students must apply by the mid-point of their program at the latest.
2. Interested students should approach the potential supervisor to discuss the possibility of his participation.
3. Upon the potential supervisor's approval, the student should email the Academic Dean with a completed application form (see pp. 4-5).
4. Approved CCS applicants will receive notification from the registrar's office via email that their application has been approved.

CCS Student Policies

- M.Div. students must possess a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better to apply for CCS.
- CCS supervision is a volunteer position that involves no financial remuneration from the Seminary.
- CCS students are required to maintain their tuition subscription at all times.
- Failure to submit Monthly Ministry Summary reports will result in the removal of the student from the CCS program. In this circumstance, the student will be required to complete the entirety of the traditional M.Div. program.



CHURCH COOPERATIVE STUDY PROGRAM
MONTHLY MINISTRY SUMMARY

Student: _____ CCS Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Name of Local Church: _____

Summary of Activities Performed:

Weekly or biweekly meetings completed? Yes No (circle one)

On my honor, my statements in this document are true and accurate.

Student Signature: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. (John 5:24, ESV)



CHURCH COOPERATIVE STUDY PROGRAM APPLICATION

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Name, address, website, and description of the participating church, including its denomination affiliation, and confession of faith.

I have read the *Church Cooperative Study Program Guide*. **Yes** **No** (circle one)

Student Signature: _____

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. (John 5:24, ESV)



To be Completed by the Proposed Supervisor:

Name: _____

Position: _____

Summary of formal theological training & pastoral experience: _____

Initial

I possess evangelical theological convictions such that I view the Bible as the inerrant and infallible Word of God, and I affirm that salvation from sin is only available through repentant faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. ☐

I affirm the historic orthodox doctrines of the Christian faith as reflected in the Athanasian Creed. ☐

I understand that the CCS program requires my guidance and oversight of the student as he serves my congregation through activities such as pulpit supply, teaching, prayer, and leadership. ☐

I will conduct regular meetings (weekly or biweekly) with the student to discuss matters related to pastoral ministry. ☐

I understand that the student will be responsible for Monthly Ministry Summary reports and that these will require my signature attesting to their truthfulness and accuracy. ☐

Supervisor Signature: _____

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. (John 5:24, ESV)

