

Northeast Ohio School of Ministry (NEOSOM)

Programs and Courses of Study

Ordination Track

RATIONALE AND PREREQUISITES

The Ordination Track of NEOSOM is for students who

1. Sense a call from God to serve the church in the ordained ministry of the UCC;
2. Have satisfactorily completed all requirements for both the Certification Track and the Accreditation Track;
3. Have been recommended for this program by the Discernment Working Group (DWG) of the Committee on Ministry of their association. This recommendation presupposes a letter of formal endorsement for Member In Discernment status by the student's home congregation.

This program of study is both formative and educational, and students should anticipate needing four to six years to complete all of its requirements (including the Certification and Accreditation Tracks).

Students who wish to take individual courses in the Ordination Track but who have not been recommended by their DWG for this track must request permission of the Dean of NEOSOM to take each course. Such students are not considered to be in the Ordination Track. No auditors are permitted in Ordination Track courses.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

1. Confirmation by the Dean and Registrar of NEOSOM of successful completion of the Certification and Accreditation Tracks of the program.
2. A letter of from the Chair of the student's DWG recommending the student for the Ordination Track of NEOSOM.

COMPLETING THE ORDINATION TRACK

Course requirements for the Ordination Track are provided in the following table, which also lists courses necessary for the Certification and Accreditation Tracks. **It is the responsibility of the student to ascertain with the Registrar of NEOSOM that the student's record accurately reflects all courses that have been satisfactorily completed, as well as courses that have been taken but not satisfactorily completed.**

Courses listed in the Ordination Track should be taken in the sequence in which they are listed until Advanced Homiletics. The requirements following Advanced Homiletics may be taken as they become available and fit into a student's schedule. In the event that the scheduling of courses significantly impedes the progress of a Member in Discernment, every reasonable effort will be made to assist that member with Independent Study options.

The Lancaster Theological Seminary Summer Academy offers one week of study each summer; Yale's Summer Study offers two weeks each summer, and students are expected to complete (with a grade of at least Pass in all courses) at least six weeks of study at LTS or YDS (i.e., six summers at LTS or three

summers at YDS). Each summer of study consists of six morning courses at LTS or both the morning and afternoon courses at YDS. Students should also take the workshops and evening courses at LTS. Papers must be written for both the morning and evening courses at LTS and the morning and afternoon courses at YDS.

Students who wish to take an alternative, equivalent course of study at another seminary or divinity school, such as the Summer Course at Chicago Theological Seminary or the two-week Summer Course of Study School at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio, must secure permission from the Dean prior to enrolling in the alternative program.

Students must successfully complete three years of Ministry Practicum. The annual Practicum consists of four facilitated day-long seminars (in the fall, winter, and spring) devoted to a particular topic of the practice of ministry:

- 2017-18: Practical Issues in Ministry (liturgical events, pastoral- and self-care, authority and leadership)
- 2018-19: Theology
- 2019-20: Ethics
- 2020-21: Preaching.

Reading and writing components will be assigned for each seminar. Participants who arrive at a seminar unprepared will not receive credit for that seminar and will need to take it the next time it is offered (in three years). An annual written summary of a student's participation in the Ministry Practicum will be sent to the student and the student's COM. Students who do not fulfill the expectations of a practicum year will need to repeat that year when it is offered again in three years.

Students may enroll in each annual Ministry Practicum between the fall and winter sessions (and do the work necessary to catch up) but not between the winter and spring sessions. Students who wish to enroll in the Practicum after the winter session is underway must wait until the following fall to enroll.

Students should begin participating in Healthy Practices seminars, offered by the associations, as soon as practical after their admission to the Ordination Track. Students must complete three sessions of each program over the course of four to six years.

Students must attend at least three annual meetings of their association.

Students in the Ordination Track are expected to participate in an overseas cross-cultural immersion of at least two weeks' duration, approved in advance in writing by the Dean. Domestic service trips of comparable immersion in a culture not the student's own may be considered as alternatives by prior written approval by the Dean. The purpose of these trips is both to broaden and enrich the student's own self-awareness as a citizen in a privileged setting in the global community, as well as to provide an opportunity for the student to serve in a setting considerably removed from the student's. A concluding 3-5-page reflection paper, to be submitted within one month of the student's service, is an essential component of the experience.

TUITION

Because of the extensive duration and varied components of the Ordination Track, tuition is charged per academic year of three terms each (fall, winter, and spring) rather than on a course-by-course basis.

Because students are expected to complete the course of study in four to six years, full tuition of \$900 per year is charged for four years, and an administrative fee of one-quarter tuition of \$225 is charged for each of two additional years. This includes all Ministry Practicum seminars and registration fees for required Association Meetings, Healthy Practices Workshops, and Periodic Support Consultations. Tuition may be paid annually, semi-annually, or quarterly, and all tuition charges must be paid in full before a Certificate for the Ordination Track will be granted.

The costs for CPE, the International Service Trip, and summer study at Lancaster Theological Seminary or Yale Divinity School are not included in tuition.

Tuition Summer sessions at Lancaster and Yale are payable directly to those institutions. (For budgeting purposes, the LTS 2016 Summer Academy tuition for full-time residential students, including room and board, was \$900; Yale Summer Study 2016 was \$400 per course and tuition does not include room or board.)

COMMUNICATION WITH THE STUDENT’S COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

Because students who are admitted to the Ordination Track of NEOSOM are Members in Discernment, communication between the Dean of NEOSOM and the Chair of the member’s DWG will be regular, candid, and professional. That communication ordinarily will consist of:

1. A letter of admission from the Dean of NEOSOM, formally recognizing the student as enrolled in the Ordination Track of NEOSOM and laying out the course requirements for that program. Any adjustments made to the requirements, based on the student’s prior experience and background, will be documented in that letter, a copy of which will be sent to the student’s COM. The DWG will approve the proposed plan of study, suggesting changes as indicated by their experience with the candidate, and communicate their wishes to the Dean through the DWG Chair. The Dean will acknowledge any such changes in writing or continue the conversation.
2. The member’s adviser, as assigned by the COM, will, at the discretion of the COM, act as the student’s regular liaison with the COM.
3. Since all decisions about ordination are the responsibility of the member’s COM, NEOSOM will share with that DWG assessment information concerning the student’s preparation and formation for ordained ministry in NEOSOM, including annual reports of progress through the program.
4. Should matters of special attention or concern about the student’s participation in and progress through the Ordination track need to be brought to the member’s COM, the Dean will communicate such matters to the Chair of the COM.
5. The Dean of NEOSOM will notify in writing the Chair of the member’s DWG when the student has successfully completed the Ordination Track.
6. All correspondence between NEOSOM and the student’s DWG become part of the student’s NEOSOM record.

Certification Track	Accreditation Track	OrdinationTrack
Journey Through Self-Discovery	Journey Through Self-Discovery	Journey Through Self-Discovery
Polity	Polity	Polity

Intro to Biblical Studies	Intro to Biblical Studies	Intro to Biblical Studies
OT 1	OT 1	OT 1
OT 2	OT 2	OT 2
Leadership	Leadership	Leadership
NT 1	NT 1	NT 1
NT 2	NT 2	NT 2
Personal Ethics	Personal Ethics	Personal Ethics
Theology	Theology	Theology
Church History 1	Church History 1	Church History 1
Church History 2	Church History 2	Church History 2
Spiritual Disciplines	Spiritual Disciplines	Spiritual Disciplines
Worship	Worship	Worship
	Homiletics	Homiletics
	Rites and Sacraments	Rites and Sacraments
	Hymnody	Hymnody
	Professional/Ministerial Ethics	Professional/Ministerial Ethics
	Caring Professions 1	Caring Professions 1
	Caring Professions 2	Caring Professions 2
	Education in the Church	Education in the Church
	Stewardship	Stewardship
	Evangelism	Evangelism
	Church Administration	Church Administration
	“Called by God to What?”	“Called by God to What?”
	Internship	Internship
		Introduction to Pastoral Ministry
		Exegesis for Preaching
		OT3
		NT3
		Church History 3 (contemporary church)
		Theory and Practice in Congregational Life (ethics 3)
		Advanced Homiletics
		Ministry Practicum (four years)
		Healthy Practices (annually for a total of four)
		CPE (basic unit)
		Supervised Ministry (twelve

		months)
		Summer study at Lancaster, Yale, or another institution (six weeks)
		Adviser Meetings (six per year for at least four years)
		International Cross-cultural Immersion
		Association Annual Meeting (three or more)