



McMaster Divinity  
College

### **Process for Applying for and Completing a DPT Advanced Elective in Practical Theology**

In a course that has been designated as an "Advanced Elective in Practical Theology," there are specific assignments within that course that fulfill the unique requirements of the DPT degree. Professors can also use regular course assignments as part of a DPT advanced elective but at least one assignment must reflect the specific research interest of the student and be informed by a practice-led methodology.

1. Students meet with the course instructor to discuss course design and DPT specific assignments in advance of the upcoming semester.
2. The Professor and student craft a proposal for an advanced elective to be presented to the director of the DPT degree for approval.
3. Once the faculty member, program director and student are satisfied with the proposal a formal application can be made to the Dean's office for the Advanced Elective.
4. Students are expected to participate in every aspect of the course, however at least some of their assignments will be tailored to meet the requirements of the DPT degree.
5. A 1- to 2-page syllabus supplement that describes the particular course requirements for the DPT student will be added to the regular course syllabus (as an amendment to it).
6. The signed application, plus the 1- to 2-page syllabus supplement is to be given to the Registrar.
7. The professor of the course is responsible for monitoring the student's progress and providing feedback and issuing grades throughout the duration of the course.

## Developing Assignments for DPT Directed Studies

The following criteria is provided to help in the construction of assignments that fit the requirements of a DPT directed study.

1. Situating the assignment in relation to the broader course topic.
  - How does the assignment connect to the overall topic of the course?
  
2. Description of the practice that is being undertaken in order to engage the course topic from a practice-based approach.
  - How will practice play a role in the course and the research, particularly as it relates to the final paper?
  
3. Engagement with theories of understanding and/or practice that relate to the assignments topic
  - How will existing theories and research inform the assignment and your reflection on the interface between your current ministry practice and potential new ways to understand and practice ministry?
  
4. Written work that offers a reflection on the integration of ongoing practice and theoretical discoveries and how these two can inform ongoing practice.
  
5. Artifacts other than written work may also be used in an assignment or as part of an assignment.
  
6. Every assignment may not have an explicit practice based component to it, however the final paper must be guided by a "practice - led" methodology.
  
7. The following language is suggested for syllabi:

DPT students who wish to count this course as an elective for their degree program must consult with the program director of the DPT and the course instructor in order to develop a "directed study" component for the course that fulfills the specific elements required by the DPT program. Once the elements of the directed study have been agreed upon by the student, the program director and the instructor a formal application can be made for a directed study in connection with this course. Once the application is accepted DPT students can proceed with the course as part of their degree program.