

ATS seeks senior director of programs and initiatives

By CHRIS MEINZER

The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) is excited to announce a search for a senior director of programs and initiatives (SDPI). ATS works across the United States and Canada to promote the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of communities of faith and the broader public. To support this important work, the Association is seeking a relational leader and systems thinker who will be responsible for ensuring that programs and initiatives operate effectively and align well with the ATS mission and strategic priorities.



A record of successful leadership, an ability to promote the strategic vision for the future of theological education, and a deep care for the flourishing of God's purpose and people is of utmost importance.

Key responsibilities will include:

- translating the ATS mission and strategic priorities into programmatic goals and actionable plans,
- developing cohesion and collaboration across programs and initiatives—that currently number twelve—to foster organizational learning and assessment,
- overseeing programmatic assessment to foster organizational learning and improvement,
- promoting curiosity and wisdom among teams that benefit the program work in support of theological education and contribute to a deeper understanding about strategic priorities,

- identifying and cultivating new methods, technologies, and systems to improve and streamline organizational processes that promote collaboration and effectiveness, and
- participating in the hiring, supervising, evaluating, and developing program and initiative staff to achieve desired program outcomes and deliver value to the ATS membership.

As more fully described in the [job description](#), the desired candidate will be a person with a background and experience that effectively demonstrates:

- organizational leadership and planning,
- programmatic collaboration, assessment, and learning,
- the ability to cultivate and inspire teams toward common goals and objectives,
- the capacity to see the needs of theological education and discern what strategies, programs, and plans would best support its future, and
- the support and advancement of a culture that values diversity, quality and improvement, collegiality, and leadership.

ATS seeks someone with the relevant combination of education and experience consistent with the duties and responsibilities of the role. Education in and experience with theological education, higher education administration, organizational leadership, and/or other appropriate fields are preferred. ATS strongly encourages applications from diverse communities and those with diverse backgrounds and lived experiences.

The SDPI is a full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. ATS is headquartered in Pittsburgh, PA, but

most staff work in a hybrid or remote fashion. Relocation to Pittsburgh is negotiable depending on the successful candidate. The position will require regular travel in the fulfillment of the work.

ATS will begin the search process in February 2025, aim to identify the successful candidate by April 2025, and seek a start date on or before August 2025. To apply for this position, please send a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for three references to Chris Meinzer at meinzer@ats.edu.



Chris Meinzer is Senior Director and COO at The Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.