
Entering Student Questionnaire

Revision E (Fall 2020)

Q1) Degree program

- Pre-theology
- MDiv
- MA Professional (MRE/MCM/MA in pastoral studies, youth ministry, etc.)
- MA Academic (e.g. MAR/MTS/MA)
- ThM/STM
- DMin
- PhD/ThD/STD
- Doctor of __ (E.g. EdD/DMiss/DMA)
- Non-degree special
- Diploma, certificate
- Other: (Please specify)

Q2) Are you enrolling:

- Full-time
- Part-time

Q2a) Do you plan to take any courses at a campus or extension site?

- Yes
- No, I plan to take all my courses online. *(if selected go to Question 4)*

Q2b) Do you plan to take any courses that are mostly or completely online while in this program?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Q2c) How often do you plan to be at a campus or extension site for most of your courses?

- Weekly
- Several times a quarter or semester
- Once a quarter or semester
- Once or twice a year

Q3a) Do you or will you use school-provided housing?

- Yes
- Yes, as a commuter only
- No *(if selected go to Question 3c)*

Q3b) How important was the availability of student housing to your decision to attend this theological school?

- Of no importance
- Slightly important
- Somewhat important
- Important
- Very important

Q3c) Did you or will you relocate in order to attend this program?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Q4) Gender

- Male
- Female
- Other: (Please specify)
- Prefer not to disclose

Q5) In what year were you born? – *Select from list* –

Q6) How would your school or program identify you?

- A domestic student
- An international student

Q7) With which of the following do you identify? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, African American, African Canadian | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic, Latino(a), Latin@ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native North American, First Nation, Indigenous | <input type="checkbox"/> White, Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian-descent or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Please specify) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to disclose |

Q8) Are you:

- Single (includes widowed/divorced)
- Married

Q9) How many dependents do you have?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> None (<i>if selected go to Question 10</i>) | <input type="radio"/> Two |
| <input type="radio"/> One | <input type="radio"/> Three |
| | <input type="radio"/> Four or more |

Q9a) How many hours a week do you plan to devote to primarily providing care for your dependents?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Fewer than 10 hours | <input type="radio"/> 21-30 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> 10-15 hours | <input type="radio"/> 31-40 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> 16-20 hours | <input type="radio"/> More than 40 hours |

Q9b) How did dependent care impact your choice of school or program?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I chose a shorter degree program | <input type="radio"/> Other: (Please specify) |
| <input type="radio"/> I chose to enroll part-time | <input type="radio"/> It did not impact my choice of school or program |
| <input type="radio"/> I chose a school with more online courses | |
| <input type="radio"/> I chose a school closer to home or a network of support | |

Q10) How many hours a week do you plan to work at a paying job this year?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> No plans for paying job | <input type="radio"/> 21-30 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> Fewer than 10 hours | <input type="radio"/> 31-40 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> 10-15 hours | <input type="radio"/> More than 40 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> 16-20 hours | |

Q11) How long is your commute to school?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> I live in campus housing | <input type="radio"/> 2 to 4 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> I live within walking distance of campus | <input type="radio"/> More than 4 hours |
| <input type="radio"/> 1/2 to 1 hour | <input type="radio"/> I take all of my classes online |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 to 2 hours | |

Q12) Do you have an undergraduate degree?

- Yes
- No (If selected, go to Question 16a)

Q13) From what type of undergraduate institution did you graduate?

- A public university, state college, or community college
- A private university or college (not religiously affiliated)
- A private, religiously affiliated university or college

Q14a) What type of undergraduate degree did you earn?

- Two-year Associate's Degree
- Degree from Technical School
- Bachelor's Degree

Q14a1) What country and state/province did you attend school?

Q14a2) What school did you attend?

Q14b) What was the area of your undergraduate major? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Theology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities (e.g., classics, English, history, languages) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/behavioral sciences (e.g., economics, political science, psychology, sociology) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural/physical sciences (e.g., chemistry, mathematics, engineering) | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical studies (e.g., business, communications, computers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | |

Q15) What is your highest degree beyond the bachelor's?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> None | <input type="radio"/> MDiv |
| <input type="radio"/> EdD | <input type="radio"/> MSW |
| <input type="radio"/> JD/LLB | <input type="radio"/> PhD |
| <input type="radio"/> Master's | <input type="radio"/> Other Degree |
| <input type="radio"/> MBA | <input type="radio"/> Other Doctorate |
| <input type="radio"/> MD | <input type="radio"/> Other Professional |

Q15b) Was your degree from a theological school or program?

- Yes
- No

Q16a) How much educational debt did you bring with you to this program?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> None | <input type="radio"/> \$30,000 to \$39,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$10,000 | <input type="radio"/> \$40,000 to \$59,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$10,000 to \$19,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$60,000 to \$79,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> \$20,000 to \$29,999 | <input type="radio"/> \$80,000 or more |

Q16b) How much other debt did you bring with you (non-educational debt, excluding home mortgage, e.g., credit card, car loan)?

- None
- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 to \$19,999
- \$20,000 to \$29,999
- \$30,000 to \$39,999
- \$40,000 to \$59,999
- \$60,000 to \$79,999
- \$80,000 or more

Q16c) Are you currently responsible for payments on the student loans of a family member other than yourself?

- Yes
- No

Q17) In the past five years, have you held, been elected to, or been appointed to a leadership position in: (Check all that apply)

- Your local church
- Other church body or religious organization
- School or college organization
- Civic or fraternal organization
- Other leadership position
- No recent leadership position

Q18) Current denomination or religious tradition

Denomination Family: - *Select from list* -

Denomination: - *Select from list* -

See listing of Denominations, Denominational Families and Religious Traditions available [here](#).

Q18a) If Catholic is selected: Please indicate your anticipated goal of formation (Check all that apply):

- Diocesan priest
- Religious order priest
- Lay ecclesial minister
- Religious sister or brother
- Deacon / permanent deacon
- Lay person not in ministry

Q19) In what denomination(s) or religious tradition(s) were you primarily raised and/or formed? (Choose all that apply)

Denomination Family: - *Select from list* -

Denomination: - *Select from list* -

See listing of Denominations, Denominational Families and Religious Traditions available [here](#).

Do you anticipate pursuing any of the following?

Q20a) Ordination

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Already Ordained

Q20b) Other ministry credentialing (e.g. licensure, commissioning, chaplaincy)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Already credentialed

Q20c) Other professional credential related to your degree (e.g. teaching, counseling, social work)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- Already have professional credential

Q21a) During the past two years, how would you describe your participation in a worshipping community, congregation, or parish?

- Very active
- Active
- Moderately active
- Not very active
- Inactive (if selected go to Question 22)

Q21b) If not "inactive", was the church:

- Rural
- Small town
- Suburban
- Urban

Q21c) If not "inactive", what was the size of the church:

- Under 100 members
- 100 to 249
- 250 to 499
- 500 to 999
- 1,000 to 1,999
- 2,000 or more

Q22) When did you first consider going to theological school?

- Before college
- During college
- One or two years after graduating from college
- After graduate work
- After two to ten years of work
- After ten or more years of work

Q24) How important were the following in your decision to pursue theological education? (Select answer most closely approximating the importance of each factor.)

1 = Of no importance / 2 = Of little importance / 3 = Somewhat important / 4 = Important / 5 = Very important

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Q24a) Influence of family or spouse | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24b) Influence of friend(s) | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24c) Encouragement of pastor / minister | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24d) Experience of counseling/spiritual direction | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24e) Experienced a call from God | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24f) Intellectual interest in religious / theological questions | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24g) Opportunity for study and growth | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24h) Promise of spiritual fulfillment | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24i) Search for meaning in life | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24j) To discern God's will | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24k) Desire to serve others | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24l) Desire to administer the sacraments | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24m) Desire to contribute to the cause of social justice | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24n) Desire to preserve traditions of the church | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24o) Desire to make a difference in life of church | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24p) Experience in campus Christian organization | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24q) Experience of the community life of a local church or worshipping community | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24r) Desire to make a difference in the world | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| Q24s) To increase my potential to get a job | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |

Q25) How important were the following in your decision to attend this institution?

1 = Of no importance / 2 = Of little importance / 3 = Somewhat important/ 4 = Important / 5 = Very important

- | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| Q25a) Quality of the faculty | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25b) Curriculum | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25c) Academic reputation of the school | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25d) University / college affiliation | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25e) Access to other theological schools / cross-registration | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25f) Availability of distance learning | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25g) Extension site of main campus | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25h) Flexible class schedule | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25i) Denominational affiliation | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25j) Comfort with the school's doctrinal positions/theological perspective | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25k) Encouragement of my pastor | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25l) Sent by religious superior | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25m) Recommended by a graduate/current student | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25n) Encouragement of a faculty member/mentor from my college | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25o) Participation in a vocational discernment program (high school or college) | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25p) Family reasons | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25q) Quality of the admissions staff | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25r) Good financial aid assistance | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25s) Wanted a school close to home / work | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25t) Diverse / multicultural community | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |
| Q25u) Sense of community at the school | <input type="radio"/> | 1 | <input type="radio"/> | 2 | <input type="radio"/> | 3 | <input type="radio"/> | 4 | <input type="radio"/> | 5 |

Q26) Which of the following most compelled you to find out more about this institution?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Graduate | <input type="radio"/> Know a particular faculty member(s) at theological school |
| <input type="radio"/> Relative | <input type="radio"/> Online ad |
| <input type="radio"/> Friend | <input type="radio"/> Print ad or mailing |
| <input type="radio"/> Pastor | <input type="radio"/> Theological school publications |
| <input type="radio"/> Religious superior | <input type="radio"/> Conference or church event |
| <input type="radio"/> Current student | <input type="radio"/> School Website |
| <input type="radio"/> College chaplain, advisor, or other college contact | <input type="radio"/> Web search |
| <input type="radio"/> Theological school recruiter | <input type="radio"/> Social media search |
| | <input type="radio"/> Theological school initiated contact with me |

Q27) After hearing about our school, how did you gain more information about it? (Check all that apply)

- Viewed school Website
- Requested information via the school Website
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Communicated with school staff
- Communicated with current student / graduate
- Communicated with school faculty
- Wrote to the school
- Telephoned the school
- Visited the school (*if selected also answer Question 28*)

Q28) If you visited the school as an individual or as part of a program, how important was that visit to your decision to attend the institution?

- Of no importance
- Slightly important
- Somewhat important
- Important
- Very important

Q29) How significant was financial aid assistance in your decision to attend this institution?

- Of no significance
- Of some significance
- Significant
- Of great significance
- Of greatest significance
- Did not apply for financial aid

Q30a) Are you currently engaged in ministerial work?

- Yes
- No (*if selected go to Question 31*)

Q30b) Do you intend to continue working in the same position while pursuing your degree?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Q30c) Is that ministerial work...

- Full-time paid
- Full-time volunteer
- Part-time paid
- Part-time volunteer

Q31) Upon graduating from our school, do you anticipate working full-time or part-time?

- Full-time
- Part-time
- I do not intend to work in a paid position. (*if selected go to Question 33*)

Q31a) Do you anticipate holding multiple positions?

- Yes
- Yes, and one or more position will be ministerial work (bivocational ministry)
- Unsure, but at least one position will be ministerial work
- Unsure
- No

Q32a) Upon graduating from our school, what types of paid positions do you anticipate having? (Check all that apply)

- Congregational/parish ministry
- Teaching or educational setting
- Health care chaplain or counselor
- Faith-based nonprofit
- Other: Please explain

Q32b) If Congregational/Parish Ministry, what position do you anticipate having?

- Pastor, priest, minister of a congregation/parish
- Associate or assistant pastor, priest, or minister
- Minister or director of Christian/religious education
- Youth work or ministry
- Musician or liturgist
- Spiritual director
- New church development / church planting / evangelism
- Other position within a congregation/parish context
- Unsure what position within a congregation / parish context

Q32c) If NOT Congregational/Parish Ministry, what position do you anticipate having?

- Retreat or spiritual director (not in a congregation/parish)
- Campus ministry or youth worker (not in a congregation/parish)
- Hospital/hospice/healthcare chaplaincy
- Military chaplaincy
- Prison ministry
- Other specialized ministry (not in a congregation/parish)
- Missionary service (foreign)
- Denominational administrator or staff
- Teaching in primary or secondary education
- Teaching or administration in a theological school
- Other teaching or administration in higher education
- Other Religious or parachurch agency/organization
- Social work/social services
- Social justice ministry
- Community development or community organizing
- Pastoral counselor (not in a congregation/parish)
- Licensed counselor or psychologist
- Executive/administrator in a nonprofit agency
- Executive/administrator in a for-profit business
- Further graduate or professional studies
- Full-time homemaking or childcare
- Medicine/engineering/law
- Other: (Please specify)
- Undecided

Q33) Do you anticipate holding a volunteer/unpaid ministerial position after graduation?

- Yes
- No (if selected go to **END**)
- Unsure

Q33a) What type of ministerial position?

- Pastor, priest, minister of a congregation/parish
- Associate or assistant pastor, priest, or minister
- Minister or director of Christian/religious education
- Youth work or ministry
- Musician or liturgist
- Spiritual director
- New church development/church planting/evangelism
- Other position within a congregation/parish context
- Unsure

Q33b) Will that position be:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Unsure

~ END OF SURVEY ~

Appendix

Designed by [The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada](#) (ATS), the ATS Student Questionnaires are valuable tools that gather information from students and graduates for the improvement and enhancement of theological schools to the benefit of communities of faith and the broader public. All [ATS member schools](#) can order access to these instruments from the [ATS Student Questionnaires webpage](#), which also provides comprehensive implementation instructions, interpretation resources, and other helpful materials.

Online access to each questionnaire must be ordered each academic/program year, which runs from fall to summer. Participating ATS schools are responsible for informing respondents, obtaining their consent, and reporting vetted data. Respondents indicate their consent by clicking “Begin” on the online survey, provided by ATS and distributed by each institution. [Click here to learn more about informed consent.](#)

Contact [ATS Student Data Services](#) at Qmail@ats.edu with any questions or concerns.