

Midwest Ministry Training

Apprenticeship Experience Detail

WHAT IS THE APPRENTICESHIP EXPERIENCE?

The apprenticeship experience is an arrangement where students of Midwest learn the practical skills of ministry by training under the supervision of one or more ministers in one or more congregations. Students completing the Certificate of Endorsement for Preaching Ministry or the Certificate of Endorsement for Associate Ministry must invest a minimum of 1,500 hours in the apprenticeship experience.

APPRENTICESHIP, NOT AN INTERNSHIP

Midwest requires students to complete an apprenticeship, not an internship.

Generally, an internship is a short-term opportunity where students may be involved in a church to get a feel for the work of ministry in the church. Often interns are given basic work to complete along with short-term opportunities to preach or teach in order to fulfill internship requirements.

An apprenticeship is a long-term opportunity where students follow and work alongside a minister(s) in the work of ministry to learn practical skills of ministry. An apprenticeship involves the mentor investing in the apprentice, actively teaching and training. The apprentice is given responsibilities and critiqued by the mentor so that the apprentice develops skills necessary to ministry.

Internships generally introduce students to the work of ministry in the church. An apprenticeship immerses students in the work of ministry and trains them to develop competency in practical ministry skills. In Midwest, the apprenticeship equips the student with the practical skills necessary for the student to begin ministering on his own in a local congregation.

PRACTICAL MINISTRY SKILLS

Many skills are learned in the apprenticeship including the following skills.

Preaching/Teaching Skills

- Present the plan of salvation
- Significant practice in preparing and delivering sermons and/or lessons (with oversight and/or feedback)
- Taking a confession of faith

- Proper way to conduct a baptismal service (including how to baptize somebody)
- Preparing messages for funerals
- Preparing messages for weddings

Administrative Skills

- Organizing one's time and personal schedule
- Proper way to conduct oneself in various meetings
- Planning for meetings
- Making presentations in meetings
- Understand how finances work in a local church (the ability to understand budgeting and financial statements, etc.)
- Implement best practices in financial matters in the local church (keeping receipts, operating within a budget, etc.)
- Administration of a church ministry (appropriate planning, communicating with those involved, etc.)
- Assembling and working with teams of people

Pastoral Skills

- Making hospital visitations
- Visiting people in nursing homes
- Ministering to those who are dying
- Ministering to those who are grieving
- Ministering to various members of the church as needed

MORE THAN ONE LOCATION

Students in Midwest may complete the apprenticeship requirement in more than one local church. This allows them to be exposed to multiple churches in multiple contexts and helps equip them to be ready to begin a new ministry on their own.