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SM 615 Supervised Mission Experience

Asbury Theological Seminary

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Guidelines for  
**SM 615**  
Supervised Mission Experience  
Asbury Theological Seminary  
Master of Arts in World Mission and Evangelism

**Rationale**
Asbury Seminary's Master of Arts program in World Mission and Evangelism is essentially a two-year (60 semester credit hours) academic degree beyond the B. A. (or equivalent) which prepares informed practitioners for careers in cross cultural mission and ministries of evangelism. Because of the focus on practice and the indispensable value of the action/reflection model for lifetime learning, the program requires some exposure and/or involvement in a cross cultural field with appropriate reflection on mission theory observed and the impact of the experience on the student.

**Options for the Field Experience**
The field may be either: a) a field exposure experience such as a mission field trip to another country or exposure to urban ministries in Chicago, or b) a field involvement experience such as leading an evangelistic Bible study for prisoners or ministering with addictive people for the Salvation Army.

In preparing for either experience a one to two page **LEARNING CONTRACT** (a sample is available) signed by both the student and the field supervisor must be submitted ahead of time to your ESJ Advisor. The contract should indicate specifically what kinds of situations and ministries will be observed and/or performed. Include your desired outcomes from the experience, the expectations and responsibilities agreed on, and a schedule for regular discussions to be held with your supervisor.

Following the field experience the student will need to request that his/her supervisor complete a brief **EVALUATION FORM** reflecting on the student's participation and/or ministry efforts--including any special gifts noted and any areas needing additional development. This should be submitted directly to your advisor.

**Scheduling**
Because the supervised mission experience is designed to serve as an integrative and reflective experience, SM 615 will normally be taken during the student’s final year of studies. Students will register for SM 615, and pay two hours tuition, in the term of the experience; and need to clarify what their field experience will be no later than mid-October (mid-March for December graduates) of their last full year of studies.

**Options available for SM 615 include:**

1. the field based courses MS 685 or MS 660-663* (See note on top of next page)
2. a mission agency’s study tour lasting at least 10 days in the field
3. a self-secured placement or employment in a ministry or institution involving at least 60 hours of **cross cultural experience and evangelistic opportunities**
4. some other option organized or approved by your ESJ School advisor, or
5. Students with a two or more years of full time cross cultural and/or evangelistic field experience prior to matriculation in the M. A. program may find it possible to negotiate an exception after conversation with their ESJ advisor and reflect on earlier experience in order to complete the SM 615 requirement.*
When students select one of these options, no tuition is paid for SM 615. The student will complete either a substitute or a waiver form for SM 615. If the latter, the student will sign up for an additional two-hour elective, normally within the mission and evangelism curriculum, to complete the 60 hours required for graduation. The student is still required to complete the reflection paper required for SM 615, and to participate fully in MS 701 (Sr. Reflection Seminar).

The Reflection Paper

The SM 615 reflection paper (12 to 15 pages, double-spaced, following Slade's Form and Style using either MLA, or a footnote or endnote approach to documentation) is written following the field experience. The paper should briefly describe two or three important situations, incidents, or experience, and reflect on these experiences in terms of:

1. specific insights gained
2. biblical/theological principles involved in your assessment of the occurrences described,
3. cultural and/or cross-cultural principles observed to be at work or absent,
4. how these insights confirm or contrast with resources studied in at least two Mission/Evangelism courses in the student's MA curriculum (documenting sources cited),
5. recommendations you might make and your rationale for them if you were to serve as a consultant to one of the ministries you encountered, and
6. how these experiences and your reflection on them will inform your plans for future ministry.

In addition, the paper should conclude with a section identifying:

1. several ministry questions generated by the experience,
2. ways the experience has affected the student's sense of calling, and
3. personal skills and/or competencies still needing development.

A copy of the paper will be submitted to your ESJ advisor who will recommend “credit” or “no credit.” The student will retain a copy of the paper for use in the MS 701 group closure experience scheduled during his/her final semester.

Evaluation

SM 615 is a two-credit course in which the student receives either a “credit” or a “no credit” grade. Students should take the field experience seriously since faculty advisors and field supervisors tend to become key professionals in one’s developing network, and are often asked to serve as references. The World Mission and Evangelism M. A. student must receive “credit” in a supervised mission course to graduate. Failure to do so will necessitate repeating SM 615 until “credit” is earned.

Costs

Any scholarship aid a student is regularly receiving is applicable to the two hours credit for SM 615. When an agency having a prearranged contract with the seminary charges for "off campus instruction," the field agency or student submits an invoice to the office of the Dean of Academic charges exceed the tuition paid to Asbury, the student pays the difference. The student incurs any additional costs involved for travel, meals, or lodging connected with the field experience unless a mileage reimbursement is appropriate for driving back and forth to a semester long placement. Check with the S.Min. Office for the Mileage Reimbursement Policy.
Learning Contract for SM615
"Supervised Mission Experience"

During the cross-cultural mission/evangelism experience it is my desire to be exposed to the following situations and ministry experiences.

• Contact with (which people)

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________

• Exposure to ministries that

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________

• Opportunities to engage in

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________

• Exposure to how the local church engages in missional outreach such as

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________

• Occasions to meet with other staff members and/or leaders of

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________

• Opportunity to meet daily with you as my Field Supervisor in an effort to debrief each day's experience

Supervisor's Suggestions: ________________________________
Introduction:
This form is designed to assist you as a field supervisor for our mission intern experience in the evaluation of the person named below. Please take time to consider carefully and prayerfully your responses. This will become part of the permanent record of this student as she/he prepares for full-time cross-cultural ministry. Your honest responses are very important.

Name of Intern: __________________________________________
Program and Dates: ______________________________________
Your name and responsibility: ______________________________

Internship:
1. What was the nature of this person's internship?

2. Was it a positive experience for him/her?

3. Was it a positive experience for you and your mission effort?

4. Did she/he demonstrate teachability and cultural sensitivity?

5. Was this person insightful, able to ask difficult questions and work out solutions?

Personal:
1. Was this person able to realistically assess his/her own strengths and weaknesses?

2. Was she/he adapt well to change and demonstrate flexibility?

3. Was he/she able and willing to suffer hardships, physical discomfort and
opposition?

4. Did this person experience any particular (mental or physical) health difficulties?

**Community:**
1. Was he/she able to work well with others as part of a team?

2. Was she/he able to work out interpersonal difficulties in ways that demonstrated respect?

3. Was this person able to contribute to and receive from the Church community?

4. What was the unchurched community's general response to this person?

**Areas of Growth:**
1. What particular education, interests, gifts, and/or skills does this person bring to cross-cultural ministry?

2. What particular education, interests, gifts and/or skills should this person work on for future cross-cultural ministry?

3. Did you notice any particular areas of growth in this person's spiritual or personal life?

4. Are there any particular areas needing growth in this person's spiritual or personal life?
Additional Comments, Thoughts, Suggestions:

Thank you for your very helpful efforts to pass on to others the insights and lessons God has been teaching you as you serve Christ for the glory of his gospel in all the earth.