

**MDiv First-Year Evaluation**

**Registration Services**

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Evaluations are holistic, addressing formational (i.e. moral, spiritual, and denominational), cross-cultural, cognitive, and ministerial dimensions. Evaluations seek to assist students in growing toward ministry and fulfilling curricular and vocational goals. Advancement in the MDiv and MA programs is determined by successful completion of the first-year evaluation conference and successfully completing the credit hours of the foundational coursework for each program.

###### Degree Goals

The ministry degrees share the following goals. Goals specific to each program can be found in the Academic Bulletin/Catalog, available from the office of registration services or on <https://mygets.garrett.edu>.

* + - 1. Personal and corporate spiritual formation—growth in knowledge of God and of faith through personal formation and covenantal communities of prayer and mission so the student lives with integrity, enhances personal and emotional health (self-care), is empowered by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and engages in prophetic interaction and evangelical witness in a diverse society.
      2. Knowing, understanding, and interpreting the theological tradition—developing as a theologian in the practice of ministry with attention to capacities for critical, reflective, faithful, and creative thinking and doing in ministry.
      3. Professional ministerial practice—developing as a leader and reflective practitioner in ministry, mission, and outreach.

###### First Year Evaluation Conference for MDiv Program

The first-year program evaluation conference is to document the student’s progress toward the degree program learning outcomes, to identify any emerging problems or “gaps” and what work remains to be done, and to help the student plan for the next stage of coursework. The conference must be completed no later than October 30 of the second year of study, enabling decisions about course planning to be made prior to the opening of registration in early November. Students who began in spring or summer terms, part-time students, and transfer students must complete the evaluation in the first semester of eligibility (after completion of 27 credit hours). The office of registration services will notify students when they are eligible for their evaluation conference.

The evaluation conference is held with the student’s faculty advisor and one other faculty member assigned in consultation with the program director. The student will assemble a portfolio of first year coursework; provide evidence of spiritual formation; and fill out the student self-evaluation form prior to the evaluation conference. During the conference, the faculty and student will discuss the student’s portfolio work and assess the student’s progress in the program so far and future work. After the evaluation conference, the faculty will provide a summary of the conversation with the student with plans for continued work and make recommendations for required work to facilitate continued development toward learning outcomes.

Students are required to submit the following materials to their portfolio in preparation for the conference:

* 1. their application essay.
  2. graded/marked copies of exams and final papers, projects, or portfolios from all required foundational courses completed during the first year (*not* forum posts, blog posts, or quizzes). Foundational courses and assignments include:
     1. Introduction to Theology: final paper or project
     2. Global Christianity: final paper
     3. Introduction to Hebrew Bible: final exegesis paper
     4. Introduction to New Testament: one portfolio assignment or final exegesis paper
     5. Church History 1: Trinity Essay
     6. Church History 2: Modern Essay
  3. the completed student self-evaluation form.