

MAM Summative Evaluation: Vocational Theological Reflection (AiM & Diaconal Ministry Project Write-up)

The MAM Project is the student's opportunity to engage a congregation at the interface of societal need and Christian service. Therefore, it includes both a congregational component and work in the area of declared expertise. At LSTC, the MAM Project requires 200 hours of service. The first step in planning an MAM Project is collaboration with the Field Education Office around the type and possible location for the project. A congregational site's obligations include a willingness to negotiate the project's goals, provide pastoral and lay feedback, theological reflection and evaluation. The details of the project are negotiated between the student, the pastor, and a parish project lay committee. Before beginning, a project proposal is submitted to the Field Education Office & the Director of the MA Program for approval (see Registrar's MA Summative Evaluation form for Lay Rostered Ministry Candidates).

People involved in the project are:

1. The student.
2. The Director of Field Education.
3. The project supervisor. Generally this is the pastor at the parish where the project is completed. The supervisor agrees to do theological reflection and feedback for a minimum of one hour per week. She/he also signs off on the intern's project paper and provides a final evaluation. If the supervisor is not a member of the ELCA roster, the student must then also work with a mentor who is rostered.
4. The mentor. This person, who needs to be an ELCA rostered individual, provides at least four sessions of theological reflection including a discussion of the project's impact on ELCA constituencies. The mentor provides a two-page letter of final evaluation.
5. The lay committee. A four to six member committee made up of parishioners from the project site that meets with the student monthly to provide feedback, direction, support and ongoing evaluation of the project and its impact on the congregation. They also sign-off on the intern's project paper and provide a final evaluation.

Upon completion of the project, the student provides to the Field Education Office and his/her synod candidacy committee a project portfolio of no more than 30 pages plus accompanying documentation which includes:

1. An analysis of the congregational context
2. An analysis of the project's purpose and goals
3. A reflection on the theological, biblical, historical, and missional underpinnings of the project's goals
4. A detailed description of the project and plans for implementation
5. A description of the project's development of congregational participation
6. Evaluation and critique of the project and its implementation
7. Reflection on the relationship of the project and the candidate's spiritual development
8. Reflection on the integration of the learnings of the project and seminary training, vocational identity and expectations.
9. Complete the Final Evaluation forms - Student, Supervisor and Lay Committee.