

ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
FIELD EDUCATION OFFICE  
**FIELD MENTOR / FIELD SITE SELECTION**

Obviously, Field Mentors and Field Sites go hand in hand. As a result, they must be selected as a unit. As much fun as it would be to choose your ideal setting for ministry and your ideal boss, we rarely have that luxury! It is vital, therefore, to consider *where* you will do your Field Study together as you consider *with whom*.

**Selecting a Field Mentor**

Look for a person whom you respect and who offers you a model of how to do ministry well. Keep in mind the advice of Hebrews 13:7: -Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Clearly the selection of a Field Mentor is a subjective process, and ultimately the decision is between you, God, and your mentor. But it is good to consider the qualifications that will most likely lead to a positive and beneficial experience for you, your mentor, and your site. Carefully consider the following list of qualities as you consider whom to ask to serve as your Field Mentor.

*A Field Mentor should be:*

1. *Experienced* – at least six years vocational ministry experience (bivocational pastors may be accepted, especially if the student is considering bivocational ministry).
2. *Professionally secure* – at least three years in current position.
3. *Proven competence* in his/her chosen field of ministry – faithful to complete the work entrusted to them, loved well by others, wise in leading the body of Christ.
4. *Formal theological education* – has studied biblical, theological and/or pastoral education from an accredited or reputable institution (must value higher theological education).
5. *Mature in their faith* – knowledgeable of Scripture, full of the Spirit, and displaying the character of Christ.
6. *Teachable* – still learning, a student of theology and ministry
7. *Available* – willing to invest the time and energy required to effectively mentor
8. *Personally and professionally a good -fit* for the student
9. *Passionate about ministry and imparting what they've learned.*

- From  
Ministry  
Greenhouse
- 10. *Attentively Listens*
  - 11. *Creates an Environment of Trust*
  - 12. *Actively Teaches and Serves as a Resource*
  - 13. *Courageously Loves*

**Selecting a Field Site**

You want to find a church or Christian organization that will allow you to explore ministry in the context in which you think God may be calling you. If you feel called to lead worship, then serving as a youth minister will have limited benefit for you. However, in the real-world there are often times when God must use less than ideal situations to do His work. Do your best to find a good fit, but the important thing is to *do ministry*. It is better to do ministry outside your area of interest than to do no ministry at all.

*A Field Site should be:*

- A site that offers you opportunities to do ministry in the area(s) where you want to serve (youth, worship, outreach, evangelism, social justice, small groups, preaching, teaching, etc.).
- A site whose need matches yours for hours you can work and ministry area(s) in which you want to serve.
- A site with people that you love or want to love—you'll be spending a lot of time with them!
- A site that aligns with your personal doctrinal or denominational leaning (you need to focus on ministry, not understanding or arguing those who disagree with your position).
- A site that is conveniently located to your residence, work, and school (gas is expensive!).
- Consider if the site will pay you for your service; that can be important to family needs.

***Remember to consider both Field Mentor and Field Site as you look for your Field Study location!***

***A Note about SPIRITUAL Mentors vs. your Field Mentor:***

A Field Mentor fills the role required to supervise and support you through your ministry experience in Field Study. At times that role may include mentoring you spiritually, but it is not their primary responsibility. It is strongly suggested that you find a *Spiritual Mentor* to meet with in addition to your Field Mentor. In fact, you can get extra credit for the class simply by meeting with a Spiritual Mentor at least once each month of the semester. It would be wise to arrange to continue with your Spiritual Mentor for the duration of your seminary journey, and even beyond! For more information, see the -Spiritual Mentor File on BlueQuill.