

QUALITIES OF PALMER SEMINARY M. DIV. GRADUATES

It is recognized that everyone has different aptitudes and abilities and will not develop and mature equally in all of the following areas. Nevertheless, these personal and curricular goals are provided as a guide to ministerial competencies considered to be important and which students should strive to approximate to the best of their abilities.

It is further recognized that these qualities will never be fully attained, but the aim is to keep pressing on toward the prize. To be successful, this journey needs to be shared by the entire seminary community: students, staff, faculty and administrators.

1. Affective/Personal and Social Qualities

Palmer Seminary seeks to be a community of persons and to prepare Christian leaders who:

- a. Have a personally appropriated the Christian faith;
- b. Are committed to grow toward wholeness in relationship with God, self, others and their world and are obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit;
- c. Affirm the Gospel's proclamation of forgiveness, liberation, reconciliation and the gift of eternal life;
- d. Are committed to the full gospel message, which includes both personal and social dimensions;
- e. Have a passion for a ministry concerned with the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of people;
- f. Are aware of their own brokenness and dependence upon God;
- g. Have a disciplined devotional life, bearing fruit in a vital, growing, contagious faith;
- h. Participate regularly in worship and fellowship that supports faith, expands vision and furthers intimacy in relation to God;
- i. Have a spirit of openness toward others in the global body of Christ;
- j. Have a spirit of openness to other living faiths and ideologies;
- k. Value the Bible as uniquely inspired;
- l. View ministry as divine vocation and themselves as called by God;
- m. Have a clear and realistic sense of personal identity, self-acceptance, self-direction, emotional stability and integrity;
- n. Have respect for the dignity of persons, have sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, care for others and desire to serve;
- o. Are open to affirmation and critique;
- p. Are willing to sacrifice for the kingdom;
- q. Are seeking the integration of personal life and ministry.

2. Skill Related Qualities

Palmer Seminary seeks to be a community of persons and to prepare Christian leaders who:

- a. Are equipped to lead the church through preaching and teaching, caring and counseling, evangelizing and serving in dynamic mission and wholistic growth;
- b. Are able to lead individuals to faith in Jesus Christ;
- c. Are articulate and empowered expounders of Biblical truth in relation to all areas of human life;

- d. Are able to interpret and communicate the message of the Bible in a way that is faithful and addresses contemporary life;
- e. Are skilled in assisting God's people toward a loving, serving and transforming presence in the world;
- f. Are sensitive to the various cultural situations and are able to relate the Gospel's saving and freeing power to the needs of persons and institutions in those settings;
- g. Have relational, pastoral care and counseling skills;
- h. Have leadership skills in worship, administration, Christian education, building community and transforming society;
- i. Are able to network and work collegially with others in ministry;
- j. Are able to understand conflict theologically and to utilize it in seeking reconciliation.

3. Content/Cognitive Related Qualities

Palmer Seminary seeks to be a community of persons and to prepare Christian leaders who:

- a. Have a thorough knowledge of the Bible and an understanding of the hermeneutical approaches that the Church past and present has used to understand and apply the Scriptures;
- b. Have grounding in theology and Christian Heritage;
- c. Have a working knowledge of Missiology, Christian Ethics and Christian Ministry disciplines;
- d. Have a working knowledge of the methodologies of these theological disciplines;
- e. Are able to reflect theologically and ethically;
- f. Are able to integrate the various facets of theological knowledge;
- g. Are able to integrate classroom learning with field experience;
- h. Are familiar with correlative disciplines such as the social sciences, behavioral sciences, philosophy, literature and the arts, and are able to draw upon them as resources in ministry;
- i. Are familiar with the Church today (its nature, opportunities, global mission, ecumenicity and its leadership needs);
- j. Are knowledgeable about denominational structures and polity;
- k. Are knowledgeable about current societal issues and can evaluate them critically;
- l. Are knowledgeable about the relationship of Church and society;
- m. Have some familiarity with other living faiths and ideologies.

4. Other Qualities

Palmer Seminary seeks to be a community of persons and to prepare Christian leaders who:

- a. Have graduate level ability to analyze;
- b. Have graduate level ability at discernment (e.g., ability to form judicious opinions);
- c. Have a (growing) interest in cognitive activity (e.g., have interest in the pursuit of life-long learning);
- d. Are committed to ethical, social and religious values;
- e. Seek to enrich their own cultural life and that of others.