



Normal Patterns of Formation (Phase 2)

Pilgrim Theological College and the Theological and Ministerial Education Committee are committed to responding positively and constructively to the need for flexibility as candidates make progress through Phase 2 in formation.

Candidates entering Phase 2 of formation often seek a formation pathway and program that is flexible in relation to:

- The total duration of their involvement in Phase 2
- The candidate's availability to the formation program across the span of the year, semester, and week
- The timing of entry into the program.

Various factors drive the push for flexibility in formation. These include:

- The need to recognize prior theological study and qualifications
- The need to recognize prior ministry experience
- The request to remain involved in an existing ministry placement
- The challenges in studying in English for students for whom English is not their primary language
- The need to maintain income generating employment during formation
- The need to attend to family and other personal responsibilities

Normal Duration: the normal duration of a formation program in Phase 2 is three (3) years / six (6) semester full-time made up of the following main components:

- Theological study at Pilgrim Theological College, usually pursuing a major undergraduate or postgraduate coursework award, and completing the compulsory formation unit program.
- Field Education and/or Clinical Pastoral Education: a minimum of two placements.
- Participation in the liturgical, relational, and non-accredited education of the candidate formation community.

Where candidates are unable to be available full-time, for financial, family, or other personal reasons, the number of years / semesters in formation will usually be extended, notwithstanding decisions made by application of the criteria named below.

Reducing the Duration of Formation: in some circumstances, based on the judgement of the Faculty, the normal duration of formation might be reduced.

One or more of the following criteria might inform such a decision:

- A candidate's prior ministry experience in the UCA or in another tradition
- A candidate's history of involvement in the UCA

- A candidate's prior theological study

Decisions about a reduction in the duration of formation based on a candidate's prior theological study will be informed by the Faculty's Curriculum and Formation Guidelines.

A candidate's concurrent involvement in a Ministry Placement during Phase 2 is not regarded as a replacement of the formation requirements summarized below.

Age and the Duration of Formation: a candidate's age, of itself, is not grounds for a reduction in the duration of Phase 2.

The impact of a candidate's age on the likely duration of a subsequent ministry after Phase 2 is an important question related to the need for responsible use of the UCA's resources, but belongs to discernment and policy relating to application to the Selection Conference.

Examples of basic models for a Phase 2 Formation Program.

Full time formation load (per year): usually 3 years

- 2 Formation Units on the Wednesday Program
- 4–6 additional academic units per year (6 additional units as the norm)
- 200 hours of Field Education and/or CPE1
- Participation in Pilgrim Wednesday Formation Program, Formation Intensives, and other Formation Opportunities as required and available.
- Completion of Formation Portfolio and attendance at/preparation for Formation Panels

Part-time formation load (per year): usually 4–6 years

- If a candidate takes a CPE course then it is usual for an adjustment to be made to the number of academic units of study for that semester.
- 2 Formation Units on the Wednesday Program in at least three years of the program
- A minimum of 2 additional academic units per year
- A minimum 200 hours of Field Education and/or CPE in at least three years of the program
- Participation in Pilgrim Monday Formation Program, Formation Intensives, and other Formation Opportunities as required and available.
- Completion of Formation Portfolio and attendance at/preparation for Formation.

Initial conversation with potential candidates will use these two models as the starting point for identifying the pattern of the candidate's Formation Program in Phase 2.

It is important to note that requirements can and may be adjusted in the light of ongoing discernment about candidate progress.

In making decisions about the possibility of mid-year entry into and exit from the Formation Program, the Faculty will take seriously the need to:

- Secure and nurture cohorts of formation candidates who enter into and exit from the program at the same time

- Enable the effective development of peer relationships within the candidate community
- Avoid duplication of orientation and exit programs for candidates

In certain circumstances, this may mean that a candidate is asked to delay the start of formation, or to complete an exit program after the completion of other formation requirements.

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