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For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion



A Tool for Curriculum Integration and Assessment: Curriculum Maps

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To help Faculty make better curricular decisions, philosophical, programmatic, and pragmatic, Deans need to help Faculty understand the curriculum as a whole. Rather than seeing a theological curriculum as a series of topical courses, the mission of the seminary is best served when Faculty understand the academic curriculum as an integrated, goal-oriented, outcomes-focused, “program of study.”

One helpful tool for communicating the curriculum as a “program of study” is the curriculum map. A curriculum map is a tool for assessing scope and coverage of elements in the explicit curriculum. A curriculum map can depict coverage of cognates, themes, methodology, topics, or other components that are considered important enough to be explicit parts of the student’s learning experience. Maps can reveal strengths and emphases in the scope of the curriculum, and, can depict points and degrees of integration. These maps can also reveal gaps in coverage in the scope of the curriculum.

Here are examples of three kinds of curriculum maps: (1) degree program goals, (2) thematic concepts, and (3) methodology. The maps plot where, and to what extent, individual courses address explicit facets of study across the curriculum.

The degree goals program map: depicts the relative strengths where the degree program goals are addressed throughout the curriculum. This map helps identify the extent of coverage, integration, and gaps. This sample program goals curriculum map from Central Generic

Theological Seminary (a fictitious school) shows (1) the three major curriculum goals (right hand column) with supportive derivative goals, (2) a listing of the implicit courses in the three theological cognate areas that make up the course of study, and (3) a graphic plotting of the degree of relative correlation emphasis of each goal within individual courses. Seen as a whole, the map depicts (1) the coverage of the degree program goals across the curriculum, (2) potential "gaps" in the course of study, and (3) points of integration across the curriculum. Click to Download (1) Mapping Goals sample curriculum goals maps.

GOALS

MAP

DOCUMENT

CENTRAL GENERIC THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Curriculum Map: Program Goals

Course	I. Critical/assess			II. Compare/analyze basic ministerial skills						III. Integrate skills and apply in ministerial setting						KCVS Code Key: H High correlation/primary focus M Moderate correlation/secondary focus L Low correlation/tertiary/occasional focus (blank) Not addressed/absent or de-emphasized			
	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E		3F	3G	3H
HT210 Religious Authority																			
HT216 Problem of Evil																			
HT222 Critique of Christianity																			
HT240 Introduction to Christian Mission																			
HT242 Mission/Immersion Experience																			
HT260 Christian Responses to Terrorism																			
HT262 Perspectives on Global Christian Movements																			
HT266 World Religions																			
HT267 African Traditional Religions																			
MINISTRY STUDIES																			
MS110 The Ministry of Preaching																			
MS117 Biblical Preaching for Today's Congregation																			
MS124 Narrative Preaching																			
MS140 Preaching in a Postmodern World																			
MS204 Exploring Ministerial Identity																			
MS211 Intro to Christian Spirituality																			
MS216 Ministers as Spiritual Guides and Vocational Leaders																			
MS220 Longing for God: Classics in Christian Spirituality																			
MS222 Spiritual Autobiographies																			
MS224 Praying on Planet Earth																			
MS226 Wilderness Retreat																			
MS228 Sabbath Keeping																			
MS230 Celtic Spiritual Retreat																			
MS232 Changing Practices, Changing Work																			
MS271 Drama Production																			
MS210 Christian Ministry I & II																			
MS212 Christian Ministry (ministry) I & II																			
MS410 Basic Pastoral Care																			
MS412 Pastoral Care in Worship																			
MS413 Identity, Personal Development and Self-Care																			
MS420 Marriage and Family Counseling																			
MS421 Pastoral Care with Children and Youth																			
MS430 The Minister and Crisis Counseling																			
MS431 Pastoral Care of Difficult Relationships																			
MS440 Clinical Pastoral Care I & II																			
MS448 Pastoral Counseling Practicum																			
MS462 Ministering in Grief Loss and Difficult Death																			
MS484 Pastoral Care of Difficult Relationships																			

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The thematic concepts map: identifies themes, topics, and concepts related to the program of study. This sample curriculum map plots to what extent selected concepts are addressed in courses and across the curriculum. The map identifies forty six concepts in this school's M.Div. curriculum and plots their coverage across the course of study by a scale of relative strength (primary, secondary, moderate, minimal, incidental and "not addressed"). The graphic representation provides an interpretation of thematic coverage across the curriculum. Faculty can see topics that are well-covered, and those that are being neglected. Click to Download (2) Mapping Topics a sample curriculum thematic map.

THEMES

MAP

DOCUMENT

CENTRAL GENERIC THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Curriculum Map: Concepts

Extent of coverage CODE: 5 A primary emphasis 4 A secondary emphasis 3 A moderate emphasis 2 Minimal coverage 1 incidental coverage 0 Not addressed

NOTE: This curriculum map depicts the weight or extent of coverage in courses of selected concepts and topics. Coverage is indicated for a range from Primary to "Not addressed." The map can help identify strengths of emphases and "gaps" in the curriculum.

	Adults	Art	Calling	Children	Church	Civil rights	Constitution	Denominations	Dialectic/typ	Doctrine	Ecology	Ecumenism	Evangelism	Family	Finance	Formation	Integration	Language	Liturgy	Methods	Men	Ordinances	Organization	Pastor	Philosophy	Politics/ War	Poly	Postmodernism	Prayer	Psychology	Race Relations	Religion	Research	Science / Faith	Senior Acadia	Sermon	Sex	Spiritual Gifts	Staff	Stewardship	Women	Worship	Writing	Youth			
HT2610 Introduction to Christian Mission	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5	5
HT2612 Mission Immersion Experience	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
HT2620 Christian Responses to Terrorism	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
HT2622 Perspectives on Global Christian Movements	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
HT2630 World Religions	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
HT2631 African Traditional Religions	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3110 The Miraby of Preaching	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3117 Biblical Preaching for Today's Congregation	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3134 Narrative Preaching	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3140 Preaching in a Postmodern World	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3206 Exploring Ministerial Identity	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3211 Intro to Christian Spirituality	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3216 Ministers as Spiritual Guides and Vocational Leaders	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3220 Longing for God, Closely in Christian Spirituality	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3232 Spiritual Autobiographies	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3234 Preaching on Plural Earth	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3236 Wisdom Retreat	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3238 Sabbath Keeping	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3254 Celtic Spiritual Retreat	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3262 Changing Paradigms, Changing Worship	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3271 Drama Production	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3321 Christian Ministry I & II	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3311/2 Christian Ministry Internship I & II	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3410 Basic Pastoral Care	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3412 Pastoral Care in Worship	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3413 Identity, Personal Development and Self-Care	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
M3420 Marriage and Family Counseling	5			5	5	5		5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5				5	5		5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5

The methodology map: identifies the common learning methodologies used throughout the curriculum. Balance in the use of learning modalities enriches the learning experience and accommodates cognitive styles, cognitive domains, skills, multiple intelligences, and individuated instruction. This sample methods map from Central Generic Theological Seminary identifies thirteen common graduate-level appropriate methods and their use as primary, secondary, and tertiary modes in singular courses. The map as a whole serves to depict the range of application of the methods, potential overuse of methods, as well as potential gaps in using a variety of methods and modes of learning. This type of map can encourage Faculty to understand the experiences of students across the curriculum and help them dialog about using more creative and varied teaching methods. Click to Download (3) Mapping Methods a sample curriculum methods map.

METHODOLOGY MAP DOCUMENT

Legend: 1= Primary 2= Secondary 3= Tertiary □ Not used

Course	Lecture	Research	Writing	Reading	Collaboration	Interview	Reflection	Project	Practicum	Art	Journal	Discussion	Online
CO000	1	1	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI000	1	1	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI001	1	1	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI002	1	1	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI110	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI111	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI112	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI113	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI114	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI115	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI116	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI117	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI118	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI119	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI120	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI121	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI122	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI123	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI124	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI125	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI126	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI127	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI128	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
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BI130	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI131	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI132	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI133	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI134	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI135	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI136	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
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BI195	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI196	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI197	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI198	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI199	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2
BI200	1	2	1	1	1			1				2	2

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Maps as Educational Tools Involving Faculty in the creation of a curriculum map helps instructors understand the curriculum as a whole, and to see where and how individual courses “fit” in the course of study. To implement this faculty development activity, create a blank curriculum map (program goals, methods, topics or concepts, etc.) and distribute to the faculty with instructions like:

“ Study each map to familiarize yourself with the instrument. On each map use the code to plot the degree to which your course addresses the elements being assessed. Be as accurate as you can. Remember that not every course will be able to, or is expected to, address every element on any map. The curriculum map is intended to help analyze and assess the curriculum as a whole.

“You may want to review your course syllabi to determine how overt each map element is identified (program goals, themes, and methodologies). If you plot something on the map because you “know in your head” that it fits, but you don’t see it identified in the syllabus, consider updating the syllabus so that it communicates, and aligns, overtly the curricular elements you plot.

“Once you have completed plotting your courses on the map pass it along to another professor in your discipline area. Consider working together with one or more colleague as you identify and plot the components on each map. Once all professors in your area complete the map please return it to the Dean.”

Once you compile the input from faculty members, publish and review the maps as a Faculty.

Offer prompts for discussion such as:

- How well do the courses in our curriculum provide “coverage” of the various facets of the program of study?
- How effectively do our courses, taken together, interpret and address the curriculum goals?
- What areas and foci do we cover most in our curriculum?
- Are there “gaps” in our coverage of important curriculum goals, facets, or methods?

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