

**Phase 1:** Students take 13 core courses (39 credits) in their first (and often their second) year of study. Together they constitute a Learning Community (LC-1).

**Phase 2:** Once students complete their core curriculum and begin taking degree-specific courses, they are assigned to one (or in rare cases two) of four focused learning communities: LC-2 for MDiv students (dark green), LC-3 for students in “professionally oriented” MA programs (light green), LC-4 for students in “academically oriented” MA programs (gold), and LC-5 for dual-degree and joint-degree students. Research-focused MDiv students belong to both LC-2 and LC-4. Dual-degree and joint-degree students belong either to LC-3 or LC-4 (depending on SPS degree path) and LC-5

Learning Community 1:  
Core Curriculum and  
“student success work-  
shops” identical for all  
SPS students

Learning Community 2: MDiv students

Learning Community 3: MA-Asian American Ministry, MA-Business & Applied Theology, MA-Christian Leadership & MA-Reconciliation & Intercultural Studies students

Learning Community 4: MA (Christian Scripture) & MA (Christian Studies) students, plus research-focused MDiv students after approval of their thesis proposal.

Learning Community 5: Dual-degree and joint degree students: MDiv/MS-MFT, MA(CSt)/MS-MFT, MA-BAT/MBA, MA(CSt)/MFT-Creative Writing, MA-CL/MA-IO, etc.