"The Presbyterian Studies program provides Presbyterian students with a solid connection to their Reformed heritage as well as opportunities to learn and dialogue with people from other Christian traditions. Rootedness in the tradition and ecumenical dialogue are both vital to ministry in our religiously diverse world."

~ JILL CRAINSHAW, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR VOCATIONAL FORMATION
Wake Forest University Divinity School is committed to educating people from a variety of Christian traditions for ministry within those traditions. Ecumenical dialogue occurs regularly in the classroom and in peer group settings, challenging students with the opportunity more clearly to locate themselves within a tradition. The Program in Presbyterian Studies provides students with particular resources in the process of identifying and articulating their core beliefs as Presbyterians.

The Program is advised by clergy and lay leaders who represent the diversity of Presbyterian life.

Curriculum

Recognizing the importance of understanding the Reformed tradition for the practice of ministry in the PC(USA) and in preparation for denominational ordination requirements, the Divinity School offers the following courses:
- Readings in Reformed Theology
- Ritual and Sacraments in Congregational Life
- Presbyterian Polity and Ministerial Leadership
- Courses in Greek and Hebrew languages
- Clinical Pastoral Education

Ordination Requirements

The Manual for Preparation for Ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) outlines a process by which persons within the denomination seek ordination as "ministers of Word and Sacrament." The two phases of this process, the Inquiry phase and the Candidacy phase, are designed to nurture and assess a student's vocational formation in several key areas: 1) education for ministry, 2) spiritual formation, 3) interpersonal relationships, 4) personal growth, and 5) professional development. Presbyterian students in the ordination process work closely with a presbytery's Committee on the Preparation for Ministry. Mentoring is also available through the Divinity School's Office of Vocational Formation. Ordination exams are offered yearly on campus.

Internships

As part of the Divinity School's emphasis on vocational formation, students in their second year of study are required to complete a one-year ministry internship. Presbyterian students have opportunities to work and learn in Presbyterian congregations and settings. Additional internships are available for the third year of study.

"I was attracted by the University's academic reputation, so I knew the Divinity School would be of high caliber also. The ecumenical and racial diversity of the program, and the policy of openness and tolerance to all who are called to the ministry was the major drawing card."

Sandie Greene
M.Div., '05, Mocksville, NC