

# STUDENT LIFE

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers a range of services to students, spouses of students and alumni. These academic and non-academic services are intended to foster personal spiritual transformation, leadership development and aid students in achieving their intended educational and vocational goals.

## ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE OFFICE

The Cornerstone University Accounting and Finance Office is located in the Administration Building and accepts payments for all student accounts. This office provides check-cashing services and parking tags to students with a valid identification card. Please contact the Accounting and Finance Office for hours of operation 616.222.1445.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Cornerstone University Alumni Association is comprised of graduates from the associate, baccalaureate, master and doctoral degree programs. Non-degree alumni are individuals who have achieved 36+ semester hours in the undergraduate program or 12+ semester hours at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary or within the Professional and Graduate Studies. The CU Alumni Association exists to serve alumni in their roles as influencers for Christ by developing connections, facilitating celebrations and encouraging contributions. The association will support and partner with alumni through opportunities to expand relationships, grow as lifelong learners and engage with the mission of the university by serving with their individual giftedness. More information is available at <https://www.cornerstone.edu/alumni/>.

## BOOKROOM

Textbooks required for courses at GRTS are available for purchase through the Hoch Bookroom, which is located on the second floor of the Leon J. Wood Seminary Building. Student costs are kept very competitive with an impressive 15-20% discount from the retail price on textbooks. Purchases at the Hoch Bookroom can be made using cash, check, major credit card, or a book advance through Student Financial Services. The hours of operation, contact information, and course syllabi, are available online at: <https://www.cornerstone.edu/grand-rapids-theological-seminary/resources/hoch-bookroom/>.

## CAMPUS SAFETY

The primary mission of the Cornerstone University Department of Campus Safety is to proactively ensure the personal safety and welfare of our

students, faculty, and staff, protect the assets of our campus citizens and University, and provide a variety of services to the campus community as well.

The Department of Campus Safety is a 24/7/365 dispatch and patrol operation based in the front of Faber Hall. For general or emergency contact, dial 0 (zero) from any campus phone or 616.949.5300 from any other phone. Internal and external Code Blue emergency phones are located throughout the campus.

Services include vehicle battery boosts, vehicle lockouts, airing up low tires, and tow truck contact assists. Campus Safety also provides routine foot and vehicle patrols of the campus, responds to calls, and investigates incidents. Campus Safety personnel are First Aid/CPR/AED trained and equipped to respond to campus medical incidents in conjunction with the appropriate local 9-1-1 organizations.

All students are required to carry their student ID card when on campus and present it when requested by an officer. All student vehicles must be registered for each academic semester and the appropriate vehicle parking permit properly displayed on the vehicle's windshield. Vehicles are registered at the Accounting and Finance Office located in the Administration Building.

Detailed information regarding Campus Safety, campus rules and regulations, and other pertinent safety information is available through the Cornerstone University website and CU Portal.

## CENTER FOR CAREER AND LIFE CALLING

Career and Life Calling provides several opportunities to assist students as they prepare for their future careers and vocation. Located in the Administration Building, the Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Opportunities for one-on-one consultations can be requested by calling 616.222.1433 or emailing [career@cornerstone.edu](mailto:career@cornerstone.edu).

Ministry related employment opportunities are posted on GRTS's MinistryConnect website at: <http://ministryconnect.cornerstone.edu/>. MinistryConnect is a free online resource of GRTS to the Christian community, which allows employers to post positions they are seeking to fill and to search for ministry leadership candidates. It also allows candidates to post a profile and search for available ministry leadership positions.

An online job board called Handshake is available at <https://cornerstone.joinhandshake.com/login>. As a GRTS student, please request a Handshake account as an "alumni" and you'll be notified electronically upon your account being approved for use.

### **International Students**

International students are encouraged to apply for on-campus jobs and are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week on-campus. The seminary admissions office will assist international students in applying for a US Social Security number, which will be needed to begin working. Off-campus employment is allowed on an extremely limited basis in the event of financial distress; more information is available through the GRTS Admissions Office.

### **COMPUTER ACCESS**

The primary computer laboratory for GRTS students is located on the second floor of the Wood Seminary Building. Additional computer laboratories are available to seminary students in Bolthouse Hall and Miller Library. Hours of access will be posted at each location. Individual student access (user name and password) is arranged for all new students at the outset of the semester. A computer training session is included in the new student orientation. Difficulties with individual access, file management and printing within the Wood Seminary Building computer lab should be directed to Technology Support at 616.222.1510.

### **COUNSELING SERVICES**

GRTS understands the importance of caring for its students in a holistic way and encourages students who are in need of additional support to pursue counseling services. Students in need of personal counseling can request a list of external counselors or counseling agencies from the Associate Dean by contacting [tara.kram@cornerstone.edu](mailto:tara.kram@cornerstone.edu).

### **ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Chapel**

The chapel experience is central to the life of the Grand Rapids Theological Seminary community. The seminary provides one chapel session per week for student, faculty, and staff participation. Grand Rapids Theological Seminary chapel provides opportunity to worship God as a graduate theological community, model Biblical preaching and interact with mission and parachurch representatives.

#### **Kern/Pirsig Enhancement Program**

Students in the Pirsig Fellowship (see p. 18) or Kern Scholars Program participate in the Kern/Pirsig Enhancement Program, which is a series of extra-curricular activities seeking to provide enhanced opportunity for spiritual formation during the seminary experience. The focus of the program is to address each student's personal discipleship and their ability to disciple others through reading select books, engaging in small groups, and attending an

annual formation retreat.

#### **Thursday Evening Bible Class (TEBC)**

Annually, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary offers the community a Fall Bible teaching series through the Thursday Evening Bible Class. These biblical lectures are delivered by faculty of the seminary and typically run from 8-12 weeks. Approximately 100 individuals from the community attend each series, representing a variety of Christian denominations and associations.

#### **Talking Points: Conversations about Theology, Culture, and Vocation**

At Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, we are committed to serving pastors, counselors, and ministry leaders by providing ongoing opportunities for growth and development. Our goal is to equip these key leaders to bring Scripture to bear on the issues we face in our culture. We do this through three lenses: theology, culture, and vocation.

Talking Points offerings include:

#### **Conference**

Talking Points conferences feature GRTS faculty and other regional and national figures addressing topics relevant to theology, culture, and vocation. They range in size and format, typically including lectures or presentations, panel discussion, and roundtable dialogue.

#### **Blog**

The Talking Points blog is our online venue through which to engage topics relevant to theology, culture, and vocation. The blog is also a window into the heart and soul of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Join the conversation at [www.cornerstone.edu/blogs/talking-points](http://www.cornerstone.edu/blogs/talking-points).

#### **Resources**

Talking Points conferences yield recordings and other resources that are an ongoing benefit to leaders. Go to [cornerstone.edu/talking-points](http://cornerstone.edu/talking-points) to find past resources.

#### **Intercultural Studies Lecture Series**

Each fall and spring semester, GRTS offers an evening event featuring a guest lecturer who addresses intercultural issues from a biblical and theological perspective. The purpose of this series is to provide a forum where students, faculty, staff, and friends of GRTS can engage in an open dialogue about the connections between Christian worldview and issues of diversity. The guest lecturers combine recent scholarship and personal ministry experience to help people become more informed and aware of a variety of intercultural issues. Each of these evening events involves a lecture followed by Q & A, and concludes with a dessert buffet to provide a time of fellowship.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Student Financial Services Office is committed to assisting students in receiving the maximum amount of financial assistance they qualify for under federal, state and institutional programs. The university catalog has additional financial aid information. Please refer to the “Financial Aid” section for details on applying for aid and on specific aid programs.

If further information is needed, contact the Student Financial Services Office, located in the Ketcham Building. Appointments with a financial aid professional can be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by calling 616.222.1424.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services is located in Miller Hall and all GRTS students are able to utilize these services. Students have access to visits with a Registered Nurse for minor injury or illnesses. For more information about CU Health Services and office hours, go to: [www.cornerstone.edu/campus-health-services](http://www.cornerstone.edu/campus-health-services).

## MILLER LIBRARY

Miller Library’s purpose is to provide high-quality academic resources, community-focused service, and an environment that fosters intellectual and spiritual growth. To accomplish this, the library staff provides:

- Scholarly resources including books, ebooks, streaming videos, DVDs, CDs, musical scores, and periodicals.
- An easy-to-use discovery tool, Summon, to search all of the library’s print and electronic resources.
- On campus and off campus access to research databases such as ABI-Inform, ATLA, JSTOR, Proquest, and many others.
- Wireless internet access, computers, printers, copiers, and scanners for use in the library.
- Individual study areas and rooms for group collaboration.
- Specific locations set aside for special collections such as the University Archives, Curriculum Materials Center, and Junior Library.
- Free access to other collections through partner libraries, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary and Kuyper College, Michigan libraries through MeLCat, and U.S. libraries through ILLiad.

- Outstanding research assistance and service to all students, faculty, and staff.

Phone: 616-222-1458

Web: <http://library.cornerstone.edu/home>

Email: [library.reference@cornerstone.edu](mailto:library.reference@cornerstone.edu)

## MINISTRYCONNECT

The seminary offers an online referral system called MinistryConnect, a system that allows students, alumni and ministries to make connections for potential ministry opportunities. In addition, this service will serve the community by offering alumni and friends of the seminary the opportunity to connect with ministries seeking ministry leaders, and vice versa. MinistryConnect allows us to support our GRTS students, recent graduates and alumni as they seek ministry roles locally, nationally and globally. MinistryConnect strengthens our ability to encourage connection of the right people with the right ministries. Students and alumni can access MinistryConnect at <http://ministryconnect.cornerstone.edu/>.

## OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

The greater Grand Rapids area offers a wide range of housing options for the seminary student. Housing costs are quite reasonable compared to national averages. A guide to many of the apartment complexes in the area is available on the GRTS website.

## REGISTRAR SERVICES

The Cornerstone University Registrar’s Office is located in the Administration Building and offers various services related to the maintenance of student academic records. The Registrar’s Office staff is available to assist students in registering for courses, acquiring or mailing official academic transcripts, acquiring an individualized degree audit, evaluating and processing advanced standing and/or transfer credit from other institutions, and posting grades. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. during the academic year and 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. during summer months.

## SPOUSE BENEFIT

The spouse educational benefit is intended to provide spouses of Grand Rapids Theological Seminary students with opportunities to participate in the theological educational experience in order to promote a shared pilgrimage of growth and learning. The spouse of a Grand Rapids Theological Seminary student, regardless of prior academic

record, is entitled to one free audit class for every 12 semester hours accumulated and/or enrolled by the degree-seeking student. The benefit is limited to one free audit course per semester and a maximum of four free audit courses per individual. This audit opportunity provides for class attendance only; course work will not be submitted or graded and there will be no official academic record. The benefit does not extend to courses available by extension and is not financially applicable to courses taken for credit. These courses may be taken during or immediately following any semester in which the degree-seeking student is enrolled. Each participating spouse is required to process a Spouse Benefit Form with the Seminary Academic Office in advance of each semester of audit enrollment. In addition, each participating spouse is required to submit a non-degree application to the Seminary Admissions Office.

### **STUDENT APPEAL PROCESS: NON-ACADEMIC**

Students desiring to appeal non-academic decisions made by the Associate Dean may write a formal letter of appeal, which will be submitted to the Dean and the Appeals Committee. The letter should identify and explain the nature of the concern, request a review of the judgment and/or action and provide a rationale for the appeal. The Dean and Appeals Committee will review the appeal and render a judgment. The judgment will be rendered in writing within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal. All judgments of the Appeals Committee are final.

### **STUDENT SENATE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Student Senate Leadership Team (SSLT) is a representative group of GRTS students selected annually by the Associate Dean to serve the needs of the entire student body. SSLT members serve the student community by coordinating resources, services and events. The central aims of the Student Senate Leadership Team are:

1. To assist students with academic and non-academic concerns as they enter and progress through study at GRTS.
2. To promote student involvement and perspective in the community of learners and scholars at GRTS.
3. To foster a sense of community appropriate to a graduate theological education context.
4. To coordinate fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities among and between students and faculty at GRTS.