Project Name

“Start Well and End Well: Encouraging Student Financial Well-Being”

Ashland Theological Seminary has found it to be more beneficial to refer to this program as “The Stewardship Initiative” to effectively communicate our intentions to be innovators and influencers beyond the limited scope of the time our students are in school.

Key Objectives

* Research new institutional practices which strengthen students’ financial futures and promote confidence in future church pastors to lead, teach and resource the local church concerning the use of God’s resources
* Renovation of current MDIV and MA degrees to make it more affordable, accessible, and manageable for students, thus decreasing the burden of student debt
* Enhance the financial literacy and well-being of students through a multi-layered approach, including exposure to innovative entrepreneurial and bi-vocational ministry paradigms
* Seek partnerships to strategically assess and present personal stewardship resources

Most Significant Activities

* Curriculum redesign – moving from quarters to semesters has required Ashland Theological Seminary to reformat each class of our degree programs, thus providing the ideal opportunity to redesign it with “The Stewardship Initiative” in mind. This has been an enormous project, but one that has allowed the grant to have an indelible impression on our programs.
* Project Director meeting with all related faculty
* Partnership identification

Most Important Resources

* Good $ense Movement, Money Motivation Quiz, page 13 and 14

<http://goodsensemovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/freedupprework.pdf>

Good $ense has given permission for use of the money motivation quiz with the understanding that the movement and website are referenced on any generated materials. Helping students identify their motivations can increase awareness regarding why certain pitfalls are common.

* Everence Financial, [www.everence.com](http://www.everence.com)

Everence helps individuals, organizations, and congregations integrate finances with faith through a national team of advisors and representatives. Everence has developed a wide range of stewardship education resources for congregations, adults, children and youth.

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