

GLOBAL CLASSROOM

COURSE-BASED MENTORING (CBM) FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

Ongoing mentoring is an important aspect of theological education, with peer mentoring playing an important role in shaping and enriching the lives of theological learners over the years in the context of a seminary/theological college.

In the traditional residential setup, the interaction between the mentor and the mentee happens almost every day, with regular avenues available for personal communication and reflection. The mentor is easily accessible, and the mentee is readily observable. Apart from this, theological institutions have also developed group-based mentoring through elements such as cell-groups and mentor-groups where students can learn from their shared experiences and grow together in their faith, knowledge and in their relationship with God. This template is, perhaps, the biggest casualty in the framework of online theological education.

To mitigate this to a certain extent, Global Classroom has developed a mentoring framework which is integrated with the learning experiences of the student, while remaining flexible to suit this fundamental aspect of online theological learning.

ONGOING MENTORING

In this particular framework, mentoring is done along with the learning in a particular course, and this caters towards the attitude and skill development of the learners. The overall focus of such mentoring is to shape the lives of the learners and to address the issues and challenges they face, whether it is personal, familial, social, professional or any other area. The idea is to address these on the basis of and with reference to learnings in a particular course, which reinforces the usefulness of the knowledge gained in that particular course through its practicality and applicability in the lives and ministries of the learners.

In line with the above, the weekly live session is a combination of both—knowledge-based sharing and mentoring. The former may include clarifications of doubts and answering any queries that the students may have and providing any additional information that may be helpful for the students with regards to the subject they are learning and for the successful completion of the course. The latter refers to the space and time in the same live session for the students to share—among the peers—challenges, issues or questions they are facing in any area of their life, and the course instructors/facilitators may address those issues

based on what the course itself addresses, though any answer to the issue/query raised by the students may not be based entirely upon the subject they are learning.

The fundamental aspect of mentoring, we believe, is communication. And in the weekly live sessions, the students are encouraged to communicate and share with one another and the course instructor in a safe and secure manner. Students are encouraged to talk about the issues they are facing, and while every issue/query may not be addressed or resolved, the sharing and the praying for one another is seen as the process by which some form of resolution, or at least the beginning of it, takes place.

Students are also encouraged to get in touch with the course instructors in case they wish to talk to them personally, or to talk about something that cannot be discussed in a group. The contact details of the course instructors are shared with the students at the beginning of each course instance, and the instructors are also added to each course support group on Signal/WhatsApp, facilitating the students to reach out to the course instructors personally or in the group.

THE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

The Student Engagement (SE) Office provides the crucial function of being the central communication point to get in touch with the students, and for the students to get in touch with the faculty and the admin office for any of their concerns.

Students are encouraged to share their concerns of any nature, especially the ones that may affect their studies, with the student engagement office in a safe manner, information about which is then passed to the concerned departments in the administration and/or the faculty concerned. Support is provided in terms of prayer, encouragement and any other way that is within the scope of the college's administration. Regular follow-up is done with students by the SE office through various communication channels like WhatsApp/Signal messaging, calls, and emails to ensure that student is facing no challenges while doing their program at Global Classroom, and to mitigate any challenges they might be facing.

THE PRACTICAL MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

Please note that the practical ministry internship and the mentoring provided by the *local mentors* during the course of the practical ministry internship is different from Course-based Mentoring. Please refer the **Practical Ministry And Spiritual Formation Internship Framework** document for more details on that.