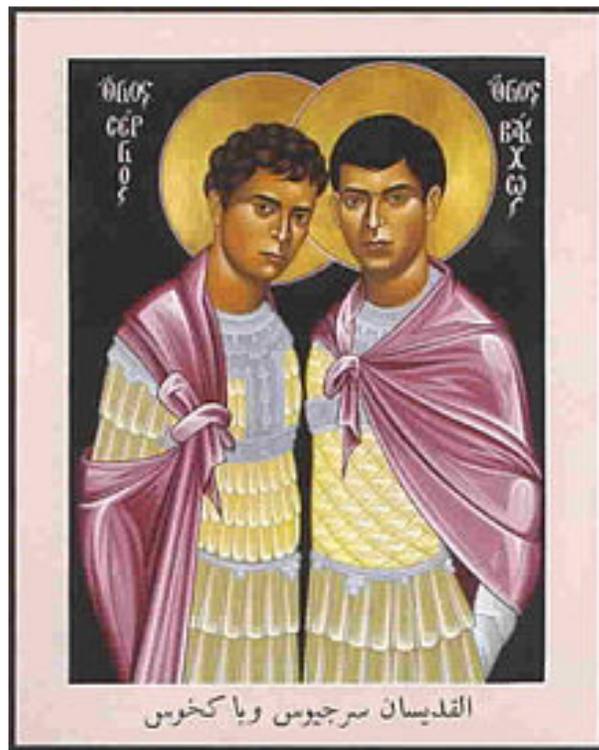


Saints Sergius and Bacchus Theological Seminary Mentor Handbook



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Saints Sergius and Bacchus Theological Seminary is an innovative, completely online, totally free queer-affirming educational institution designed for training LGBTQ and allied women and men for ministry. Students are expected to work through their course material with the aid of a qualified, caring mentor. It is paramount for each student to have someone they can rely on as they work through their courses at SSBTS, not only for academic purposes, but also for spiritual and emotional purposes. Structured programs of study present challenges different from pure self-study, and it is part of the mission of SSBTS to provide students with the necessary mentorship they need to most effectively succeed in their chosen program.

The Characteristics of a Mentor

Each mentor at SSBTS should hold an accredited Bachelor's degree, preferably in the fields of theology, biblical studies, philosophy or a related field. It is also important that the mentor agree with the vision and mission of the seminary. In addition, a mentor should possess honed interpersonal and conflict management skills. There may be times in a student's course of study in which the student faces a spiritual or emotional challenge as they relate to the study materials. The mentor should be patient and understanding with the student, and should help guide the student to his or her own resolution. Furthermore, a mentor at SSBTS is expected to continue working on his or her own spirituality and theological education, either through traditional methods or via self-study and personal spiritual practices. You should have a deep love for theological learning, and an abiding concern for the merging of philosophical and practical theology with the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of the historically disenfranchised and oppressed.

The Role of a Mentor

Mentors at SSBTS have various roles in assisting students with their studies.

1. Mentors are to be available to students within 24 hours of receiving an email unless the mentor has notified the student otherwise. Timely interaction with student assignment submission and queries is paramount for providing the student with assurance that they are not alone in their academic journey.
2. Mentors are expected to provide students with the necessary materials to complete their coursework. These materials will be provided to mentors upon acceptance into the mentorship program.
3. Mentors are to carefully read and assess (on a pass/fail basis) student assignment submissions. Each course will come with a syllabus so the mentor knows what is expected of the student.
4. Mentors are to be familiar with the SSBTS Student Handbook in order to answer any practical questions a student may have.
5. Mentors are to provide the seminary with final student grades in a timely manner (usually 1-2 weeks after the student completes a course).

Dispute Resolution

In any case where a dispute arises between a student and a mentor which cannot be settled between the two parties, the mentor is to inform the Dean of the seminary of the dispute via email. All emails in this case should also be sent to the student (CC) so that all parties involved remain apprised of the resolution process. In any such dispute, the outcome is at the sole discretion of the Dean of the seminary.