

## Science for Seminaries: Integrating Science Into Core Theological Education 2019 Faculty Enrichment Retreat Application

**Date & Location:**  
**July 29-August 1, 2019, Homestead Resort, Midway, UT**

**Application deadline: April 12, 2019**

### Introduction

To prepare future religious leaders for conversations at the intersection of faith and science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), through its Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program, in consultation with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), invites your application to attend the Science for Seminaries 2019 Summer Faculty Enrichment Workshop. This workshop provides opportunities for faculty to engage the learning outcomes gleaned from the original participants in the AAAS Science for Seminaries project. Through your participation, you will be able to impart to your students an appreciation for science, which will enrich teaching and service as seminary graduates minister in a variety of contexts.

AAAS/DoSER launched the Science for Seminaries pilot project in 2014. As part of this three year effort, AAAS/DoSER awarded grants to a diverse group of 10 seminaries to support them in their efforts to integrate science into their core curricula. After a successful three-year project, AAAS/DoSER launched a second phase of the project in Fall 2017, with plans to award grants to 32 seminaries over five years.

The Science for Seminaries project aims to foster a vibrant and expanding community of theologians and religious leaders who are adept at contemplating the role of a broad range of scientific disciplines, thereby exploring life's big questions and generating a wealth of new insights. Within each school, faculty specializing in the disciplines of Pastoral Theology, Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology, or Church History have worked with highly qualified mentors and science advisors to design core curriculum courses that will enrich future theological education with forefront science. For more information about the Science for Seminaries project, including the current and past project schools, go to [scienceforseminaries.org](http://scienceforseminaries.org).

### Purpose

The faculty enrichment summer retreat is designed to be an intimate workshop where participants can engage with seminary peers, mentors, and scientist advisors. The retreat will guide invited attendees in gathering new ideas for enriching theological education with forefront science into their own curriculum design. The workshop will balance plenary presentations, workshops, small group discussions, and one-on-one conversations with allocated time for reflection.

### Outcomes

- Provide opportunities to develop new pedagogical skills, while critically reflecting and exploring approaches to integrating science into their core curriculum
- Learn from current project faculty best practices on the integration of science into core curriculum
- Create relationships and networks for partnerships and mentorships within the seminary and scientific communities
- Learn how to find, evaluate, and utilize scientific resources
- Contribute to building capacity for the broader seminary community to have positive dialogue on issues at the intersection of religion and science.

### **Application Materials:**

- Completed application form
- Essay question responses submitted on a separate document (max 2 pages)
- Abbreviated CV (max 4 pages)
- Letter of support from a Dean or another supervising administrator at your institution
- Sample template of a syllabus for at least one course in which the applicant has attempted to or plans to integrate science

### **Eligibility**

- The workshop is only open to faculty from an ATS-accredited institution who teach core curriculum course(s) at their seminary or divinity school (e.g. Biblical Studies, Church History, Pastoral Theology, and Systematic Theology). Eligible faculty include tenured, tenure-track, and fixed-term faculty, as well as administrative staff (e.g., Deans, Provosts) as long as they have substantial teaching duties.
- No more than one applicant from the same school will be selected to attend the workshop, but more than one person from the same school may apply. Faculty from the past and current AAAS Science for Seminaries grant-funded seminaries are not eligible to apply.
- Employees of AAAS, The John Templeton Foundation, or The Templeton Religion Trust, or their affiliates, subsidiaries, and their immediate family members or persons living in the same household are not eligible.

### **Evaluation Criteria:**

Evaluation and selection of applicants will be made by an external advisory committee, with input and administration by AAAS. **Scientific expertise is not necessary.** Rather, selection will be based on the following considerations:

- Level of interest in integrating forefront science
- Institutional need to provide opportunities for science enrichment in the seminary environment
- The applicant's individual and institutional commitment (as demonstrated by the support letter) to implement science integration into curriculum
- The applicant's overall capacity to benefit from retreat participation

### **Provided:**

- Travel, lodging, and meals will be covered by AAAS

### **Instructions:**

- Please fill out the Retreat Attendee Information section.
- Please answer all applicable essay questions in **no more than two double-spaced typed pages of 12 point font.**
- Please submit applications by email to [doser@aaas.org](mailto:doser@aaas.org) with "Sci4Sem Retreat Application" in the subject heading.
- **All applications must be received by April 12, 2019 at 11:59pm PST.**
- Decisions will be announced on or before May 6, 2019.

*Note: The selected participants will be required to commit to attending the retreat in its entirety.*

# Application Form

## Retreat Attendee Information

Applicant's  
Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Last*

*First*

*M.I.*

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Street Address*

*Office/Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_

*City*

*State*

*ZIP Code*

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of  
Institution:

\_\_\_\_\_

Institution  
Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Street Address*

*Building/Office #*

\_\_\_\_\_

*City*

*State*

*ZIP Code*

Title/Position:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list  
courses you  
currently teach  
or have taught in  
the past few  
years:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your  
top 3-5 areas of  
teaching and  
research  
expertise:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Essay Questions

Please answer all applicable essay questions in a document no longer than two double-spaced typed pages of 12 point font.

1. **Please explain why you think integrating science into seminary curriculum is important for your seminary or divinity school.** Include a description of the current status of science integration and/or science and religion conversation at your institution.
2. **Briefly describe at least one specific goal for integrating science into the life and work of your institution.** This goal can include modifying or enriching one or more courses, or any other enrichment activities you envision. Also describe any resources that may be available to you when implementing your goals, such as local scientific institutions, scientists, or seminary faculty/administrative colleagues.
3. **Please explain how your participation in this workshop would help you achieve your specific goal(s) to bring science to your seminary.**

## Disclaimer and Signature

*I certify that my answers and all supplemental materials are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If selected to attend a retreat, I agree to attend to the retreat in its entirety.*

Applicant  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Applicant  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application due date: Friday, April 12, 2019 at 11:59pm PST**