Apply to teach in the Certificate in Theological Studies at Arrendale Prison for Women

The Certificate in Theological Studies is a year-long program of academic theological study at Arrendale State Prison. A critical component of the program is student-teachers. Students enrolled at McAfee, Candler, Columbia, and ITC are invited to apply to teach a 12-week course of their own design for the July – September and October – December 2015 quarters. It is also possible to teach in the January – March and April – July quarters, with special permission from Cathy Zappa, the Program Director.

This is a great opportunity to gain teaching and prison-ministry experience and to develop your own theology and ethics.

For an application and/or more information on the application process (including how to receive course credit for teaching a class at the prison), please email Sarah Farmer, ATA Prison Studies Coordinator, at sfpoole@emory.edu.

**Application Timeline:**
Applications Due: February 1, 2014
Notification: No later than March 15, 2014

**Fast Facts about Certificate in Theological Studies**

- **Established** in 2009, through the vision of founders Dr. Liz Bounds, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Candler School of Theology, and Rev. Susan Bishop, chaplain at Metro State and Lee Arrendale State Prison, and through the sponsorship of the Atlanta Theological Association, particularly:
  - Candler School of Theology
  - Columbia theological Seminary
  - The Interdenominational Theological Center
  - McAfee School of Theology

- **Moved** in April 2011 to Lee Arrendale State Prison for Women (Alto, GA), after Metro State Prison (Atlanta, GA) closed.

- **Administrative structure:**
  **Faculty Advisory Board** composed of a faculty member from each of the participating ATA schools. The Board meets twice a year.

  **Cathy Zappa, Program Director**
  Responsible for general logistics of the program, particularly on the prison side. Works closely with Chaplain Bishop.
Elizabeth Bounds, Program Administrator
Responsible for gathering the faculty advisory board, managing grants, collaborating to create policies and procedures with the faculty advisory board, and general oversight.

Sarah Farmer, ATA Coordinator
Assists with oversight of the program, with a particular focus on seminary relationships and recruitment/training/supervision of student teachers.

Thomas Fabisiak, Advanced Certificate Coordinator
Oversees the new Advanced Certificate in Theological Studies and Leadership, which includes selection of students, academic advising, and teaching the core “Research and Writing” class.

- **Beneficiaries** of the program:
  1. *Incarcerated women*: Provides opportunities to develop academic, leadership, and ministerial skills, as well as confidence and a sense of voice
  2. *ATA graduate students*: Provides opportunities for vocational discernment; theological, ethical, and pedagogical formation; and experience in religious education and prison ministry.
  3. *ATA seminaries*: Enhances offerings in contextual education and pedagogical formation, and fosters community among the seminaries.
  4. *The prison*: Produces leaders and ministers who will serve both in the prison and outside of it; contributes to a positive environment; provides an incentive for inmates to stay out of trouble; contributes to reentry by helping inmates enhance/develop academic and social skills.

- To date, **72** incarcerated women have received the certificate.
- To date, **59** seminarians and doctoral students, and **3** ATA faculty, have designed and taught classes. Ten of the graduate students have taught multiple classes.