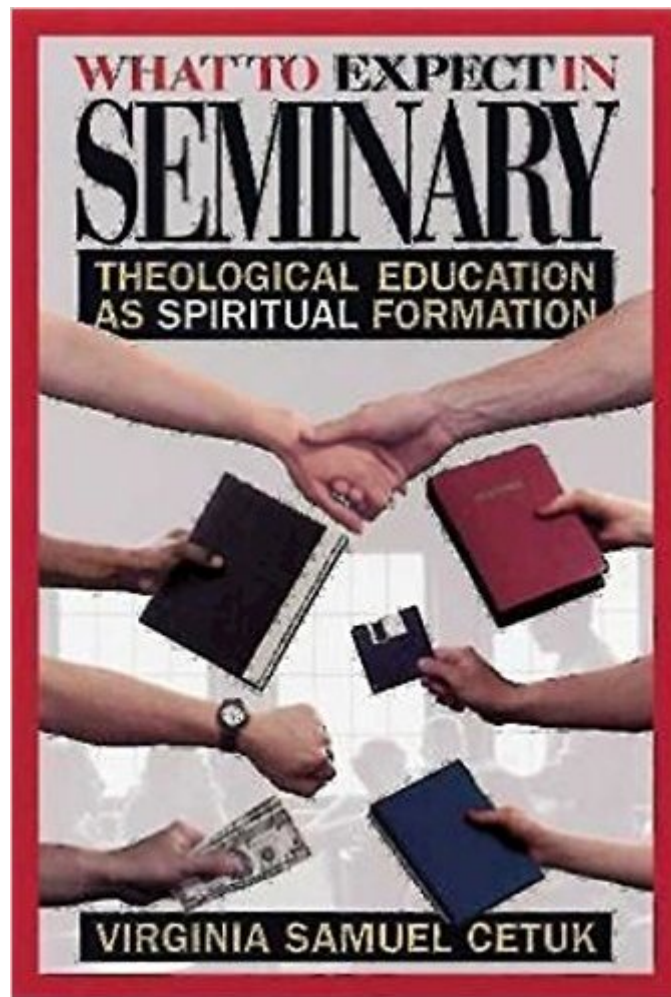


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# What To Expect In Seminary: Theological Education As Spiritual Formation



## Synopsis

In *What to Expect in Seminary*, Virginia Samuel Cetuk looks at the various facets of theological education -- the call to ministry, classroom learning, community life, field education, financial realities, time-management challenges -- through the lens of spiritual formation. In each chapter she challenges readers to view the particular topic as an avenue to spiritual growth instead of as an obstacle to the same. Offering readers the conceptual tool of reframing, she draws upon psychology, Scripture, and her many years' experiences in theological education to help readers see both the challenges and the rich opportunities of theological education related to ministry and spiritual formation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Virginia Samuel Cetuk, an associate dean at Drew Theological School, put together this book in the hope that potential seminarians would gain some insight into what happens in a seminary setting. Cetuk set for herself a difficult task -- there are many different kinds of seminaries, different kinds of programmes at these seminaries, and different kinds of people enrolling in them. Seminaries strive for community; some succeed better than others, but most have a continuing struggle to maintain a community setting -- in this regard, it matches many church settings, who have to continually work at maintaining community. But often the students feel they are alone (from my own seminary experience, I can testify that many feel this way) -- they feel lost, they question the appropriateness of the tasks of seminary education, they question their vocation and their hierarchies (both church

and seminary). There are an increasing number of second-career seminarians, which means the students have been out of school for a time (some as long as twenty to thirty years), so the idea of regular reading, writing, research and study is daunting. Cetuk looks at many practical issues, from time management and money management to how to approach courses in different disciplines. Being experienced with ATS-accredited seminary curriculum, her guidance here applies broadly -- most every seminary will require courses in Bible, church history, systematic and philosophical theology, culture, ethics, pastoral ministries and practical ministries.

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