



# ACLS Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future 2026

<b>Project</b>	A Solution-Oriented Assessment of Faith Communities' Health Engagement
<b>Organization</b>	Norton Healthcare
<b>Location</b>	Louisville, KY
<b>Stipend</b>	\$15,400
<b>Duration</b>	9 weeks, Summer 2026

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[Norton Healthcare](#) is a leader in serving adult and pediatric patients from throughout Greater Louisville, Southern Indiana, the commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. The not-for-profit hospital and health care system has six Louisville-based hospitals and three hospitals in Southern Indiana. Norton Healthcare is guided by its mission “to provide quality health care to all those we serve, in a manner that responds to the needs of our communities and honors our faith heritage.” More than ‘words on a wall,’ the mission is a vibrant and guiding beacon for the organization.

With more than 23,000 employees, over 1,750 medical providers employed and more than 3,000 total providers on its medical staff, Norton Healthcare is Louisville’s second largest employer. It provides care at more than 400 locations throughout Kentucky and Southern Indiana. The hospitals provide inpatient and outpatient general care as well as specialty care, including heart, neuroscience, cancer, orthopedic, women’s and pediatric services. The system also includes 10 outpatient centers, 19 Norton Immediate Care Centers, 14 Norton Prompt Care clinics and an expanded telehealth program. A strong research program provides access to clinical trials in a multitude of areas.

Norton Healthcare’s Louisville hospitals and Norton Cancer Institute are LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leaders. The facilities first received this designation from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in 2018 and have received it in all subsequent years that the designation has been awarded. Norton Healthcare also was recognized in 2022, 2023 and 2024 on the Disability Equality Index’s list of Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Norton Healthcare’s purpose is to provide quality health care to all those we serve, in a manner that responds to the needs of our communities and honors our faith heritage that includes founding organizations (United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and Episcopal Church) and others that are part of our faith history (Roman Catholic Church and Presbyterian Church).

For more than two decades, the Norton Healthcare Board of Trustees Committee on Faith & Health Ministries has guided the work of Norton Faith and Health Ministries. One of the primary objectives has been to advance congregational health ministries, faith community nursing and other health-related programs. The department offers faith communities professional guidance, education and resources to support faith community nursing and health ministries. Nurse educators specifically trained in the faith community nursing specialty work with churches and faith groups to weave together health and wellness promotion with the intentional care of the spirit. The department hosts a yearly conference uniquely designed for faith leaders and others to attend at no cost.

The department has active relationships with nearly 130 faith communities and an additional 18 faith communities are in the queue to work in partnership. The department is expecting to conduct over 120 activities in 2025 (159 activities in 2024). The needed value-add is a practical and strategic assessment of the impact of these services. And, to ask, “What next?” It’s envisioned that the intern will help the department develop analytics and tools to improve and advance services to religious communities. The internship appointment is for 9 consecutive weeks, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per

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week.

## Key Responsibilities:

- Map faith communities in partnership with Norton Faith & Health Ministries.
- Identify ways the faith communities are using office resources Norton Healthcare to impact the health status of their congregants and community. Assess the strengths and gaps in services.
- Assess if religious communities are aware of and utilize community resources to advance their health care initiatives; identify barriers and solutions.
- Develop a practical tool for Norton Faith & Health Ministries to assess and track health care related activities of an active faith community partner.

## Qualifications:

- PhD student in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences, with a dissertation/research focus on the study of religion. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Interest in the religious life of a city and how religious communities are vital to the personal identities of various groups.
- Sensitivity to the challenges faced by leaders of religious communities.
- Strong relational and interpersonal communication skills.
- Self-directed; ability to assess situations and take appropriate and balanced initiative.
- Experience engaging leaders in culturally diverse settings.

## *Preferred*

- Familiarity/experience with the integration of whole person health.
- Demonstrated ability to translate data and theoretical formulations into practical and applicable initiatives.
- Proficiency with Excel.

## APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Graduate Internships on the Spiritual Infrastructure of the Future Program: <https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-graduate-internships-on-the-spiritual-infrastructure-of-the-future/>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System ([ofa.acls.org](https://ofa.acls.org)).
- Application deadline: **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 9 PM EST.**

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