



**NEW ORLEANS**

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

## 2017 Ministry Inquiries

### Cooperative Program

1. *With an understanding that SBC entities which receive Cooperative Program funding share an equal responsibility to promote and advance the Cooperative Program, please give a description of NOBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.*

Cooperative Program support is crucial for not only all SBC ministries, but for NOBTS as well. Therefore, the faculty and administration of NOBTS are strongly supportive of the Cooperative Program. By highlighting the value of the Cooperative Program, our desired outcome is that our students would come to share a commitment to the Cooperative Program as well. Here are some of the steps that NOBTS has taken over the last few years to promote the Cooperative Program.

- Every NOBTS master's degree student is required to enroll in a for-credit class about the CP. Following an introductory classroom session, each student is provided with a text and free materials for an online course with online lectures and links so the student can work through the program at his/her own pace. The materials are also such that the student can present the CP information in church settings. One of the assignments requires the student to detail how each \$1 gift is distributed by their own church through the association, state convention, and SBC. This course has caused some students to lead their churches to increase their CP giving, and in a couple of cases to join the SBC.
- Several additional courses specifically address the CP, including classes such as Baptist Heritage, Christian Missions, and the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as some classes in the undergraduate program.
- The contribution of the CP in assisting students is noted in the NOBTS catalog, Web site and other publications.
- The President and other seminary representatives routinely express appreciation to local churches, associations, and state conventions for their support through the CP.
- The President provides updates to faculty, staff, trustees, and students about the progress of CP giving and emphasizes the importance of giving through the CP.

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- Membership in a church supportive of the CP is required of all faculty members, both full-time and adjunct.
- NOBTS has classes each year at the annual SBC convention to learn more about what happens “behind the scenes” at the conventions. The Unlimited Partnerships also go to Nashville each year to tour the SBC building and meet convention personnel in order to gain a more personal knowledge of how the SBC works.
- NOBTS regularly hosts representatives of the IMB, NAMB, and other Baptist entities in chapel and other opportunities. We host an annual “Life beyond Seminary” event with representatives from a number of state conventions, and representatives of the conventions come from time to time to recruit our students. We also partner with several state conventions on missions and educational projects. IMB candidate consultants regularly interview prospective missionary candidates on the NOBTS campus. NOBTS interacts with IMB and NAMB in partnering on various projects, including the IMB Embrace project (in which we have chosen 8 unreached people groups in Cuba), the Macedonia Project (in which we offer a 50 percent discount to some IMB missionaries), SEND America New Orleans, and several missions partnerships around the world. The CEO of the SBC and the President of the ERLC have also been regular chapel speakers.

2. *How effective is NOBTS in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding? What level of confidence does NOBTS have that its graduates will continue to engage and invest in SBC missions and ministries?*

The faculty and administration of NOBTS are strongly supportive of the Cooperative Program, and consistently highlight the value of the Cooperative Program to students. The CP has been mentioned so many times in chapel that students have commented about how often it is mentioned. They cannot miss its significance. Our desired outcome is that our students would come to share a commitment to the Cooperative Program as well. We are quite confident that students who complete their studies at NOBTS will be more likely to be strongly engaged in and invested in SBC missions and ministries.

3. *Please articulate for Southern Baptists how NOBTS perceives the role of the Cooperative Program funding theological education in the Gulf Coast region. What value does NOBTS place upon its partnership with SBC churches through the Cooperative Program?*

The desired outcome of our teaching the value of the Cooperative Program is to teach an understanding of the Cooperative Program to students who were not disciplined through SBC Missions organizations, to

lead them to value the CP, and to give them the tools to share information about CP with the churches in which they are serving.

Regarding Cooperative Program support for our students and our partnership with local churches, we are nothing without our churches, and have no reason for existing apart from our churches. Equipping the next generation of leaders for SBC churches is our entire mission and focus. Therefore, we partner with individual churches, associations, and state conventions to accomplish various aspects of ministry. It would be impossible to overstate our appreciation and gratitude for the support of churches through the Cooperative Program, and for their partnership with us in providing theological education for the Gulf South and beyond. Without Cooperative Program support, many of our graduates would have such stifling student debt that they would simply be unable to serve in many smaller churches or missions settings.

4. *How does NOBTS benefit from the Cooperative Program?*

The Cooperative Program provides approximately 38 percent of our annual budget, so without Cooperative Program support we would have to dramatically cut our faculty and staff and/or dramatically increase our student fees (at least doubling or tripling the current level of student fees). Were the Cooperative Program support to disappear, it would force the Seminary into a catastrophic change situation even worse than our Hurricane Katrina disaster a decade ago, and we would lose at least a third of our current student enrollment because they could no longer afford to be our students.

### **Ethnic Participation**

5. *Please give a descriptive report of participation of ethnic leaders, ethnic churches and other ethnic church leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2015 – 2016) has your seminary increased or decreased the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty and within the student body?*

NOBTS has made a determined effort to broaden the ethnicity of both its faculty and its students over the last decade. The following are reflective of the efforts in the areas listed in the last five years.

**Trustees (not chosen by NOBTS)** – Over the last five years, NOBTS has had two African-American and one Korean-American trustees.

**Senior Administrative Staff** – None of the senior administrative staff of NOBTS are non-Anglos at this point. Many in the overall Seminary staff are.

**Faculty** – The NOBTS faculty over the last five years has included four full-time Korean-American professors, two African-American professors, and two Hispanic professors. Additionally, NOBTS employs many African-American, Korean, Hispanic, and French Haitian, and Brazilian/Portuguese teachers in its various extension center and certificate programs. We also have full-

time faculty members over the last five years who were natives of Nigeria, Australia, Canada, and Kazakhstan, as well as eight faculty members who have served as IMB-appointed missionaries overseas and are proficient in various languages.

**Scholarships** – A donor has been giving \$100,000 a year for African-American students at NOBTS in honor of former SBC convention president Fred Luter. Also, the Seminary offers deep discounts to Hispanic students who attend the South Florida extension center in Miami. In partnership with Florida Baptist Convention, training is provided for Haitian ministers in French both on the island of Haiti and in Florida. Other ethnic students are recipients of various scholarships that do not specifically target persons of various ethnicities.

### **Curriculum Initiatives --**

**For Koreans** -- The Korean Theological Institute in Atlanta began in the fall semester of 2006. Initially the KTI offered the church ministry undergraduate certificate and also a graduate certificate. The initial semester had 6 undergraduate students and 12 graduate students. Now NOBTS offers the full BACM degree, M.Div. Degree, and D.Min. degree in Korean, with over 100 Korean students enrolled. Our Korean D.Min. degree was created only after careful communication and input from Korean pastors. We have also created online classes in Korean, and recently completed an all-online MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree in Korean.

The Korean program has enjoyed wonderful support from Korean Baptist churches, including helping pay for advertising in Korean publications and travel costs for teachers. Some of the best known leaders in Korean churches have taught in this program. We now have three full-time professors who are Koreans, as well as our extension center librarian.

**For French-speaking Haitians** – NOBTS offers certificate and undergraduate classes in Haitian French in various church settings in South Florida, and in the Atlanta area. We also have a longstanding partnership with the Florida Baptist Convention to provide theological education on the island of Haiti. Both the South Florida program and the Haiti program involve more than 100 Haitian students each.

Certificate training for Haitians is provided in French at the following in recent years:

- Port-aux-Prince, Haiti
- Port de Paix, Haiti
- First Haitian Baptist Church
- Fort Myers, FL
- Mitspa Missionary Baptist Church
- Norcross, GA

**For Spanish-speaking Hispanics** – At our South Florida extension center at Hialeah, FL, NOBTS offers certificate, associate, and baccalaureate classes in Spanish. We are hopeful that these classes may soon be broadcast by CIV (compressed interactive video) to the Atlanta area. In all, we have over 100 Hispanic students. In communication with national Hispanic leaders in listening groups, as well as input from ministers in South and Central America, we now offer the MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree online in Spanish. We offer Church Leadership certificates in three levels (based on educational preparation and immigration status) – NOBTS Providence Learning Center certificates (not for credit continuing education), Leavell College non-credit, and Leavell College for credit. Programs have been offered in the following churches over the last five years:

- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Kenner, LA
- Central Baptist Church, Warner-Robins, GA
- Primera Iglesia Bautista de Plantation, Plantation, FL
- Migrant Baptist Institute, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Okeechobee, FL
- Knights Baptist Church, Plant City, FL
- Lake Saunders Baptist Church, Mount Dora, FL
- First Baptist Church of Gretna, Gretna, FL
- Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana, West Palm Beach, FL
- Treasure Coast Baptist Association, Fort Pierce, FL

NOBTS has also offered the equivalent of three master's degrees in Cuba in association with the Western and Eastern Cuba Theological Seminaries to train leaders of Cuba's thousands of house churches.

**For Portuguese-speaking Brazilians** – At First Brazilian Baptist Church in Pompano, FL, we offer a Church Leadership Certificate program in Portuguese (for persons with Brazilian backgrounds).

**For African-Americans** – NOBTS added another African-American professor in December 2014, Dr. Ken Ellis. He is the fourth African-American member of the regular NOBTS faculty, in addition to a number of African-American adjunct teachers.

For many years NOBTS has partnered with the Florida Baptist Convention to offer an African American Church Planting Certificate program offer in Jacksonville, FL. We have offered various Church Leadership Certificates in several predominantly African American SBC and National Baptist churches in the last few years. These churches include the following:

- First Community Antioch Baptist Church, Litcher, LA
- Community Bible Church, Baton Rouge, LA
- New Hope Community Church, New Orleans, LA
- Amazing Grace (Ghanian)/Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- Decision Point Ministries, Decatur, GA
- New Calvary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

- Peace Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- South Roebuck Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL
- Green Forest Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- Mount Zion Baptist Church, Jonesboro, GA
- New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

**In Prison Programs** -- Our undergraduate programs in the Angola Penitentiary and the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (Louisiana), Parchman Prison (Mississippi), Phillips Prison (Georgia), and Hardee Correctional Facility (Florida), have a fairly high percentage of ethnic students, particularly African American and Hispanic students. Non-credit certificate programs are offered at several other prisons. We also partner with a drug rehabilitation center in New Orleans, Bethel Colony South, teaching the male and female participants in a non-credit Bible program, and providing them jobs on campus.

### **Mental Health Resource**

6. *In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and SBC churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to Dr. Frank S. Page, Fall 2014.*

*In the 2015 & 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:*

*Please give a progress report on what NOBTS has implemented to assist SBC churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will NOBTS continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?*

*For the 2017 Ministry Report please provide the following:*

*If NOBTS feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist SBC churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.*

NOBTS has given high priority to training ministers to address the mental health crisis in America. Our Counseling program is one of our more popular programs with students. NOBTS structured a new, separate academic division in 2013 -- the Division of Church and Community Ministries, which includes the departments of Counseling and Social Work -- to address the specific needs of people with mental health disorders and other special needs. This new academic division (Counseling was previously in the

Pastoral Ministries division, and Social Work was in the Christian Education division) has created a new synergism within our institution to address these issues.

NOBTS offers several degrees and specializations to equip people to minister to persons with mental health needs – the Master of Divinity (MDiv) specialization in Counseling (with both a licensure track and a non-licensure track), MDiv specialization in Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care, MDiv specialization in Chaplaincy, MDiv specialization in Christian Education (concentration in Social Work), Master of Arts in Christian Education (concentration in Social Work), the Master of Arts in Church and Community Ministries, and the Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Ministry (MAMFC). Additionally, through a partnership with the nearby University of Southern Mississippi (USM), our students are offered access to the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at USM. At the doctoral level, a specialization in Counseling available in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) and Doctor of Educational Ministry (DEdMin) programs, as well as a Psychology and Counseling major in the PhD program. The MDiv specialization in Counseling (licensure track), the MAMFW, the MSW, and the PhD in Psychology and Counseling all lead to licensure, which is increasingly being required for persons to serve in counseling positions without risking lawsuits for malpractice. Our students have had a high percentage of success in achieving LPC (licensed professional counselor) licensure in various states. NOBTS now has three named faculty chairs in Counseling, and one chair in Social Work. NOBTS hopes to offer its own MSW degree soon, and funding is being sought to provide more faculty chairs which are necessary to offer this degree.

In the summer of 2014, NOBTS launched the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center on its campus to provide both desperately needed Christian counseling to persons in the community and in-service, professionally mentored training for our Counseling students. This Christian counseling center has provided internship opportunities for over 40 of our Counseling students. In its first few months, the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center is already maxed out in admitting new clients, providing counseling for over 600 persons for over 6,000 hours under the supervision of our faculty. When appropriate, the plan of salvation is presented to clients in addition to counseling them on specific needs. Counseling majors also serve in an additional dozen external sites at various counseling centers around the New Orleans area, and Social Work students serve in internships around the region as well. For the counseling needs of our own NOBTS students, a staff counselor with faculty status (sometimes assisted by doctoral students) is provided by our Dean of Students office.

Our Counseling faculty has hosted regional Counseling conferences with special tracks for pastors and others in church ministry and continuing education training for professionals, and are nationally recognized in Christian Counseling organizations. The Counseling faculty has also led Recalibrate Conferences for faculty and students to help churches and individuals deal with sexual addictions. Counseling faculty members have also taken part in our Caskey Center conferences for small church and bivocational pastors. One faculty member is on the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, another was recently honored at the national level for her work with foster care children who have experienced trauma, and another has recently completed a major project of counseling education video modules distributed through a major Bible research software platform used by pastors

and church staff. Students in the standard Master of Divinity program and most other degree plans are required to take the course, Counseling in Ministry, designed to introduce ministry students to counseling skills and an awareness of mental health issues. The NOBTS Counseling program is currently seeking CACREP accreditation to enhance the credentials of our graduates, as well as plans to move forward with a Center for Emotional Health in the coming year.

### **NOBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries**

7. *What has proven to be NOBTS's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to NOBTS across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one NOBTS believes is most important to watch relative to each ministry assignment?*

The most important metric for NOBTS is their effectiveness in the churches and ministries in which they serve, although that might be difficult to measure. Within the Seminary, the total number of credit hours our students take is our most important metric, since it drives our funding. Across theological education, there is a growing gap between total enrollment and credit hours, because students are financially strapped and time challenged, and thus are taking fewer credit hours each semester. This trend reduces both SBC funding and student tuition income. Oddly, several SBC seminaries have experienced increased student enrollment but decreased credit hours.

8. *Understanding the seminary ministry assignment(s) to "...assist churches by programs of master's level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators..." please list each degree program offered at NOBTS.*

Master's level training is a prerequisite to be considered on the ministerial staff of many churches. However, we recognize that many Southern Baptist ministers may already be serving in various ministerial roles even before coming to seminary. We do not require them to leave that ministry to come be a residential student for several years on the New Orleans campus. We strive to make theological education as accessible as possible to as many God-called ministers as possible. So we offer training not only in a number of formats on the New Orleans campus (once weekly, once monthly hybrids, weekends, nights, one-week classes), but also at graduate extension centers all over the Southeast, and via internet. Regardless of their location, any minister can earn a master's degree through NOBTS. We advise our students at multiple levels from admission through new student orientation, academic advisement, and other ways about which degree or specialization is best for them. The catalog lists the degrees or specialization that fits best with each calling in vocational ministry, and students are advised to find the degree or specialization that best fits their calling.

The primary master's degree that we encourage students to take is the Master of Divinity, the standard degree in theological education. Our M.Div. is specifically designed to train students in the key competencies in ministry identified by extensive research –

- Biblical Exposition
- Christian Theological Heritage
- Disciple Making

- Interpersonal Skills
- Servant Leadership
- Spiritual and Character Formation
- Worship Leadership

There are many master's degrees available in theological education at this time that are shorter than the M.Div., but they do not provide the thorough training that the M.Div. does, either in the classical disciplines or in the ministry disciplines. Also, many students in M.A. degrees do not realize that these degrees do not qualify them for some ministerial positions, and that leveling work may be required before they qualify to enroll in some doctoral degrees. The Standard M.Div, which provides broad theological training applicable in any ministerial setting, and is also available in several formats – on campus, at any of 20 extension centers across the Southeast, all online, through several mentorship-based tracks (with concentrations in Church Staff and Ministry Leadership, Pastoral Ministry, Collegiate Ministry, and Church Planting for both a North American and an international setting, weekend classes, hybrid classes, and short one week classes.

We also provide M.Div. specializations in the following areas --

- Biblical Languages
- Biblical Studies
- Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care
- Christian Apologetics
- Christian Education
- Christian Theology
- Christian Thought
- Church Music
- Church Planting (with concentrations in North American or International Church Planting)
- Collegiate Ministry mentorship track
- Counseling (Licensure Track or Non-Licensure Track)
- Evangelistic Church Growth
- Expository Preaching
- Islamic Studies
- Leadership (with concentrations in Ministry Leadership and Administration or Pastoral Leadership)
- Mentoring track
- Missions
- Pastoral Ministry
- Philosophy
- Urban Missions
- Women's Studies
- Worship Ministries

For students interested in more focused training in a specific area, we offer the following specialized degrees (\* degrees listed with asterisks are available all-online) --

- Master of Arts (Apologetics) \*
- Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) \*

- Master of Arts (Biblical Archaeology)
- Master of Arts (Cross Cultural Studies)
- Master of Arts (Theology) \*
- Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics
- Master of Arts in Christian Education \*
- Master of Arts in Church and Community Ministries
- Master of Arts in Discipleship
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling
- Master of Arts in Missiology \*
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
- Master of Arts in Worship Ministries
- Master of Music in Church Music
- Master of Theological Studies \*
- Master of Theology

Beyond master's level training, many ministers are finding after their early years in ministry that as they share resumes with larger churches, the search committee has many candidates who have a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) or Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.) degree. These churches often have many professionals within the church fellowship, and therefore prefer a minister with doctoral level training. The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. provide the training to take a minister to the next level of excellence in ministry, whether in his current ministry or a larger ministry. We advise students who intend to focus on church-based ministry to earn these professional doctoral degrees. The training provided is primarily ministry-focused rather than research-focused; practical rather than theoretical. D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. graduates are able to teach in some settings in the ministry disciplines, but not in the classic disciplines such as Bible or Theology.

We advise students who desire to teach or to minister in churches with highly educated ministers to enroll in the Ph.D. program (or Doctor of Musical Arts for musicians). The Ph.D. degree, though not disconnected from Christian ministry and the church, is primarily research-focused. Our Ph.D. graduates are qualified to teach in any college or seminary. We offer ten Ph.D. majors, most of them accessible for non-residential students.

9. *Can you predict the long term viability and sustainability of multiple campuses for NOBTS? Does the growing number of online students impact future projections along this line? Please explain.*

NOBTS has 26 extension center campuses all over the Southeast, many of them in the largest cities in the South (Atlanta, Orlando, Miami, Birmingham, Jackson, Shreveport, etc.). Having these extension centers allows students to pursue theological training without having to move away from their church field.

Between January and May 2016, the Seminary's Administrative Council engaged in an extensive study of its extension center system, one of the largest such systems in the theological world. Our extension center enrollment is not as strong as it was at its peak some years ago, some of them opting to take some or all of their classes online because of convenience. But our extension centers continue to be a

crucial part of our student body, comprising about 54 percent of our students. We have decided to continue our extension center system into the intermediate future for these reasons:

(a) We lose no money on any of our current extension centers, and indeed would lose money if we closed them.

(b) The extension centers have proven to be a key entry point to various Seminary delivery systems. Some students originally contacted by an extension center may choose to opt for online or on-campus classes over time.

(c) Extension center classes, since they offer a classroom environment with teacher and students, are preferable to many students over internet classes. Some students do not have the technical ability to take internet classes, and many students simply prefer education with human face-to-face interaction.

(d) The NOBTS extension centers are strategically placed across the five states of the Southeast (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana) such that an NOBTS extension center is within driving distance for anyone in the Southeast.

(e) Many NOBTS extension centers served targeted populations, such as Koreans, Haitians, and African Americans, as well as incarcerated prisoners. The extension center provides the only viable option to them for theological training.

10. *What is the most newsworthy feature, initiative or issue currently orbiting around the programs of NOBTS? Please explain.*

There are many exciting initiatives going on at NOBTS, including that we are nearing our Centennial celebration, the incredible success of the Caskey Center for Church Excellence in providing theological training for bivocational ministers, the success of our Tel Gezer archaeological dig, the launch of our Bible Lands and Archaeology Museum, and the initiation of the Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center on campus. But the most noteworthy initiatives at NOBTS currently are

(a) 10 Ph.D. majors are now in a format accessible for nonresidential students, and

(b) the NOBTS Mentoring program allows students wherever they are to be mentored in their undergraduate or master's level program by a local minister as they serve in a local Southern Baptist church.