



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2017 SBTS Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

1. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

- a. **Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.**

Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, continues to experience significant growth. For the 2015-2016 academic year, Boyce College enrolled a record 1,466 students, an increase from 1,235 in the previous academic year. The number of applications received for admission increased 49%. For the Fall 2016 semester, Boyce College registered 81 new high school students in dual enrollment courses, enabling them to receive undergraduate course credit as they completed their high school studies. In order to meet the needs of a growing student population, Boyce expanded its student life staffing to include an associate dean of student life and an increased number of resident assistant positions. Additionally, Boyce College added both an activities coordinator and an additional academic advisor.

- b. **Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2016 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?**

A major initiative to expand course offerings at Boyce College is the development and launch of a new major in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. The PPE degree will prepare students to apply a Christian worldview in the areas of politics, international justice, and economic development while addressing the mounting challenges facing Christians in a globalized society. This interdisciplinary degree will advocate for religious liberty, public justice, human flourishing, and the need for a holistic ministry.

Furthermore, the Augustine Honors Collegium at Boyce College will publish the inaugural issue of an undergraduate research journal in June 2017. The *Augustine Collegiate Review* is designed to present interdisciplinary conversations across broad theological, cultural, and philosophical topics from a Christian perspective and promote undergraduate research and writing. The journal will be published twice a year and each issue will feature approximately six undergraduate student-written pieces, articles requested from active scholars, and a variety of book reviews from both students and scholars.

2. Assist churches by programs of masters' level theological education for ministers.



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- a. **Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.**

The development and expansion of Southern Seminary's Global Campus continues to be a primary way in which Southern Seminary is able to serve a wide variety of pastors, missionaries, church planters, and Christian leaders for service in the church and for the nations. With the Global Campus, Southern Seminary is able to reach sectors of students previously underserved by theological education. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Southern's Global Campus served online students in at least twenty countries, all fifty states, and the District of Columbia

The School of Theology and the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry both experienced continued growth in their respective Master's programs. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Southern Seminary's Master of Divinity degree—the primary track for training pastors—enrolled a record 2,099 students. Our faculty continues to grow as the need to serve our students increases. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our faculty continue to set the pace for serving in local Southern Baptist churches, speaking at conferences, and contributing to evangelical scholarship through writing books and delivering academic presentations.

- b. **Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2016 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?**

Southern Seminary is committed to offering the best quality theological education, while also working to develop students with spiritual depth and maturity. Along these lines, Southern will host an All Student Summit for Southern Seminary and Boyce College students and student wives. During the event students will hear from key leaders on campus who will talk about issues such as how to take care of their mind, soul, family, time, and finances.

Southern is also committed to helping students overcome private sins that could potentially damage their ministry and the churches they serve. In this vein, *Renew* is a discipleship service for students in the midst of a fight with pornography, sexual immorality, and other private sins. This program involves separate male and female tracks. Southern will continue to monitor ongoing effectiveness of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees for training students to lead in missions, evangelism, and ministry, as well as the best means for delivering courses to missionaries on the field and church leaders throughout North America.



- 3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**
- a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.**

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Educational Ministry. Professional Doctoral Studies expanded their program offerings to include a Doctor of Educational Ministry in Applied Theology while also seeing the successful implementation of the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. in Christian Worship with resulting growth in both programs. Additional cohorts were begun in Expository Preaching and Biblical Theology during the year. The 2015-2016 year marked another record high in graduation rates with 27 students graduating in the fall semester (an increase from 26 in fall 2014) and 26 graduating in the spring (an increase from 24 in spring 2015). This is the direct result of the curriculum redevelopment that occurred in 2013-2014 with a focus on students writing their projects or theses along the way.

Regarding curriculum development, seven new seminars were developed and approved by faculty for use in the Professional Doctoral Programs. Concentrations in the areas of New Testament Exposition and Christian Theology and Practice were developed and approved by faculty. In addition, significant attention was given to deepening community among students and professors through the implementation of chapel services, luncheons, and coffee gatherings while modular students are on campus. These measures have been received with enthusiasm.

- b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2016 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?**

The Professional Doctoral Program has excellence and expansion as continuous goals. In light of this, several strategic changes are planned. Southern will give special attention to marketing strategy and recruitment in the following areas: Applied Theology, Biblical Counseling, Church Revitalization, Expository Preaching, and Leadership. Furthermore, the Seminary will redevelop the Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry concentration in Leadership. Other goals are to continue to increase the quality of writing and degree completion rates by offering three writing retreats during the 2016-17 academic year and to add a minimum of five new Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry project supervisors that will be approved by faculty and equipped to supervise.



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4. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

- a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.**

Southern Seminary offers research doctoral education through the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Missiology, and Master of Theology. The entire Doctoral Studies department maintained strong enrollment and executed plans to ensure ongoing academic strength and rigor. An increased focus on mentorship in the doctoral community was evidenced through a variety of means.

The Research Doctoral Studies office expanded initiatives to promote a deeper sense of community among doctoral students by expanding the 1892 Club to include modular students, and offering a special chapel service for modular students during their time on campus. The weekly 1892 Club continued to attract many students for fellowship and to interact with a visiting scholar. Twenty-three doctoral students presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. Dr. Pennington was able to secure a grant from the Wabash Center to evaluate how well the program has done in training Ph.D. students as teachers. This evaluation included an on-campus consultation in March 2016 with nine Ph.D. alumni and administrative staff.

- b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2016 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?**

Though the Research Doctoral Studies department at Southern Seminary is currently operating from a place of strength, numerous goals are in place to ensure Southern continues to equip ministers and theological educators at the highest academic level. In keeping with the Southern Baptist Convention's commitment to serve the nations, the department will continue to develop partnerships related to international student teaching opportunities with the intention of student deployment. Additionally, Southern will enhance the residential Ph.D. program through intentional mentoring and community development. As a result of the Wabash Center evaluation, an increased focus upon preparing Ph.D. graduates to teach in undergraduate programs will be implemented. Furthermore, Southern will continue to increase the quality of writing and degree completion rates by offering two writing retreats during the 2016-17 academic year and by having a minimum of 30 Research Doctoral Studies students present papers at regional and national academic conferences.