



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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 2014-2015 school year, Boyce College enrolled a record 1,235 students. New students for the 2015 fall semester increased by 20%, while total applications initiated and accepted grew by 41%. Boyce also registered 269 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 made significant staff increases to the Student Life and Dean's offices by adding a part-time administrative assistant in Student Life and a department coordinator in the Dean's office. Boyce also expanded dormitory space beyond the Mullins complex into Carver Hall and Fuller Hall.

- 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?**

As Boyce College continues to grow, the increase in students will present challenges related to services and infrastructure. In light of that, Boyce has several goals in place. First, academic leadership will establish a six-year M.Div, track and work to get every student who aspires to pastoral ministry to identify with an M.Div, track (either the five- or six-year option). Also, a committee will be established to review Student Life resources and provide an annual report and proposal for increasing Student Life resources for growth commensurate with our enrollment.

2. Assist churches by programs of masters' level 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.**

One of the most exciting developments has been the launch of Southern Seminary's Global Campus, which opens new doors as we seek to train, educate, and prepare the next generation of pastors, missionaries, church planters, and Christian leaders for



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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.

The School of Theology and Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry also continued to experience growth in their respective Master's programs. For the 2014-2015 academic year, there was a record non-duplicating headcount of 5,067 students — 3,546 in the seminary and 1,235 in Boyce College, the seminary's undergraduate school (as well as 286 visiting students) — surpassing the previous record of 4,792 during the 2013-2014 academic year. Our faculty continues to grow as the need to serve our students increases. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our faculty also continue to set the pace for serving in local SBC 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 to the greatest possible number of students. In order to do this, the Seminary is constantly seeking to improve in every area. For example, Southern will seek to enhance orientation and student life programming that encourages student retention in all degree programs. This will require the schools to monitor, with the Dean of Students, student attrition so as to determine causes. Also, the schools will work with the Center for Student Success to improve initial orientation and ongoing counseling programs for students and to provide a solid advisement system for Master of Divinity students.

Southern recognizes that a changing world requires students to be prepared to engage the modern secular mind with the truth of the gospel in effective evangelistic witness. In order to prepare students for this, Southern will focus on theological, apologetical, and evangelistic concerns in the postmodern world via lectureships, conferences, emphases, and training. Also, this requires that we identify important trends and their impact on the church in the twenty-first century.

- 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.**



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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 Biblical Spirituality, 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, Biblical Theology, and Executive Leadership during the year. The 2014-2015 year marked increasingly high graduation rates with 26 students graduating in the fall semester (an increase from 21 in fall 2013) and 24 graduating in the spring (an increase from 16 in spring 2014). This is the direct result of the curriculum redevelopment that occurred in 2013-2014 that is helping students finish their degree in a timelier manner.

Regarding curriculum development, six new seminars were developed and approved by faculty for use in the Professional Doctoral Programs. As well, 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. A total of 46 seminars were held this past academic year. The professional doctoral program also placed an increased emphasis on strategic student mentoring and restructured the curriculum to assist pastors with integrating their seminar work into local church ministry and work on the mission field.

- 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 a continuous goal. In light of that, several strategic changes are planned. Southern will continue growing total enrollment by expanding the Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry program offerings in the areas of Applied Apologetics and Christian Ethics, redevelop the Doctor of Ministry concentration in Expository Preaching, and continue to increase the quality of writing and degree completion rates by offering three writing retreats during the 2015-16 academic year.

- 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.**



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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 record numbers, and executed plans to expand the modular program. The traditional semester format has been retained in the following Research Doctoral Studies areas: Biblical Studies, Biblical Theology, Church History, New Testament, Old Testament, and Systematic Theology.

Research Doctoral Studies implemented a new program for the Ph.D. in Ethics and Public Policy. They expanded initiatives to promote a deeper sense of community among doctoral students by expanding the 1892 Club to include modular students, and have offered a special chapel service for modular students during their time on campus. Over twenty-five doctoral students presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, more than any other institution. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. Additionally, Dr. Pennington represented Southern Seminary's Research Doctoral Studies at the Wabash Center Conference, earning a grant from the Wabash Center for pedagogical development.

- 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?**

Recent reports have shown the Research Doctoral Studies department as Southern Seminary to be one of the most effective in the nation at producing professors employed in ATS accredited institutions of higher learning. In order to maintain such a distinguished position, a number of goals are in place. Southern will enhance general education courses through developing partnerships related to international teaching opportunities, enhance the residential Ph.D. program through intentional mentoring and community development, and evaluate institutional effectiveness in training Ph.D. students to be future teachers through the Wabash Center grant.