



2020 Goals and Accomplishments

Based on each of SBTS' Convention approved Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

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

Boyce College, the undergraduate school of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, continues to serve a growing student population of Southern Baptist college students. These students are receiving a Christian education of the highest quality and relevance. The aim of Boyce College is to raise up a new generation of leaders for faithful service in our churches and the mission field. Boyce attracts students who are already serious about their faith and challenges them to grow in their commitment to Christ and his church while they pursue undergraduate education. This depth of conviction has resulted in healthy growth as more and more students are drawn to Boyce's theological clarity and academic rigor. The non-duplicating headcount at Boyce College was 1,099 students in 2018-2019.

The professors at Boyce college are not only recognized experts in their scholarly fields, but they also possess a clear commitment to shepherd and mentor their students. This is why Boyce students receive excellent instruction in the classroom, as well as a vibrant all-around student experience. Resident advisors work to cultivate biblical community within the residence halls. Students are exposed to a number of Southern Baptist pastors and leaders through weekly dorm meetings and chapel services. Student groups, such as the student council and an undergraduate academic journal, provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and experience that will serve them and our churches in the future. The honors program continues to grow and gives students in the program an opportunity for a deeper and more challenging academic experience. This program has proven effective in attracting some of the sharpest young minds in the SBC.

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

The central mission assignment for the seminaries is the education of pastors. That reaches back to our founding in 1859. The Master of Divinity program forms the core of Southern's efforts to provide master's level theological education. This is then supplemented through various master's level offerings, such as our Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, Missiology, Theological Studies, and more. The Global Campus continues to expand as a vehicle for delivering theological education to master's students around the world. Students from all fifty states, the



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District of Columbia, and over twenty countries are enrolled in degree programs. Within the Global Campus, the Online Hispanic Program has grown exponentially, which helps prepare and train ministers of the gospel in the Spanish-speaking world.

The significance on the M.Div. centers the entire institution on the preparation of pastors. The M.Div. program continued as the largest program at the seminary with a total enrollment of 2,208 students for 2018-2019, which is a 4% increase from the previous year. In an era when the M.Div. is experiencing wide-spread decline, we are particularly proud of the work the Lord has done in raising up so many current and future pastors and entrusting us with their education. Southern Seminary also maintains an unparalleled faculty whose focus remains instructing master's level students. 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. In 2018-2019 alone, Southern Seminary professors published over 25 books and contributed many of articles to various academic journals. When you enter a classroom at Southern Seminary, you will find one of many consecrated Christian scholars whose commitment to the gospel, to the church, and to the Lord Jesus Christ is translated into a love for students and the task of teaching.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Educational Ministry. For the 2018-2019 academic year the total annual headcount for all Professional Doctoral Studies degree programs was 411 students. Specific attention was paid to prospective student recruitment efforts. Completing a degree while in full-time ministry can be challenging, so at Southern professional doctoral students begin their program with a plan. Trained mentors guide students toward completion at a healthy pace, ensuring a greater number of students not only complete the program, but achieve the level of growth they desire. Southern Seminary continues to add value to the student experience through chapel services, focused panel discussions, and writing mentors throughout the program. The Broadus Society Fellowship exposes students to experienced preachers and provides a venue for mutual encouragement. Our graduates continue to hold key leadership positions in our SBC local associations, state conventions, and national entities. They are also pastoring hundreds of established SBC churches and are planting churches all over the world.



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

Southern Seminary offers research doctoral education through the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Missiology, and Master of Theology. These academic programs are among the most highly respected in the nation and continue to produce well-trained pastor-scholars who serve in local church leadership, academics, and entity leadership. Research Doctoral Studies include in their program offerings a fully modular Th.M. degree. This program allows students to receive a more intensive level of education in a range of subjects through week-long concentrated courses taken with a cohort. For the 2018-2019 academic year the total annual headcount for all Research Doctoral Studies degree programs was 400 students. The program, however, is not merely large, but of the highest quality. Workshops on academic writing were offered during the summer term. Dozens of our current students and graduates of our program presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and continue to shape the entire evangelical academic landscape. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. The weekly 1892 Club continued to attract many students each week for fellowship and interaction with a visiting scholar. Modular students are provided a chapel experience and lunch during their time on campus to facilitate further learning and fellowship between other students and scholars. Southern is equipping many of the most gifted academic and church leaders within the Southern Baptist community. In an academic job market considered severe by almost any standard, Southern doctoral graduates are continually sought after to serve in both traditionally academic and church-based posts. Amongst member schools of the Association of Theological Schools, Southern Seminary has continued to lead the way in the number of graduates that currently hold teaching posts. In addition to this, many of our graduates hold administrative positions of leadership in institutions of higher learning all over the country. As with our other programs, graduates are giving leadership throughout the SBC at the local, state and national levels. This is a great testimony to the strength of our program and the quality of our students.

What opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SBTS is accomplishing each of its Ministry Assignments?

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

Boyce College has experienced growth in terms of enrollment, educational excellence, and opportunities for students outside the classroom. The opportunity for 2020 primarily consists of building on the momentum already present to expand the reach of Boyce College among



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prospective students in order to maintain healthy growth. We believe that our current students are our best drivers for future growth. So Boyce aims to deliver excellent educational offerings, as well as extracurricular activities, with the goal of forming godly and well-equipped future Southern Baptist leaders. The addition of the Bachelor of Communication degree will prepare students to be effective communicators in a diverse and complex world, extending the mission of the school to new academic territory. As we maintain the SBC's commitment to abstain from government funding, we will need to carefully structure Southern Seminary and Boyce College in terms of personnel and facilities to make sure we are able to offer a program that is the highest in academic quality and competitively priced.

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

Southern Seminary is committed to providing the best possible theological education for current and future pastors and ministry leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention. This means not only maintaining an excellent faculty but providing an education that aims at the formation of ministry leaders who are intellectually capable, morally faithful, and walking closely with the Lord. An opportunity that comes out of this commitment is to continually improve not only our on-campus efforts, but opportunities for our online and modular students to be mentored, trained, and served both inside and outside of the classroom. As increasing numbers of our students are attending through our Global Campus program, Southern Seminary leadership, faculty, and staff must respond to the calling to bring excellent education through this growing opportunity. The high quality of our online program is rooted in the high quality of our on-campus program. Professors are continuing to improve their pedagogy through provided training, not only in the classroom, but also for their online teaching. The unique pedagogical challenges inherent in online learning require that our professors receive additional training and instruction in order to provide the best possible experience for our online students. With the rising number of online courses being taken, Southern Seminary maintains vigilant efforts to get online students connected to the campus.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

The professional doctoral studies team continuously strives for excellence and innovation in serving those seeking to develop their ministry competencies and skills. One of the challenges that most professional doctoral programs face is maintaining a high rate of degree completion. Southern Seminary continues to see rising graduation rates and will seek to improve even more. Students are being assigned writing mentors and are helped with a project strategy immediately as part of their first week of classes. This helps students to focus on their project throughout their entire program. This focus allows the student to begin the writing process earlier and has been effective in helping them complete the degree program. We will continue to increase the



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quality of program orientation and introduction to doctoral writing as part of our efforts to ensure successful graduates.

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

While Southern's research doctoral program remains one of the strongest in Christian higher education, the aim is always to increase the quality and reach of the program. One area of opportunity will be to expand the non-residential offerings in our traditional programs (Church History, Systematic Theology, Old Testament, and New Testament). These programs will continue to strengthen the pastor-theologians within the SBC in these foundational disciplines. Southern Seminary continues to develop partnerships related to international student teaching opportunities with the intention of student deployment. Currently, there is a growing need and opportunity for international theological education. Thousands of pastors around the world have no means to be trained. A continued focus on developing the pedagogical skills of our students will be paired with a continued commitment to encourage research doctoral students to exercise their academic gifting in the service of local churches. The extensive pedagogical training that Southern Seminary students will receive will allow them to become even more competitive in the current academic job market.