



SBTS 2016 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 SBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.**

From recruitment to graduation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to instill a gratitude and passion for the Cooperative Program. Prospective students learn during the admissions phase how giving through the Cooperative Program impacts the continued availability of their theological education. All Master's level students are now required to take a new course entitled "Southern Baptist Heritage and Mission." One of the primary objectives of this course is to promote the cooperative endeavors of Southern Baptists. Non-master's students are required to complete a comprehensive online course educating them about the function and purpose of the Cooperative Program toward fulfilling the Great Commission. Students are exposed to SBC sending agencies, programs, and initiatives throughout their time on campus through events like our annual Great Commission Week and speakers in our weekly chapel services. Donors and friends are advised regularly about the Cooperative Program as a primary conduit of institutional support. Finally, students are regularly reminded during the year and graduates are particularly reminded during commencement services how their education was provided in part from the countless hands of Southern Baptists through the provisions of the Cooperative Program.

- 2. What are the expected outcomes of SBTS's efforts to raise awareness of Cooperative Program funding?**

The anticipated outcome of these efforts is that students will take their place alongside faithful participants from years past and generously give to and promote the Cooperative Program in their respective ministries.

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

The purpose and influence of the Cooperative Program permeates every endeavor at Southern Seminary. Put simply, Southern could not fulfill its mission of training students for ministry without the continued support of Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program. Our hope is that the partnership with SBC churches is one of mutual benefit, with Southern sending well-trained pastors and other leaders out to serve the churches of the SBC.

4. Please explain the “value add” of Cooperative Program funding for SBTS, and how is this different from any and all other sources of funding for your seminary.

What makes the Cooperative Program unique to Southern Seminary is that the support given is the tangible expression of the relationship between Southern Baptists and the Seminary. Unlike any other source of funding, the Cooperative Program forms a core identity marker for Southern. The funding given through the Cooperative Program not only forms a large part of the operating budget of Southern, but serves as a binding and concrete expression of Southern’s commitment to training ministers of the gospel to serve Southern Baptist churches.

Ethnic Participation

5. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within SBTS, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the SBTS ministry—such things as board of trustees composition, senior administrative staff, other professional staff, support staff, faculty, and ethnic church and church leader composition of any external advisory groups— demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past two decades (1996-2015), giving special attention to progress over the past five years (2011-2015).

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to ethnic participation in every aspect of institutional life. The admissions strategy at Southern includes recruiting at ethnically diverse schools and conferences and at denominationally-diverse events. Financial aid is available for students through numerous scholarships designed to promote theological education among students of different cultural backgrounds and ethnicities. These strategic endeavors have enabled Southern to build its diversity to the extent that over 20% of our student population is now ethnically diverse. Five members of our resident faculty are also minorities, including recently appointed Ayman S. Ibrahim, the Bill and Connie Jenkins Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies.

Southern Seminary embraces ethnic diversity through its curriculum by offering doctoral and master's degrees with concentrations in Black Church Leadership and Urban Ministry. The Master of Divinity in Missions and Evangelism (Great Commission Ministries) is offered entirely in Spanish. Other individual courses are taught in Spanish and bilingually in Vietnamese and English to provide students with additional curricular options to prepare for engagement in ethnic ministries throughout the SBC.

Southern also provides opportunities for ethnic engagement outside the classroom. Special events included an Expositor’s Summit pre-conference on the theme of racial reconciliation. Leaders from various ethnic groups participated in the event, including Curtis Woods, Daniel Hyun, Juan Sanchez, and Jarvis Williams. Student leadership groups on campus continued to expand and now include the Intercultural Student Fellowship, Hispanic Association, Korean Student Fellowship, Nigerian Student Fellowship, Canada Club and the Bible Translators in Training. Our Bevin Center for Missions Mobilization remained diligent in training and mobilizing the seminary community to be engaged in missions from the city of Louisville to places such as Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and more. Many Southern students also serve locally by

teaching English as a second language and ministering to an array of nationalities through chaplaincy opportunities in local schools, sport leagues, jails, and hospitals.

Like other SBC entities, Southern Seminary also encourages its students and staff to engage in ministry with ethnic churches and church leaders on the field. Many students choose to perform their field ministry in churches with varying ethnic backgrounds, including Korean, Vietnamese, and African-American congregations. Two African-American professors on the Southern faculty also pastor at prominent churches in Kentucky - Dr. T. Vaughn Walker at First Gethsemane Baptist Church, and Professor Kevin Smith at Highview Baptist Church. Professor Smith was also recently elected as the first African-American president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Southern Seminary has recently taken steps to better serve the Hispanic population. Felipe Castro was appointed as the Director of Hispanic Initiatives. Also, Dr. Miguel Núñez, senior pastor of the International Baptist Church in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was appointed as the Lead Strategist for Latin American Initiatives. Dr. Juan Sanchez, senior pastor of High Pointe Baptist Church in Austin Texas, was appointed as the Lead Strategist for North American Hispanic Initiatives.

Mental Health Resource

- 6. Please provide a status report of which programs, ministries or strategies SBTS has implemented to assist SBC Churches in training and equipping individuals with mental health challenges and how will the SBTS continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?**

Southern Seminary recognizes the significant need for pastors and other leaders in the church to care for those with mental health challenges by identifying with their suffering and providing careful attention as their ally and spiritual leader. Southern Seminary teaches a nuanced understanding of human responsibility that considers both physical condition and spiritual response. Students are trained to address these mental health challenges as spiritual realities and to utilize medical or psychiatric assistance when the physiological need becomes apparent. Such help is complementary to, not a replacement of, ongoing biblical counseling, which is viewed as essential to ministering to these needs. An Introduction to Biblical Counseling course is in the core curriculum for all M.Div. students except those concentrating in Worldview and Apologetics. Additional courses such as Typical Problems in Biblical Counseling at the M.Div. level and Theological Hermeneutics in the Care of People at the Ph.D. level are available for students wishing to go deeper into the pastoral care of persons facing these challenges. In addition, Southern Biblical Counseling associate professor, Jeremy Pierre, published *The Pastor and Counseling* with a SBTS alum, Deepak Reju, in an attempt to equip pastors to better address the mental health challenges of church members. Southern remains open to exploring new avenues of cooperation to ensure this challenge does not go unmet.

SBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

7. **What has proven to be SBTS's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to SBTS, and why is that metric the one SBTS believes is most important to watch?**

The number of students in our Master of Divinity program is our most reliable metric for evaluating the status of our academic programs. The M.Div. is our central degree program for preparing Southern Baptist pastors for churches, church planting, and mission work both at home and abroad. Southern Seminary currently has more M.Div. students than any Master of Divinity program in the history of Southern Baptist seminaries.

8. **Please provide a status report of SBTS's baccalaureate program, including origins, current status, and expansion/growth. Also, what is distinctive about SBTS's baccalaureate experience at your seminary that distinguishes it from other Baptist colleges, as well as other divinity schools, colleges and universities within the South geographical area?**

Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was founded in 1974 to train students for ministry with no prior college background. A baccalaureate program was added in 1998 and the school has grown consistently ever since to reach an enrollment of 980 this past fall semester. This number is expected to grow as the college receives more interest than ever and features a new logo and website.

Momentum surrounding Boyce College extends beyond enrollment. Business Administration, under the leadership of David Bosch, encourages missionaries to go overseas to do "business as mission." The school also made significant strides with its Student Life programming and recently moved its student residents and faculty into the newly renovated Mullins Complex on the north end of campus.

At Boyce College, the educational experience extends beyond the classroom. From student life events to academic events, our goal is to build a distinctively Christian worldview that influences every avenue of life. The business major and the Bible major will both leave Boyce College with a world-class biblical-theological education alongside the specialization of each major. The educational experience at Boyce College uniquely prepares students for ministry in an increasingly global society because of its marriage of theology, worldview, and applied studies.

9. **Understanding SBTS's ministry assignment(s) to "*....assist churches by programs of master's level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators...*" how does SBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?**

Southern's faculty and Office of Student Success provide critical assessment and advisement to students considering which degree or concentration to pursue. Many faculty members meet with prospective students prior to and throughout their seminary career to pray with them and

help them discern God's direction for their ministry. The Office of Student Success also exists to discuss school and degree options and has continued to significantly increase its correspondence with students through appointments and emails over the past year. Often prospective students are placed in consultation with the Office of Student Success before ever enrolling, ensuring the right fit. Furthermore, the Doctoral Studies Office offers top performing master's level students an opportunity to preview life as a doctoral student through multiple events every year.

- 10. Please give a status report of SBTS's additional campuses where theological education/training is being conducted? How does having additional campuses strengthen Southern Baptists' ability to penetrate *lostness* across North America and around the world?**

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary offers theological training through online courses and nine extensions centers. The purpose of these programs is to provide access to the best theological education for ministers of the gospel while they continue serving throughout the United States and around the world. While students are still encouraged to come to the Louisville campus as often as possible for week-long intensive courses, conferences, and other learning opportunities, the seminary appreciates that many pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders need to remain in the mission field God has called them to while they become equipped for Great Commission ministry.

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

One of the most exciting happenings at Southern Seminary is the tremendous success of the Global Campus. As the number of online students grows, the extension center student population shrinks. The extension centers are evaluated on an annual basis.

- 12. Does SBTS have written and formal guidelines for Admissions Office personnel to follow when determining whether or not a prospective student qualifies for the Southern Baptist student discount? If so, please attach a copy of the written guidelines.**

Student eligibility for the SBC scholarship at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is determined by membership in a church in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. Applicants must demonstrate membership at such a church in the application process by virtue of a church recommendation form, submitted by the church's pastor and clerk.

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

While there are numerous newsworthy initiatives and issues around Southern, the most newsworthy is the steps Southern is taking to reach and serve the Hispanic and Latin American

communities with sound theological education. With the hiring of Felipe Castro as the Director of Hispanic Initiatives and the appointment of Dr. Miguel Núñez as Lead Strategist for Latin American Initiatives and Dr. Juan Sanchez as Lead Strategist for North American Hispanic Initiatives, Southern aims to be at the forefront of serving the growing Hispanic population hungry for robust theological education.

The recent growth of Boyce College is another newsworthy item. For the fall, there are 980 Boyce students, a 23 percent increase over last fall, with 304 new students, 35 percent larger than a year ago. Contrary to national trends, the majority — 57 percent — of new Boyce students are male.

14. Would you consider a change in ministry assignment to develop seminary education locations in strategic international locations in cooperation with the IMB?

Southern Seminary remains open to exploring all possibilities of fulfilling the Great Commission by bringing sound theological education to the entire world.