

2020 Goals and Accomplishments

Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

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

In 2019, in order to assist churches through our programs, The College at Southeastern has: 1) hired additional faculty to help facilitate a truly Christian liberal arts education. We continue to distinguish ourselves in our state as the lone conservative evangelical institution of higher education; 2) expanded our partnerships with the North Carolina Baptist State convention and bordering Baptist State Conventions to strategically recruit students to study here; 3) developed new and refined existing annual events/conferences to further equip students to fulfill God's calling on their lives; 4) enrolled its third class of students into our North Carolina Field Minister program at the extension center at Nash County Correctional facility; 5) expanded our partnerships with churches for ministry placement of those students preparing for pastoral ministry in our 5 year BA/MDiv Hunt Scholars Program; 6) renewed our partnership and revived Fruitland Baptist Bible College (associated with BSCNC) as an extension center to equip those preparing for vocational ministry; 7) continued to evaluate and adjust its curriculum for strategic courses and programs that will help our institution fulfill our mission.

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

In the past year, Southeastern Seminary has focused on several areas to strengthen our work in "assisting churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers." First, we have revised and developed new Master of Arts program dedicated to ministry specializations. This programs have been revised and designed to be offered as a modified cohort. This model affords the opportunity to build learning community around the degree programs and reach non-traditional students. Those specializations include: Worship Leadership, Ministry to Women, Church Revitalization, and Ministry of Leadership. For one of these MA degrees, we have established a strategic partnership with Thom Rainer and Revitalization Network. This ministry partnership allow us to expand the equipping opportunities for Southeastern Seminary students by connecting them to ministry leaders in the area of Church Revitalization.

Second, we have begun the process of implementing the Church who Cares curriculum through various points in our ministry training and leadership equipping through all graduate programs. One of those initiatives includes requiring a free certificate program for all graduate level students that will prepare them with the foundational tools for seeking to prevent sex abuse in their ministry context and know the proper protocol when an abuse situation occurs, as well as

the awareness and training needed to care for abuse survivors.

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

The Doctor of Ministry program leaders continue to strive for academic excellence, quality professional development, and outstanding personal service in the program. The desire is for students to acquire new ideas, tools, strategies, and techniques to increase effectiveness in professional ministry. Recently, upgrades occurred in the area of program offerings, which included the addition of two new specializations and new faculty to provide the best in ministry practitioner education. The changes were designed to equip students to excel in leading in ministry and missions.

A new specialization was approved for the program this year. Under the leadership of Dr. Tate Cockrell, the Pastoral Care and Counseling specialization will begin in January 2020. The specialization will feature four seminars: Effective Pastoral Care; Crisis, Trauma, and Emotional Disorders; Care and Guidance for Marriage and the Family; and Life Issues and Ministry Practice. These seminars will help pastors in dealing with difficult, tragic, challenging, painful, and life-threatening issues faced by people. The desire is to equip pastors with biblical guidance and the very best tools and approaches for confronting the many personal and family issues experienced in the church. The seminars will provide excellent help for all pastors, but especially for pastors in small to medium sized churches.

A specialization in Ministry to Women was approved this year to equip women to lead with excellence in women's ministry. Under the leadership of Dr. Julia Higgins, the specialization will begin in the Fall of 2020, but recruiting has already begun. The specialization features four seminars: Care and Counseling for Women; Biblical, Historical, and Cultural Issues Related to Ministry to Women; Strategies in Disciple-making and Evangelism for Ministry to Women; and Gender and Sexuality. The students will receive biblical guidance and the very best in strategies and approaches to lead a women's ministry, as well as position students to write in this area of ministry.

A new workshop, The Minister as Person and Professional, began with good results. Students have expressed appreciation for the course and how it has helped in shaping their approaches to ministry and family. The students receive insights and help to maintain or retain health to serve effectively in the home and in ministry. The content gives biblical perspective to the different roles of a minister. The desire for the specialization is to establish important principles, perspectives, and guidelines to prepare ministers to approach their responsibilities in a reasonable and healthy manner.

Two new professors have been added to the Christian Leadership specialization. The director of the program wanted to bring in some new, experienced, and successful practitioners to teach students in the specialization. Dr. Brian Autry, Executive Director of the Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia will teach the seminar: Leading at a Higher Level. His success as a pastor and now denominational leader makes him a great fit for this seminar. In addition, Dr. Jeff Struecker will teach the seminar: Becoming a Strategic Leader. He is an author, former pastor,

speaker, and former U. S. Army Ranger who brings a fresh insight into strategic leadership. Struecker has co-authored five published books. Struecker and Autry bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in Christian leadership to prepare students for leading effectively in church ministry.

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

We began implementing our new recruiting strategy in mid-year 2018. We have been focusing on recruiting students in missiology and increasing enrollment among women and ethnic minorities. Since then, we have had a 33% increase of women in the program, and have the reasonable possibility of doubling our female enrollment in the coming year. We have also increased our total enrollment of ethnic minority students by 19% over the last year. In addition, we have seen a marked increase in general interest in our program. We hope in time that this interest will give way to enrollment growth, and allow us to equip more scholars and educators to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

We recognize that our most successful students in the program and in the academy have the support of a scholarly community. As a result, we are giving a concerted effort to help our students connect with one another and develop a thriving PhD community at Southeastern. These changes have been well received among our students, and we look forward to helping students cultivate mutually edifying relationships with one another in the next year.

In 2019, seventeen students graduated from the Doctor of Philosophy program at Southeastern and began or continued strategic ministries such as serving as professors or associate professors at Union University, Southern Evangelical Seminary, Cedarville University, and Regent University, leading parachurch organizations, serving as missiologists with the International Mission Board, and several serving faithfully as pastors of Southern Baptist churches.

The Ed. D. program at Southeastern graduated 13 Doctors of Education in 2019 for a total of 122 graduates since its inception in 2006. The Ed. D. office acts as a catalyst for connecting the many institutions, denominational offices, and local churches who contact us seeking highly trained ministers and educators. The Ed. D. program supports the local church by training graduates who possess Christ-like character and ministry skill sets for positions that include children and youth ministry; administration, Bible teaching, and pastoral positions; and discipleship and missions leadership. Current students and graduates also lead parachurch organizations, such as camp ministry, publishing companies, and Christian school administration. Several current students and graduates have major leadership positions in denominational offices and at Lifeway Resources. Approximately forty percent of our Ed. D. graduates and students serve in higher education in positions including a head of a board of trustees, a college president, a university program founder and director, four deans of faculty, five vice presidents of administration, and numerous full-time and adjunct faculty. Our graduates also support the Cooperative Program through curriculum development and various

publications offering uniquely Southern Baptist perspectives. In addition, the Ed. D. program assisted students and graduates in publishing materials that would help further spread the gospel message of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Among current students and Ed. D. graduates there are numerous leaders serving in other countries, including Canada, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, Iran, and Vietnam. These students have come to Southeastern to prepare themselves to have a far-reaching impact on theological education in their home country. Other residential students have obtained a visa to live, work, and study in the U.S. with plans to return to their native country. These include India, South Korea, China, Dominican Republic, Iran, and Indonesia. Fueled by their passion for the Gospel, many Ed. D. graduates use their teaching skills and ministry insights to teach in both formal and informal international settings. These destinations include Kenya, Ethiopia, Philippines, Peru, Ghana, Burundi, Tanzania, Belarus, Iran, and Ireland. In these locations, our graduates are serving in a variety of ways including: evangelism rallies, pastoral training, and church construction. In addition, our graduates teach in colleges, universities, and seminaries, providing these schools with much needed academic instruction. Dr. Coley presented keynotes and workshops at the 2019 Teacher Convention of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in Eastern Canada.

Based on each of SEBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SEBTS is accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?

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

The College at Southeastern has a great opportunity in the state of North Carolina. The College is uniquely positioned in the state of North Carolina to provide theological education to undergraduate students. With no other conservative evangelical colleges or universities in the state, the College at Southeastern fills a massive need for Southern Baptists in North Carolina.

One major challenge for the College in coming years is the need for campus development to accommodate our current and future growth. This will not only require housing and facilities consideration, we must also continue to expand our student support through our Student Life office. We are committed to enhancing our on-campus experience and providing the necessary resources to help our students succeed in every aspect of their academic education and personal development.

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

Southeastern Seminary, like most educational institutions, faces the challenge of educating a class of students who are approaching their education differently. For example, our students are increasingly busy with families, jobs, church, and school responsibilities. Often, they choose to take fewer credits to save both cost and time – and the result is a longer time to complete a

degree. They are also willing to interrupt their education with intermittent time away from school. We are making changes to our course scheduling plans, increasing the course delivery options, and leading our student in new ways to address these changes. We are continuing to monitor how these changes are addressing some of these issues and plan to make changes as need to our current plans.

Second, with the above challenge, we also have new opportunities to train a new class of students who are open to pursue their divine calling for ministry through new ministry pathways. The students enrolled in our degree programs are mission-minded, evangelistically-focused, and local-church-committed. They are eager to use their gifts to “serve the church to fulfill the Great Commission” however the Lord may lead them. Our students are not always certain of the ministry they are preparing for. This provides the seminary the opportunity to help them explore ministry options and to discover what types of ministries God has gifted and prepared them for. This requires us to continue evaluating and improving curriculum offerings and classroom presentations to equip these students. Also, partnerships with local churches are vital to our work; thus, we must connect with, listen to, and work alongside the congregations that will send us students and employ our graduates. In addition, to these on-going efforts, we continue to develop meaningful opportunities for our online students to participate with on campus learning opportunities through different formats of hybrids and intensive courses.

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

The DMin program is working to attract ministers from various ethnic minorities into the DMin program. A desire to increase enrollment of these ministers reflects SEBTS’ commitment to Kingdom Diversity, reflecting the heart of the SBC.

The Association of Theological Schools, our accrediting agency, is considering different changes in the accreditation standards. One significant possibility would be to lower the Master of Divinity equivalency requirements for entering the DMin program. The possible change would be a response to the increased number of students seeking Master of Arts, instead of the Master of Divinity degrees. At this time, potential students with MA degrees need substantial additional credit hours in specific areas to meet the Master of Divinity degree equivalency for the program. The additional credit hours create a barrier for some MA students to enter the DMin program due to the large amount of credit hours and time needed to qualify. Hopefully, changes will make it less restrictive for Master of Arts students to enter advanced studies in the DMin program. Our DMin program is watching for the changes and preparing to communicate these possible changes to those interested in a Doctor of Ministry degree, as it is designed to provide advanced training in ministry and missions.

The DMin program continues to face the challenge of a digital world, where ministers are looking for increasing online opportunities for education, including Doctor of Ministry studies. Those interested in these studies want to participate without long and expensive trips. The challenge will be developing an effective online experience to match the quality of the campus experience. The nature of doctoral seminars and workshops calls for small groups of students in

a discussion-based educational experience. The attempts at online Doctor of Ministry studies must be measured to maintain the quality educational experience and training for serving in the local church or on the mission field.

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

Moving forward, we are excited to explore opportunities for our students to serve the church internationally by teaching overseas. While we celebrate our current graduates who currently serve in strategic theological institutions and churches, we recognize the job market for PhD graduates is becoming increasingly competitive. We also recognize the need for theological educators around the world, and the unique opportunity our graduates could have to use their training to join churches around the world who equip pastors, missionaries, and church leaders to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. As a result, we are exploring opportunities to partner with the International Mission Board, Global Theological Initiative at SEBTS, and international seminaries to explore opportunities where our students could use their PhD's to serve the church internationally. We are very excited about the possibility of facilitating a culture of Great Commission scholarship from the PhD program at SEBTS.

In addition, we will continue our efforts to cultivate a mutually edifying PhD community at Southeastern. We have begun these efforts, but we recognize community development requires a concerted effort over a long period of time. As a result, we look forward to growing our current efforts and involving more students in the process.

Finally, we are excited to roll out synchronous video delivery system for our International Missiology cohort in Summer 2021. Those two seminars will be the first time that educational format has been used in the PhD program at Southeastern. We are excited about what possibilities this format might hold for other students living internationally in the future.

The demand for high quality distance education remains at the forefront among populations worldwide. As academic institutions and churches respond to this need, the Ed. D. program at Southeastern seeks to equip every student with the tools necessary to utilize an online platform for gospel proclamation and theological training. In addition to modeling for students the best practices in virtual classroom instruction, Ed. D. professors and course assignments challenge students to utilize social media and the most up-to-date technologies in their teaching, leading, discipling, mentoring, and counseling. The Ed. D. program focuses on training graduates to teach both traditional classroom instruction and online methodologies. Valuing the time that students have with their local church ministries, current employers, and family, Southeastern provides an ideal means for continued education through the quarter-system/modified-residency model of the Ed. D. program. This allows students to complete their work from a distance and only travel to campus four times per year for seminar intensives. As the Ed. D. program continues to gain popularity among universities in other countries, cross-cultural training continues to be a component of each missional classroom.

In a time when so many ministry leaders fall away due to moral failure, poor administrative management, or just plain discouragement, ministers need a support structure of colleagues and friends who can be available for advice and support. The Ed. D. program recognizes the need to place graduates in a team of other theological educators through the use of the cohort model. The goal is that these connections will serve to strengthen the resolve of these educators as sources of encouragement and accountability. In addition, these networks of communication will help to strengthen fellowship and effectiveness in our churches and throughout our denomination.

At the request of SEBTS counseling professors, the Ed. D. committee explored the feasibility of developing a concentration in Christian Counseling as a subset of the Doctor of Education program. Good news, this special emphasis has become a reality, and is now filling an important need for those students interested in Christian counseling who are seeking a terminal research degree. The first students of the new counseling cohort began in the Spring of 2018, and in the first two years of the new concentration, our program has accepted 14 new students to learn Christian counseling. In addition to adding a new concentration in counseling, the Ed. D. program has launched a new Concentration in Discipleship and Mentoring. We anticipate new students joining the Discipleship and Mentoring concentration in the Spring of 2020.