

# 2018 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 SEBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program both internally and externally as entity personnel engage Southern Baptists?
  - Classroom Emphasis – SEBTS has many classes, including some of the required history courses, that emphasize both the history and the impact of the Cooperative Program.
  - Faculty/Staff Church Encounters – We encourage all of our Faculty & Staff, when speaking in local churches, to note their thankfulness for the Cooperative Program and that local church's support of it. The goal is to connect the local churches to what they are supporting through the Cooperative Program.
  - Magazine Advertisements – In each issue of the Southeastern Magazine, a full-page advertisement is included to say thank you to Southern Baptists for their support of the Cooperative Program. The goal is to remind the readers of the magazine of the importance of the Cooperative Program.
  - Communication to Graduates – An email is sent to all graduates each semester letting them know the specific impact of the Cooperative Program's financial impact on them. In addition, we share the collective impact of the Cooperative Program on the graduating class. The goal is to make sure the graduates know how much they were blessed by the Cooperative Program, and to encourage their continued participation in it.
  
2. How effective is SEBTS in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding? What level of confidence does SEBTS have that its graduates will continue to engage and invest in SBC missions and ministries?

SEBTS regularly emphasizes among our students our connection with the Southern Baptist Convention and the benefits of being a part of the Southern Baptist Convention. One of the ways that this is communicated is that the primary source of Chapel speakers are pastors of Southern Baptist Churches. In addition, SEBTS regularly hosts the Executives and other leaders from sister Southern Baptist Entities. The impact of the Cooperative Program is communicated through the tuition billing for each student that is an active member of a church cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention. SEBTS believes that a student's time at SEBTS will enhance their desire to be a part of and support the work of the Southern Baptist Convention in their future ministries.

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

Without the Cooperative Program SEBTS could not carry out her ministry assignments at the same level of effectiveness as with the Cooperative Program. Educational debt is weighing down future ministers across the evangelical world. However, those preparing for ministry among Southern Baptists are able to mitigate the current trends related to educational debt. The Cooperative Program is in part what makes us Southern Baptist. Because of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists are SEBTS' largest donor. Therefore, SEBTS places the highest value on our relationship.

4. How does SEBTS benefit from and utilize CP funds in fulfilling SEBTS' ministry assignments?

SEBTS benefits from the Cooperative Program significantly through the ability to offer reduced tuition to members of churches that cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program also allows the institution to not have to expend as many dollars as other theological institutions on raising funds to support the ongoing operations of the institution.

### **Ethnic Participation**

5. Please give a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and other ethnic leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2016 – 2017) has your seminary seen changes (increase or decrease) in the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty and within the student body?

In August of 2013 President Daniel L. Akin launched the Kingdom Diversity Initiative which serves the Southeastern family by assisting every office to “seek and equip students from every corner of the Kingdom to serve in every context of the Kingdom.” The Kingdom Diversity Initiative encourages events and programming to prepare every student to fulfill the Great Commission by preparing them to minister across racial, cultural, and gender lines.

Part of this initiative is increasing minority participation on campus. In the 2016 – 2017 academic year, we were pleased to hire two underrepresented faculty, Dr. Miguel Echevarria (Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek & Director of Hispanic Leadership Development), and Prof. Ronjour Locke (Instructor of Preaching and Urban Ministry). In addition, Southeastern appointed Michelle Branch as Assistant Dean of Students to Women, and Chef Virginia Spencer as Director of Food Services. Furthermore, the institution has welcomed seven part-time underrepresented student employees during the 2016 – 2017 academic year.

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The seminary family has enjoyed the most diverse chapel preaching lineup in its history, and 10 on campus events that equip the student body to minister to people of different backgrounds who struggle with issues unique to their community. These environments foster a campus environment that encourages God-honoring interaction across racial lines. In addition, the Kingdom Diversity Initiative invites eight minority students to participate in a student committee each year. While the strategic demographic shifts each year, this year's committee is comprised of Hispanic students who met with a Director and an Associate Vice President to discuss how Southeastern can better serve their needs and other students like them.

### **Mental Health Resource**

6. In response to a Ronnie Floyd motion, June 2013, Houston, TX, requesting that the Executive Committee and SBC Entities assist churches with mental health ministries, the Executive Committee appointed an advisory group, Fall 2013, to determine ways in which Southern Baptist entities and SBC churches can best help those who are in need of mental health assistance. The final report of this advisory group was presented to Dr. Frank S. Page, Fall 2014.

In the 2015 and 2016 Ministry Report(s) the following question was asked of each SBC entity:

Please give a progress report on what SEBTS has implemented to assist SBC churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges and how will SEBTS continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness?

For the 2018 Ministry Report please provide the following:

If SEBTS feels that reporting on this subject is within its purview, or falls within the scope of its ministry assignment(s), or has made any progress in the area of assisting churches with training and equipping people with mental health challenges, or has developed or identified resources to assist SBC churches in the area of mental health ministry, please provide a detailed progress report.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the College at Southeastern continues its mission to God's world, with mental illness as one of the forms of brokenness that we study, teach, train, and provide services for, in an effort to equip graduates to minister to real people with all of their complexities. The two primary locations for this training are our counseling courses and our counseling services in the Student Life Division. Southeastern is blessed to have three full-time and two part-time faculty with a wide range of formal training, who desire to equip our students with biblical acumen and Christian love to assist those with mental illness. Evidence of this effort is seen in the recent addition of Master of Arts in Christian Family, Marriage, and Individual Counseling and a Ph.D. in Biblical Counseling to our curriculum. Further evidence can be found in the recent addition of our Counseling Office in the

student life division through which counseling services are offered to students and in which Masters and Doctoral students in our counseling programs can participate in life counseling practicums.

Beyond residential and online equipping and sending of able counselors, our faculty as a whole have been challenged to give a keen eye to the goals of the majority of our students: the desire to minister to the breadth of human problems and the comprehensiveness of the redemption available to us in Christ and through his body, the local church. Thus, mental illness and other human conditions are integrated into courses like theological anthropology, spiritual formation, pastoral care and the like.

In addition, Southeastern faculty and staff have been instrumental in the development of Christian counseling centers and the installation of countless graduates into churches and para-church organizations that are equipped to point those with mental illness to Christ in a manner that meets people at the point of their affliction.

Finally, our faculty serve the local churches as points of reference for mental health consultation and counseling.

7. What has proven to be SEBTS's most reliable metric indicating future accomplishments of, or challenges to SEBTS across all of its ministry assignments? Why is that metric the one SEBTS believes is most important to watch relative to each ministry assignment?

One of the main metrics that SEBTS regularly monitors is our student headcount. This headcount is an indicator for the institution to know if future and current ministers are finding SEBTS a place in which they believe they can receive the training that they need for ministry. In addition, the headcount points to the financial stability of the institution. A growing headcount means that SEBTS is able to invest in our Faculty and Staff as well as other resources to benefit the students. Headcount is also a leading indicator of graduates who are heading into various forms of ministry. A growing headcount means more students are heading towards graduation and their future ministry locations. There are many other metrics that are important to measuring the success of SEBTS. However, headcount is integral to all of those other metrics.