

2017 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.
 - 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 the Cooperative Program?

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 leaders, ethnic churches and other ethnic church leaders in the life and ministry of your entity. Over the past 12 months, (2015 – 2016) has your seminary increased or decreased the number of ethnic leaders among the faculty and within the student body?

In the summer of 2013, President Akin appointed Walter Strickland to serve as his Special Advisor for Diversity who leads the Kingdom Diversity Initiative. The stated purpose of the initiative is to “seek and equip students from every corner of the Kingdom to serve in every context of the Kingdom.”

Since the launch of the Kingdom Diversity Initiative, the on-campus effort has sought to foster a campus environment that encourages God-honoring interaction across cultural lines. This is accomplished by hosting 10 events, of different types, each academic year to equip students to minister to people of various backgrounds. Southeastern also seeks to raise the number of historically underrepresented voices on campus. This has been accomplished by increasing our multicultural student population by over 47% since 2011. This increase has been assisted by the Kingdom Diversity Scholarship which awards scholarships valued at over \$250,000 each year. Strategic hires have also been a focus on campus. In the 2015-16 church year, Southeastern hired minority staff in the following capacities: 2 directors, 1 associate director, 5 full-time student workers, 15 part-time student workers, and 3 student

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volunteers. Southeastern also added degree-level student learning outcomes to every undergraduate and master's level degree program that is accessed by our accreditors.

Away from campus, the initiative has forged strategic relationships with the Legacy Conference, the Thriving Movement, the Rebuild and its affiliates (Blueprint Church, Imprint and the BVLD Conference), Cutting it Straight, and more strategic interaction with the National African American Fellowship of the SBC. Lastly, Southeastern seeks to equip its growing multicultural audience via the weekly Kingdom Diversity Podcast and blog.

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 & 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 2017 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 primary location of this training is in our counseling courses. 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.

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.

SEBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

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.

8. Understanding the seminary ministry assignment(s) to "*....assist churches by programs of master's level, professional doctoral and research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators...*" please list each degree program offered at SEBTS.

Please see the 2016-2017 Catalog attached.

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

The sustainability of multiple campuses may remain an option for theological education. Some students prefer a classroom experience or classroom interaction with fellow students. These students continue to take traditional format classes off-site or blended format classes that involve some time at the main campus. Online courses continue to grow and several students have opted for an online only delivery format.

10. What is the most newsworthy feature, initiative or issue currently orbiting around the programs of SEBTS? Please explain.

Beginning fall 2016, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary made significant changes to its Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts (M.A.) degrees. The total hours required to complete an M.Div. reduced from 90 to 81-84 hours, and the core hours for the vocational M.A. programs increased from 30 to 36 hours.

“Our faculty and administration spent months asking ourselves, our graduates and our constituents this question: ‘What curriculum best prepares our students to take the gospel to our neighbors and the nations today?’” said Chuck Lawless, dean of graduate studies and professor of evangelism and missions. “We believe these changes help us prepare our students biblically, theologically and practically for the future.”

As part of the curriculum changes for the M.Div., the core requirements have been increased to 69 hours; however, the total number of hours required have decreased. The M.Div. with Christian Ministry can now be completed in a total of 81 hours, and other M.Div. programs may go as long as 84 hours depending on the student’s desired track.

The vocational M.A. programs will now require 36 hours in the core curriculum. Additionally, core requirements for both M.Div. and M.A. tracks have been modified. Theology III will now be covered in Theology I and II, while Church History II is now a part of Church History Survey. Hermeneutics will now be taught in three courses: Biblical Exposition, Old Testament and New Testament.

"These changes reflect the work of a cross-disciplinary team," said John Ewart, associate vice president for global theological initiatives, and chairman, curriculum review committee. "We worked closely together to create a stronger and better core curriculum to equip our students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission."

College at Southeastern Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

Associate

- • [Associate of Arts, A.A.](#)
- • [Associate of Divinity, A.Div.](#)

Bachelor of Arts

- • [Bachelor of Arts with Christian Studies Minor](#)

Major

- • [Biblical Studies](#)
- • [English](#)
- • [Global Studies](#)
- • [History](#)
- • [History \(Pre-law track\)](#)
- • [Humanities](#)
- • [Interdisciplinary Studies](#)
- • [Justice and Social Ethics](#)
- • [Pastoral Ministry](#)
- • [Pastoral Ministry \(w/ 5-Year BA/MDiv Option\)](#)
- • [Philosophy](#)
- • [Social Studies](#)
- • [Student Ministry](#)
- • [Theology](#)
- • [Worship Ministry](#)

Minor

- • [Apologetics Minor](#)
- • [Biblical Studies Minor](#)
- • [Business Minor](#)
- • [English as a Second Language Minor](#)
- • [English Minor](#)
- • [Global Studies Minor](#)
- • [History Minor](#)
- • [Humanities Minor](#)
- • [Justice and Social Ethics Minor](#)
- • [Missions Minor](#)
- • [Music Minor](#)
- • [Organizational Leadership Minor](#)
- • [Pastoral Ministry Minor](#)

- • [Preaching Minor](#)
- • [Psychology Minor](#)
- • [Student Ministry Minor](#)
- • [Theology Minor](#)
- • [Writing, Rhetoric, and Communication Minor](#)

Bachelor of Science

- • [Bachelor of Science in Global Studies*](#)
- • [Bachelor of Science in Pastoral Ministry*](#)

Vocational and General Master of Arts

- • [Intercultural Studies, M.A.](#)

SEBTS Graduate Degree Programs

Master of Divinity

- • [*Master of Divinity, M.Div. \(Basic Description and Core Curriculum\)](#)
- • [5-Year BA/MDiv Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Advanced Biblical Studies Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Advanced Master of Divinity, M.Div.](#)
- • [Biblical Counseling Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Christian Apologetics Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Christian Ethics Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Christian Ministry Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [International Church Planting Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Ministry Leadership Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Ministry to Women Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Missiology Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Next Generation Ministry Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [North American Church Planting Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Preaching and Pastoral Ministry Track, M.Div.](#)
- • [Worship Leadership Track, M.Div.](#)

Vocational and General Master of Arts

- • [Biblical Counseling, M.A.](#)
- • [Christian Education and Biblical Counseling, M.A.](#)
- • [Christian Education, M.A.](#)
- • [Christian Marital, Family, and Individual Counseling, M.A.*](#)
- • [Christian Ministry, M.A. \[Mentored\]*](#)
- • [Church Planting, M.A.](#)

- • [Ministry Leadership, M.A.](#)
- • [Ministry to Women, M.A.](#)

Research Master of Arts

- • [Apologetics and Christian Philosophy, M.A.](#)
- • [Biblical and Theological Studies, M.A.](#)
- • [Biblical Languages, M.A.](#)
- • [Christian Studies, M.A.](#)
- • [Ethics, Theology, and Culture, M.A.](#)
- • [New Testament, M.A.](#)
- • [Old Testament, M.A.](#)

Master of Theological Studies

- • [Master of Theological Studies, M.T.S.](#)

Advanced Degree Programs

Master of Theology

- • [Master of Theology, Th.M.](#)

Doctor of Ministry

- • [Doctor of Ministry, D.Min.](#)

Doctor of Education

- • [Doctor of Education, Ed.D.](#)

Doctor of Philosophy

- • [Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D.](#)