

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. What are the expected outcomes of SEBTS's efforts to raise awareness of Cooperative Program funding?
 - Student Awareness – For the students to appreciate the sacrifices of Southern Baptists in helping them to accomplish their theological education.
 - Future Participation – For students to take with them into their future ministries a desire to see their churches continue to sacrificially support the Cooperative Program.
 - Acknowledgement for the Churches – For the churches to not have a disconnected relationship with the Cooperative Program, but for them to know their gifts have a Kingdom impact.
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. Please explain the "value add" of Cooperative Program funding for SEBTS, and how is this different from any and all other sources of funding for your seminary.

The Cooperative Program is different than any other funding source because it represents the collective support of 45,000+ churches and over 15 million members of those churches. The Cooperative Program is a major part of SEBTS' identity in that it sets us apart from non-Southern Baptist seminaries. SEBTS' hope is to see Southern Baptists participate even more in the Cooperative Program in order to help fund the ministry efforts among all of the Southern Baptist entities.

Ethnic Participation

5. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within SEBTS, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the SEBTS 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 (1996-2016), giving special attention to progress over the past five years (2011-2016).

In the summer of 2013, President Akin appointed Walter Strickland to serve as his Special Advisor for Diversity, and Edgar Aponte to serve as Director of Hispanic Leadership Development. Together they strategically lead the school to look more like the kingdom of heaven and to become an environment that cultivates ministers of the Gospel for their divine calling in ministry. Since the launch of the Kingdom Diversity Initiative, the initiative itself has acquired an additional full-time staff member, as well as three part-time staff. Two additional diversity positions have been developed and will be filled in January of 2016.

The Initiative has forged strategic relationships with the Rebuild Network and its affiliates (Blueprint Church, Imprint and the BVLVD Conference), the Thriving Movement, Cutting it Straight, Legacy Conference, and more strategic interaction with the National African American Fellowship of the SBC. In addition, Southeastern seeks to equip its growing multicultural audience via the weekly Kingdom Diversity Podcast.

In the past four years the non-majority student population has increased 46.3%, we added three mid to semi-executive level multicultural administrators along with a number of multicultural student workers, and three non-white faculty. The growth of the multicultural student population is encouraged, in part, by the Kingdom Diversity Scholarship that will award an estimated \$217,324 in the 2015-16 academic year. This scholarship includes a \$270,000 endowed scholarship in honor of the ten year anniversary of Dr. Akin's presidency.

Mental Health Resource

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

Southeastern Seminary and the College at Southeastern has heightened focus on mental illness 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 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 a psychology minor into the college curriculum.

Beyond residential 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 in some capacity. 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.

SEBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries

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

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

The College at Southeastern is in an exciting phase of its existence as a part of the larger mission of the Seminary. For a very long time, the seminary has had programs that provided Associate level degrees for those that lacked a Bachelor's degree. But in 1994, the Seminary started a College with the purpose of offering full Bachelor's degrees. When it first started, students were required to attend community colleges, or other smaller two year colleges to complete the general education requirements of their degree. Within a few years, however, the College began offering the full complement of courses necessary for the Bachelor's degree.

During the first decade of the College's life, it offered a limited selection of degree programs that focused primarily on classical education, the history of ideas, and biblical studies. In more recent years, however, the College has begun offering a wider selection of degree programs that now include theology, philosophy, biblical studies, history, english, worship leadership, and much more. The college also offers a wide variety of minors.

There are two major distinctives about the College at Southeastern. First, all programs of study blend a classical approach to education with theology and biblical studies. Our degrees are designed to train students in various disciplines while also ensuring that they develop a strong Christian worldview. Second, every degree program in our College is designed to equip students to fulfill the Great Commission. Some of the programs (biblical studies, pastoral ministry, etc.) are designed to train students specifically for vocational ministry. Other programs (philosophy, english, history, etc.) are designed to offer a wider vocational preparation so that students might be better equipped to serve bivocationally, in North America or overseas. In both approaches, all students are prepared to take the Gospel to the nations.

9. Understanding SEBTS'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 SEBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?

Southeastern Seminary recognizes its responsibility to assist potential and current students as they consider plans for theological education. Our approach is multifaceted, as applicants and students are often at different stages of their considerations.

The Office of Admissions is typically the first point of contact with potential students. That office has a number of academic counselors who assist potential applicants as they determine what course of study to

follow. The SEBTS website also gives significant guidance in helping applicants find answers to their basic questions. Accepted students then attend New Student Orientation, where they receive further guidance to begin their academic program.

While these components are designed to help students get started, academic counselors and various offices are available to assist students as they continue to understand their callings and consider the most appropriate courses to complete. For example, the Field Ministry Office helps connect students with local church ministry opportunities. The Distance Learning Office has full-time personnel to assist online learners with their questions.

Furthermore, our Vice-President for Academic Administration is revamping our course scheduling process to assist students in completing their degrees in a timely manner. This new process will begin in the summer of 2016.

At the doctoral level, each of our doctoral programs has a separate office and director who oversees the program. Each has developed an effective recruiting and advising system to shepherd students through the respective degree. In addition, each student is assigned a major professor who guides the student through his/her final project or dissertation.

10. Please give a status report of SEBTS'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?

Southeastern currently has six extension centers in the United States. We have found that many men and women do not want to leave their current ministry to enroll in full time education on-campus. Our off-site centers provide one way for men and women to stay in ministry and still receive theological education while staying within driving distance of their jobs, life, and ministry. These off-site centers allow Baptists to stay in front-line ministry, and it allows them to serve and to witness in lost areas while they receive their education.

11. 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.

12. Does SEBTS 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.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has in place Admissions policies that require an applicant to provide evidence of active church membership. Evidence of active church membership is determined primarily through the Church Recommendation Form. This form provides the Seminary Admissions staff the ability to evaluate a prospective student for admission into the academic programs offered. All programs offered at SEBTS require this form for applicant consideration. The form is included for review.

The Church Recommendation Form that is required for all applicants to SEBTS answers multiple questions for the Admissions staff including confidence in moral character, commitment to Christian maturity, and faithful participation in the local church. The Church Recommendation Form, which is completed by the local church, not the applicant, asks if the church is a cooperating church of the Southern Baptist Convention in accordance with Article III of the Southern Baptist Convention's Constitution. The information provided in this section by the church, signed by a church pastor and church clerk, is verified, most commonly, through church listing on the SBC's website (sbc.net). While a prospective student is not required to be Southern Baptist for admission consideration, no student will be considered without the Church Recommendation Form. This form is used to determine if the applicant qualifies for the Southern Baptist student discount.

*See attached letter.

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

The most newsworthy item at Southeastern is the Kingdom Diversity Initiative. It's been two years since the launch of the initiative, and we are already seeing significant progress. Southeastern is building a seminary that looks more like heaven and training students for multicultural ministry. Our desire is to make God's Kingdom vision of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping Christ together a reality on our campus and in our churches.

Comparing enrollment numbers from 2011-2012 to 2014-2015, the total non-majority student population has grown from 10.49 percent of the overall student body to 14 percent. The Kingdom Diversity Scholarship Fund, established in April 2014, has reached almost \$300,000 to become one of the seminary's largest endowed funds to train students for gospel ministry. As a result, the number of students applying from underrepresented backgrounds is 77 percent greater now than one year ago. In addition, we have begun to produce content through a variety of platforms to engage and inform the seminary community and beyond, including the Kingdom Diversity Podcast, numerous panel discussions and guest speakers on diversity, a chapel prayer service for racial reconciliation, and external events at the SBC Annual Meeting and The Gospel Coalition National Conference.

Our goal of pursuing Kingdom Diversity is deeply theological. Although the pursuit of these goals is costly, it is far more costly for the Church to press forward without intentionally trying to reflect the Kingdom that we hope for. We are incredibly grateful for the Lord's blessing in this effort, and we continue to press forward to seek and equip students from every corner of the Kingdom to serve in every context of the Kingdom.

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

Yes, SEBTS is ready to help serve Southern Baptists and especially to partner with the work of the International Mission Board. SEBTS would be open to consider expanded training options to help assist the International Mission Board in their new vision to have multiple sending streams and options for people living and working overseas.