



2017 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 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

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

During the 2015-2016 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 464 Southern Baptist undergraduate students. 37 of these students graduated over the course of this year. All of Southwestern's undergraduate programs prepare students for ministry among the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. During this year the Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies was the largest undergraduate program at Southwestern, followed by the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, and the Bachelor of Music.

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

During the 2015-2016 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 2,304 Southern Baptist master's level students. 338 of these students graduated over the course of this year. All of Southwestern's master's programs prepare students for ministry among the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The MDiv remains the largest master's degree, followed by the Master of Theological Studies.

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

During the 2015-2016 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 260 Southern Baptist professional doctoral students. 10 of these students graduated over the course of this year. All of Southwestern's professional doctoral programs prepare students for ministry among the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The majors in these programs are especially focused on local church ministry, including areas like expository preaching, evangelism, and biblical counseling.

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

During the 2015-2016 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 270 Southern Baptist research doctoral students. 18 of these students graduated over the course of this year. All of Southwestern's research doctoral programs prepare students for either ministry among the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention or for service as professors and administrators among the seminaries and other arms of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Based on each of SWBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2017 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SWBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

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

Discerning the need to further equip baccalaureate students for ministry in a changing culture, Southwestern restructured its two largest bachelor's degrees this year. The Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities were merged to form the new Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Biblical Studies. This new degree provides students with intense training in both the history of Western thought and the Bible to better prepare them for ministry among the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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

Southwestern continues to experience significant growth in its online student population. During the 2015-2016 school year 1,036 Southern Baptist students received the majority of their education through Southwestern online. This area of growth has necessitated further training for faculty and students in the use of technology. The institution's Office of Academic Technology Support continues to expand its activity to ensure online teaching and learning provide the best possible education for the institution's distance students. Online theological education presents both an opportunity for greater influence and the challenge of new educational methods.

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

Professional doctoral education faces the challenge of encouraging students who are already serving in key leadership positions in local churches to complete the program in the midst of busy schedules. The directors of these programs continue to explore new methods of engaging both new students and those who have been enrolled in the program for multiple years. The institution views this challenge as an opportunity to further prepare God's called for local church ministry.

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

Southwestern's new flexible access PhD program affords Southern Baptists the opportunity for research doctoral education from anywhere in the world. This program is being conducted under approval for an educational experiment with the Association of Theological Schools. First year data indicated high-level learning among both resident and distance students. The institution will continue to evaluate the success of the program for PhD students who cannot move to campus for study, many of them IMB missionaries and SBC pastors.