

2016 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.

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

During the 2014-2015 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 528 Southern Baptist undergraduate students. 56 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. The Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies is now the largest undergraduate program at Southwestern, followed by the Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, and the Bachelor of Arts in Music. Southwestern also secured approval to initiate a new Bachelor of Music program.

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

During the 2014-2015 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 2,295 Southern Baptist master's students. 282 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.

Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

During the 2014-2015 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 273 Southern Baptist professional doctoral students. 12 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.

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

During the 2014-2015 school year Southwestern invested Cooperative Program dollars in the education of 277 Southern Baptist research doctoral students. 24 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 2015 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SWBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

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

The world of higher education becomes more competitive each year. This challenge necessitates creative approaches to telling the Southwestern story so prospective students and their families can discover the ways Southwestern is poised to meet the challenges that will be faced by future ministers. The institution's admissions and communications staff are continuing to explore new ways to reach prospective students while the institution's advancement staff reach new donors to expand the institution's scholarship opportunities.

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

For the last ten years there has been a growing demand for online education at the master's level. Two years ago the Association of Theological Schools opened the door for fully online degree programs. Southwestern immediately secured approval to conduct the entire Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, and Master of Theological Studies degrees online. Since that time Southwestern's Southern Baptist online enrollment has grown from 300 to 1,024. This new world of theological education presents both an opportunity for greater influence and the challenge of new educational methods in an online environment.

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.

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

Research doctoral programs require access to the latest and most specialized resources in a given field. This creates a great need for access to the most expensive library resources. The acquisition of these resources is a great challenge, but also an opportunity for Southwestern to provide these resources in new ways, especially through access to digital resources. Southwestern continues to explore ways to provide access to needed research resources. Access to digital resources has grown to 500,000 online resources this academic year.