

2016 SWBTS 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 SWBTS's efforts to promote the Cooperative Program.

Southwestern promotes the Cooperative Program through both events and classes which impact students from the point of matriculation through graduation. The president extols the virtues of the Cooperative Program when addressing new students at orientation each year and first year students learn the value of the Cooperative Program in the required courses on spiritual formation. In the second and third years of the master's degrees, the Cooperative Program is again promoted through the Baptist history class as well as through the pastoral ministry class. Students can also learn of the benefits of the Cooperative Program through advanced electives in stewardship. At the point of graduation, all students are again reminded of the value of the Cooperative Program through an announcement made both orally and in writing that communicates the exact dollar amount of their education provided by the Cooperative Program.

2. What are the expected outcomes of SWBTS's efforts to raise awareness of Cooperative Program funding?

Southwestern expects that the efforts detailed above will result in graduates who leave seminary with an accurate understanding of what the Cooperative Program accomplishes, how it functions, and how to lead their local churches to be faithful contributors to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

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

Southwestern sees Cooperative Program funding as absolutely essential to the provision of theological education in the Southwest. The institution was founded in 1908 to provide theological education for preachers who would reach this region of the country with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Although the institution's mission has enlarged to include the development of ministers for Southern Baptist Churches in other regions as well as missionaries to carry the good news to the ends of the earth, Southwestern continues to be the Southern Baptist Convention's center of theological education for the Southwest. The institution's one hundred and seven year history of faithfulness to this task has been made possible only by the generosity of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

4. Please explain the "value add" of Cooperative Program funding for SWBTS, and how is this different from any and all other sources of funding for your seminary.

Although Southwestern has a student body size of 3,941 and the blessing of an endowment given directly to the institution by faithful individuals and churches over the course of its history, the institution is only able to provide its high quality education due

to the “value add” of Cooperative Program funding. While tuition and endowment income are important to the operation of the institution, having the third consistent income source from the Cooperative Program provides a firm foundation for the operational budget. Each year, a significant percentage of Southwestern’s annual income continues to come from the Cooperative Program. This funding not only benefits Southwestern, but also adds value to the entire convention by helping most SBC students complete their education with little to no debt. These graduates are then able to begin serving in the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention without the burden of educational debt lingering from their years at seminary.

Ethnic Participation:

5. Please give a progress report of ethnic participation within SWBTS, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of the SWBTS 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).

Southwestern seeks the participation of ethnic churches and church leaders in the life and ministry of the institution through both involvement in special events and speaking opportunities. Each year, Southwestern conducts events like an annual picnic that are attended by multiple ethnic churches and organizations. This provides students an opportunity to learn about and participate in the ministries of these churches and organizations throughout their time in seminary. During this past year, the following speakers from ethnic minorities preached in chapel: Vern Charette, Assistant Professor of Preaching, Dongsun Cho, Assistant Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Anthony Moore, Campus Pastor of The Village Church, Tony Mathews, pastor of North Garland Baptist Fellowship, and Jason Paredes, co-pastor of Fielder Church. Ethnic participation is also evident among Southwestern’s governance, leadership, faculty, and students. At present the board of trustees has six members from ethnic minorities, and individuals from ethnic minorities serve in key leadership roles on campus including directors of offices and programs, associate deans, and a dean. The faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have an ethnic diversity that matches the diversity of the Southern Baptist Churches. Out of 105 faculty members, 22 are from some ethnic minority including African-American, Native-American, Korean, Hispanic, Chinese, German, Jewish, and several more. A large ethnic minority of more than 1,287 students also exists at the institution. Southwestern’s online Master of Theological Studies program is offered entirely in Spanish to provide education for the growing Hispanic population in the United States and for Spanish-speaking pastors in other countries. The program currently has 118 students enrolled. Southwestern’s Financial Aid Office offers minority student scholarships to all qualifying ethnic students. Over the last five years, Southwestern has seen an increase in ethnic minority enrollment from 1,030 to 1,287, an increase of 25%. And in 2013 Southwestern hired the first minority dean of the School of Church Music, Dr. Leo Day. Faculty diversity has risen

significantly over the last twenty years. In 1995, only 2 of 98 faculty were from an ethnic minority. As noted above, this year 22 of 105 faculty are from an ethnic minority.

Mental Health Resource:

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

In 2011 Southwestern developed and implemented a new Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling program. Enrollment in this program has grown each year and presently stands at 104. This program presently has three full-time faculty members. The Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling is designed to train counselors for the local church who are equipped to speak the truth of God's Word to those with mental health challenges. Southwestern also offers a number of conferences each year to assist local church staff and laity in the development of skills necessary to address mental health challenges. Southwestern will continue to foster the development of biblical counseling among its faculty, students, and among the local churches.

SWBTS Specific Ministry Inquiries:

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

Southwestern's mission is to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by the biblical education of God-called men and women for their respective ministries, which fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God. The most reliable metric for measuring the future accomplishment of this mission is the number of graduates we send back to the local churches.

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

Southwestern's baccalaureate program originated in 2005 with the creation of The College at Southwestern. The College has grown in enrollment and number of degrees offered since its inception. Southwestern now offers four different bachelor's degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Music, and Bachelor of Music. Enrollment has trended steadily upward from 77 in the fall of 2005 to 638 in the 2014-2015 school year.

The College at Southwestern is distinctive in all four of its bachelor's programs. The Bachelor of Arts in Humanities offers an education in the history of Western thought that

enables students to minister the gospel effectively while engaging a rapidly changing culture. The Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies provides a foundational understanding of the Bible, Christian theology, the church, and worldviews that prepares students to speak boldly in the classic seminary disciplines. The Bachelor of Arts in Music and Bachelor of Music provide a foundation in musical development so that students are prepared to minister the gospel through music to a rapidly changing culture.

9. 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..." how does SWBTS counsel students to pursue different degree programs?

Southwestern's Admissions Office is the first point of counseling for prospective students considering seminary education. Admissions personnel are trained to assist applicants in selecting one of four bachelor's, fourteen master's, and four doctoral programs. Upon matriculation, students are assigned an academic advisor in the Registrar's Office who is further able to assist the student in considering options for study throughout the time of enrollment. Faculty also provide counsel to students in many ways, but especially through relationships built in spiritual formation courses where faculty encourage spiritual growth in a small group setting.

10. Please give a status report of SWBTS'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?

Southwestern presently operates seven extension centers in the following locations: Houston, Rosharon, San Antonio, and Plano, Texas, Shawnee, Oklahoma, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Bonn, Germany. Total enrollment at these sites in the last academic year was 389. These extension sites provide strategically located centers of theological training in the major geographical hubs of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, enabling local Southern Baptist churches in these areas to send their members for ministry training without having to move to Fort Worth. The graduates from these sites are positioned to penetrate the lostness in their immediate areas and beyond. Those who train for missionary service further penetrate the lostness of the world in other countries. The Bonn campus also provides a beacon of gospel truth in Germany, where a growing Russian-German Baptist movement is underway.

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

While Southwestern predicts that enrollment at some of its smaller extension centers may decrease in response to increased online offerings, this decrease is not expected at the institution's Houston campus which is a wholly-owned, full-degree site for the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Theological Studies, and Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies. The institution expects that enrollment at the

Houston campus will grow as its programs are promoted. Also of note, some students who begin degrees online have shown interest in completing those degrees at Southwestern's residential campuses and the institution plans to continue serving these and other students through extension education.

12. Does SWBTS 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.

The admissions personnel are familiar with the catalog policy governing student fees and payment. This policy reads, "The standard fee rates apply to all students unless they are members of a Southern Baptist church. The Southern Baptist Cooperative Program generously provides a scholarship that in most programs pays half the tuition for Southern Baptist students." The admissions personnel also understand that denominational affiliation is determined initially by the church endorsing the student for admission, but that students can change denominations through a process in the Registrar's Office. In all cases, Southwestern relies on the local churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to communicate individual student membership status.

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

Southwestern has taken the lead in implementing technology to further education both on campus and through online education. This year nine classrooms have been converted to smart classrooms which support both robust residential education as well as flexible online access to residential classes for both master's and doctoral students. The flexible online access now afforded to Doctor of Philosophy students is the first of its kind among all ATS seminaries. The institution also recently announced the creation of a School of Preaching, a first among Southern Baptist Seminaries.

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

Southwestern understands its ministry assignment to include the provision of theological education to students anywhere in the world. As a result of the International Mission Board's withdrawal from theological education years ago, many international seminaries have already approached Southwestern for assistance. As a result, Southwestern has developed its Global Theological Innovation program which is now a network of almost 100 seminaries worldwide.