



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



LEAVELL
COLLEGE

3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

GARY SHOWS, Chairman
JAMIE DEW, President

On behalf of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College family, I extend you greetings. I offer my deep thanks and gratitude for the men and women and churches of the Southern Baptist Convention that you represent. NOBTS and Leavell College depend on the partnership of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program to accomplish the ministry assignment we have been given to fulfill.

I have now reached the one-year anniversary in my presidency at NOBTS and Leavell College. Much has been accomplished and the days have been full. We have plenty of work left to do, but I and the rest of the NOBTS and Leavell College family are taking great joy in the work we are doing. One of the first things we have done is to consider the mission of NOBTS and Leavell College. We looked carefully at what NOBTS and Leavell College have accomplished in the last one hundred years and the impact she has had in the region. We considered what NOBTS and Leavell College are positioned to do well right now for the Kingdom. Finally, we looked ahead to the great things God will accomplish through the NOBTS and Leavell College family. At the end of that process, we had determined a mission statement that will, as long as I serve in this role, drive everything we do as an institution.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

We pray that God will send us men and women with the disposition of servanthood ready and willing to serve the Kingdom. As an institution, we will prepare these servants to walk closely with Christ. We will prepare these men and women to answer God's call to proclaim His truth wherever He will lead them. NOBTS and Leavell College will prepare these Kingdom servants to fulfill His mission in the smaller-membership churches, in the hard, inner-city neighborhoods, in church plants, on the international mission field, or to whatever ministry God calls them to accomplish. We believe so strongly in this mission that it will become the ethos of everything we do.

In the past year we have also hired three vice-presidents to lead key divisions of the institution: enrollment (Larry Lyon), development (Mike Wetzel), and business affairs (Pattie Shoener). These individuals are ready to serve and retell the story of NOBTS and Leavell College.

When I arrived, I was delighted to learn of the men and women of the NOBTS and Leavell College family who serve faithfully as faculty, staff, and students of this institution. They serve in ministries across the city and region, all while leading their classes and serving the students of NOBTS and Leavell College. All of our faculty serve faithfully in local churches, many of them in leadership and staff positions. Our faculty serve just as so many of our pastors do, in bi-vocational ministry. The students of NOBTS and Leavell College are dedicated to their studies while also serving in the churches around our region. Over one hundred of our students serve in leadership or attend NAMB church plants in the New Orleans area.

When I was elected as President, I shared with the NOBTS and Leavell College trustees that I would focus on four initiatives in my first few years. I am committed to the following initiatives as we seek to build on the work of the last one hundred years:

1. Leavell College. We are going to dedicate ourselves to making Leavell College into the regional college for those men and women preparing for gospel-ministry.
2. Enrollment. NOBTS and Leavell College are going to work hard to recruit men and women ready to be servants in the Kingdom. We are going to work just as hard to help them finish their degree as quickly and efficiently as possible.
3. Communications. NOBTS and Leavell College have much to offer the churches of the SBC. We are going to tell the story of this place and her people and the faithful service offered each day.
4. Denominational Relationships. We are going to work hard to serve the churches of the SBC to build relationships and partnerships. We seek as an institution to faithfully steward the men and women and financial resources the churches of the SBC send to New Orleans.

These are fun and exciting days at NOBTS and Leavell College. My family and I have quickly come to love the city of New Orleans alongside the NOBTS and Leavell College family. We are grateful for the opportunity to answer God's call in such a beautiful place.

Pray for us. Come visit us.

Your servant,

Jamie Dew

President, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2020 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

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 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

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

Leavell College trains God-called men and women without an undergraduate degree for ministry. Last year, Leavell College of NOBTS trained 1,668 undergraduate students through courses for credit on the main campus, at extension centers, and online — a slight increase over the previous year. This total does not count a large number of certificate students enrolled in not-for-credit courses offered in church and associational settings.

Many of our students are older, second-career individuals called into ministry later in life, who can fill the many bi-vocational and small church ministry positions in the SBC. Our highest concentration of ethnic or minority students who can serve in ethnic church settings, particularly African-American, French-speaking Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean students is also in Leavell College. In recent years, Leavell College has seen an increase in traditional students who know that God wants to use them in some manner but are not sure of what that might entail. Last year, Leavell College trained 424 for-credit certificate students. Many of these certificates were for

pastors who will not otherwise receive any theological education. In addition, our certificates include laypersons from large and small churches. Our certificate programs are our most ethnically diverse programs and address the initiatives in this area by the SBC.

In 2019, NOBTS developed the Accelerated B.A. + M.Div. program that allows students to earn their bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity degree within five years. This program was made possible through a grant and allows students to enter into full-time ministry more quickly while saving both money and time. NOBTS is excited about the possibilities of this new opportunity for students.

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

NOBTS had 1,614 master's-level students last year, 833 of those were Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree students, which we consider the standard ministry preparation degree. Many students at NOBTS and other seminaries have transferred to shorter M.A. degrees offered online, at extension centers, and on campus. The remaining 781 master's-level students were in various degree programs that provide focused training for discipleship ministry, music ministry, specific areas in theological and biblical studies, or counseling ministry.

One of our primary assignments from the Convention is to train master's-degree students, and we focus a great deal of effort on this task. The seminary master's programs do not require an undergraduate degree in Religion or Christian Studies. Therefore, the training is typically broad. Students receive a solid biblical and theological foundation along with practical training in areas like discipleship, pastoral ministry, and counseling. We measure our health by the churches and ministries our graduates lead and we strive to prepare them to serve effectively in ministry.

Students who study at NOBTS receive a world-class education from faculty who have built their lives upon the Word of God. The faculty at NOBTS not only teach and publish in their areas, but they are involved in local church ministry and missions. Thus, students have the opportunity to learn from those who are doing ministry.

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

The D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) and D.Ed.Min. (Doctor of Educational Ministry) at NOBTS continue to be among the strongest such programs in the nation, with 331 students enrolled last year. The D.Min. program continues to be one of the largest and best such programs, with 275 students enrolled. Of that number, 46 are Korean D.Min. students.

The NOBTS D.Ed.Min. is one of just a handful of such programs in the United States. The D.Ed.Min. has 46 students enrolled. In many churches, the D.Min. has become the required degree for consideration of prospective pastors. This program provides students with that credentialing, and does so with excellence. Since the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. programs only accept ministers with three or more years of experience, these degrees probably do more than any academic degree to help ministers make mid-career adjustments in their own ministry that positively impact the churches and ministries in which they serve.

Professional doctoral education provides an opportunity to impact churches immediately since students pursuing the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. degrees are able to continue to minister in their churches. NOBTS provides training in a workshop format designed to allow students to continue in their place of service. Students unable to travel to New Orleans are also able to participate in most seminars through web conferencing software or at a nearby extension site. Thus, NOBTS is providing opportunities for this training in a variety of ways.

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

NOBTS has worked hard to make the research doctoral degrees accessible for students wherever they might live. Each Ph.D. major is available through web conferencing technology or in person. Many students pursue a Ph.D. who would otherwise not be able to attain the degree because they are called to a church at some distance from New Orleans. Students make limited trips to New Orleans, while the majority of their seminars are available through live-stream offerings.

In part, because of the availability of the degree, NOBTS has seen continued growth in the research doctoral programs in recent years. Last year, 190 students enrolled in the Th.M., Ed.D., D.M.A., and Ph.D. programs — which was an all-time high in enrollment. NOBTS is consistently evaluating the research doctoral degrees to be sure we are offering the appropriate curriculum. Each degree program was created to meet a need in Southern Baptist life. NOBTS is training the next generation of seminary and college teachers and providing highly trained practitioners in every area of ministry.

Based on each of NOBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how NOBTS is accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?

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

The greatest challenge confronting most undergraduate students is the problem of affordability and student debt. Many of our older students have children and it is very difficult for them to juggle several jobs (ministry and secular) in order to get by while earning their theological education. NOBTS has sought to address this by instituting the tuition cap. Qualified students who take between 12 and 18 hours pay the same tuition. Thus, students are able to save \$1,650 each semester if they can focus on being a full-time student. Partially because of the financial challenges, many students take fewer hours than they should each semester, which extends their time to completion. The end result is that students may not complete their degree at all. NOBTS continues to encourage students to take the appropriate amount of courses to facilitate successful completion of their training.

The new Accelerated B.A. + M.Div. program at NOBTS represents a great opportunity for Leavell College students. This program allows students from a Baptist college to save significant time and money while earning their Master of Divinity degree. Leavell College students could earn their bachelor's degree and the Master of Divinity degree in as little as five years while saving thousands of dollars. The rising costs associated with education remains a significant threat to Southern Baptist education, particularly for places focused on training ministers.

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

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary remains committed to providing quality education for the current and future leaders of the SBC. We will continue to emphasize the Master of Divinity degree that provides the broadest type of training. In addition, we have developed multiple master of arts degrees to meet the specialized needs of students.

While encouraging every student to come to New Orleans and invest in the city as our faculty invests in them, we will also continue to develop and improve our offerings to those students

who are unable to move to New Orleans. The mentoring program of NOBTS allows students to gain practical experience while gaining their theological education. We are convinced that partnering with churches to equip students for ministry is a great opportunity for students. In addition, NOBTS offers online training that allows students to participate in live classes through NOLA2UFlex classes. These classes let students participate in the class while it is meeting from their own home or office or watch the recording in the next week and follow up through various online activities.

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

Our professional doctorate programs are among the best in the country. We are continually striving for excellence. In addition to constant attention to be sure we are offering the specialization offerings and courses that students need, NOBTS works hard to find ministers who need further training and are willing to invest the time and energy needed to that end. Maintaining excellence with the responsibility of a large student body that requires a great deal of individualized attention remains a consistent challenge. NOBTS continues to utilize every means available to make professional doctoral training available to those who are interested as well as to equip students to succeed. Students who are unable to come to New Orleans for classes are able to use webcasting technology to participate in most of the professional doctoral classes enabling them to focus their energy and time in the local church setting.

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

The Ph.D. program at NOBTS continues to grow, partially because of the quality of the program and its accessibility. Every degree major is available to students who do not live in New Orleans through web conferencing technology; we expect to continue to see growth. Students have appreciated the ability to participate in the class as if they were there in person while remaining on the field of ministry. We will continue to seek to expand our offerings while maintaining the most efficient program possible.

Statistical Tables

Enrollment

Basic Degrees	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Graduate Certificate	161	125	102	100	81
M.Div.	1,096	1,059	1,000	878	833
M.A.C.E.	172	171	142	130	134
M.M.C.M.	34	26	23	23	18
D.Min.	313	321	313	278	275
D.Ed.Min.	56	55	53	48	46
Th.M.	48	75	64	52	59
Ph.D.	128	64	82	100	95
D.M.A.	16	17	13	15	19
EDD	6	7	8	9	9
M.A.M.F.C.	34	33	38	45	78
M.A.	75	121	198	304	379
MTS	84	75	60	52	64
Diploma	0	0	0	0	0
Certificate	677	687	624	713	699
Associate	135	146	105	97	93
Baccalaureate	818	812	879	826	870

Enrollment (continued)

Basic Degrees	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Internet	*498	*540	*595	*669	*711
Nondegree	103	94	74	64	51
Formula allowances for off campus programs	163	157	151	144	249
Total FTE Enrollment	3,956	3,888	3,778	3,734	3,803

* This amount is included in the degree programs.

Annual Accumulative Enrollment (nonduplicating head count) 2018-2019: 3,803

Graduates	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Prebaccalaureate	191	137	170	205	149
Baccalaureate	87	86	117	95	154
Graduate	205	217	230	210	259
Doctoral	40	76	53	59	62
Total	523	516	570	569	624

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, the Convention referred the following item to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, p. 57, 63)

Motion: Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

Response: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the prevention of abuse within the institution and in the churches and other ministries where our graduates serve. We have historically trained students in preventing sexual abuse and in ways to care well for victims, and we have added or increased several significant parts of this effort since the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas. The seminary president gives institutional leadership and takes a personal role in this effort. NOBTS provides the following to increase awareness, prevent abuse, and care for victims:

- Ministry Safe prevention training for all students, staff, and faculty within their first year in the seminary. This material is included in required first-year courses for all students. (added since 2018)
- Annual, in-person sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention training for full-time faculty and staff. (added since 2018)
- Criminal background checks on all faculty, staff, and degree-seeking students. (increased scope since 2018)

- A specific address by the president to smaller groups of students at New Student Orientation emphasizing the institutional priority of protecting the vulnerable, maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment, and responding well to sexual abuse and harassment. (added since 2018)
- Meetings in residence halls conducted by hall staff, Student Affairs staff, and senior administrators to ensure student understanding of NOBTS policies, procedures, ways to access help, and our commitment to protecting and caring for students. (added since 2018)
- Student Affairs staff train regularly in this area, and the Associate VP for Student Affairs serves as our liaison to the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.
- A female Student Affairs staff member is employed specifically for women students to process experiences and seek counsel or advocacy in situations where abuse or harassment may be at issue.
- Security cameras and specific training for The REC center staff help ensure safety and abuse prevention in the recreation center.
- Undergraduate core course that includes sexual abuse prevention using the Darkness to Light material and graduate-level core courses that include training on abuse, caring for victims, and prevention of abuse in the church.
- Graduate-level counseling program coursework including a course on trauma counseling in which students learn the most effective, empirically-supported interventions for trauma care for children and adults in a Christ-centered counseling environment; a course on trauma-informed care for adoptive and other children from abusive backgrounds; counseling model courses including specific interventions for the counseling and care of victims.
- Individual and group counseling on campus at no cost for students recovering from past trauma or abuse.
- Counseling through a local Christian counseling agency available at no cost for faculty.
- A director-level police liaison to local law enforcement agencies and on-site legal counsel work with administration to facilitate timely and appropriate reporting to law enforcement, as well as protection of victims and the campus community in cases of suspected sexual abuse or assault.
- Regular group counseling opportunities for students struggling with issues of sexual integrity.
- Weekend conferences related to issues of sexual purity and sexual integrity.