



**THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280

**F. MATTHEW SCHMUCKER, Chairman
R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President**

I am privileged once again to present the following report on behalf of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Thank you for all you do on behalf of Southern Baptists and our seminaries.

We never forget to whom we belong. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary belongs to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The sole purpose for which this institution was established in 1859 was to train God-called ministers for faithful service in the SBC. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the great passion of Southern Seminary. The training of ministers is our central mission—indeed, the most glorious mission invested to any institution anywhere on planet earth.

Right now, at Southern Seminary, we have almost 5,500 students enrolled. From the programs offered at Boyce College, to the M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees, this Southern Baptist institution offers a theological education accessible to everyone. The extraordinary expansion of our online program means that there is now nowhere on earth within internet's reach where courses offered by our world-class faculty cannot reach. This means Southern Baptists are teaching students we've never taught before.

On behalf of Southern Seminary, I want to say thank you for your generosity and continued support through the Cooperative Program. Our students are able to partake of the quality education offered at our institution, while paying rates of tuition far below what they would cost anywhere else. Our main goal is that these students are taught exactly what you want them to be taught. With your support, we are able to graduate more students free of debt. Where debt is one of the greatest enemies of the Great Commission, the Cooperative Program is one of its greatest friends.

If you look across the landscape of theological education, most institutions are declining. Many schools are faltering, merging, and some will pass from existence. The market for theological education is not big in a secularizing country—except for those places where there is firm faith and gospel commitment. The Southern Baptist Convention and its seminaries stand upon that conviction, contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. The strength of your seminaries stands in stark contrast from what we see happening around the world.

At the midpoint of the last century, American denominations faced a decision. The vast intellectual, moral, and cultural changes of the twentieth century fueled the liberalization of the denominations described as the Protestant Mainline—the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., and the American Baptist Churches—that all accommodated to theological liberalism and are experiencing dramatic numerical decline, even collapse.

Here is an interesting fact: At the middle of the last century, mainline liberal Protestantism was considered the looming theological reality and evangelicals, including Southern Baptists, were considered the outsiders and the outnumbered. We remain outsiders, in the sense of that denominational world, but it is the liberal denominations that have collapsed.

Let us be thankful again that in the Southern Baptist Convention, it is the conservatives who stayed and the more liberal/moderate faction who left. Look to the seminaries to see the effect.

Indeed, Southern Baptists made monumental decisions over the last several decades concerning theological education. First, that the SBC would have a system of six separate schools, bound by a single denominational commitment and included within a single Cooperative Program budget line and percentage. Second, that the Cooperative Program budget would fund *seminaries* and *not students*. Those decisions were made decades ago, and the wisdom is clear. Funding is based on a formula driven by actual enrollment, but it is stewarded by the seminaries as accountable to the SBC. This has allowed Southern Baptists to build a seminary system beyond the imagination of other denominations.

Our students know, and are constantly reminded, that their education is made possible by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. They know that the generous support through the Cooperative Program is what makes their theological education affordable.

Southern Baptists have made this education possible by means of the Cooperative Program and through the disciplines of the Funding Formula that have created a platform for stability and strength, along with accountability, for many years. The formula rightly requires the six seminaries to put primary emphasis on training pastors in residential programs centered in the Master of Divinity.

The emphasis on the M.Div. centers the entire institution on the preparation of pastors. That successful emphasis also requires a tremendous amount of energy and commitment on the part of the entire school, prioritizing the M.Div. and its support.

Our business model, adopted over 20 years ago, maximizes the stewardship of the entire program by adding the undergraduate program of Boyce College. Now a well-respected, 4-year undergraduate school, the program offers a first-rate Christian worldview education, made possible by the prior existence of the entire SBTS campus and instructional infrastructure. The business model is working and Boyce is now making a net contribution to the total SBTS budget, providing support for the graduate program. This only works if tuition support is generated by quality at the undergraduate level.

As you know, SBC formula FTE is a subset of total institutional FTE—and for good reason. The formula prioritizes certain programs and principles, including the preservation of an on-campus educational program. The wisdom behind this is compelling. First, the on-campus program proves to be the best context for theological education. Second, the quality of the off-campus program is entirely dependent on the quality of the on-campus program. Put bluntly, there will be no quality anywhere if quality is not established on-campus. Why? Because the strength of the program is the faculty, and quality faculty (in terms of scholarship, longevity, work production and publishing, and comprehensive impact) are not attracted to or financially supportable by a primarily off-campus or online program.

I am proud to say that at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary our enrollment is now the largest of all ATS accredited seminaries. For this we are exceedingly thankful. The spirit on campus will inspire any Southern Baptist. God has given us a future, and we can see the future of the Southern Baptist Convention taking shape right on our campus. This is a generation that has already been swimming against the culture tide. They know what they are going to face in the context of a rapidly secularizing culture.

Those students are taught by the faculty we have been able to build over the last 27 years – a faculty second to none in the history of modern theological education. We are also blessed by outstanding leadership additions in the past year. Dr. Matthew J. Hall now serves as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Administration. Dr. Paul Akin has joined us as Dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry. Dr. Dustin Bruce has joined us as

Dean of Boyce College. We are also thankful for more than 15 significant recent additions to the Southern Seminary and Boyce College faculty. We are involved in several big projects on the campus, but all are designed to maximize stewardship. Over the course of the last 27 years, we have strategically avoided adding large construction projects to the campus that would drain institutional resources.

Long-term trendlines include the growth of the online academic programs and increased enrollment and investment in our Hispanic Initiative. We are constantly looking at the future, seeking opportunities to endure lasting viability in terms of finances, faculty, and student resources.

In this generation, God is raising up the most amazing group of ministers, preachers, missionaries, and others, who will serve Christ and take the gospel around the world. In an age of so much secular pressure on the church, the Lord is raising up those ready to stand against that pressure—to be bold for the gospel. The students that come from your churches are incredibly bright, talented, and committed to Jesus. Our hope and prayer is that we send these students back to you, into the pulpit, and into the world, equipped with the finest theological education the world has to offer.

My commitment—the commitment of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—is to serve Southern Baptists with faithfulness, teaching the full wealth of biblical Christianity to as many as we can, as faithfully as we can, as joyously as we can, for as long as we can.

Sincerely,

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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). The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2020 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

Based on each of SBTS' Convention approved Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

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

Boyce College, the undergraduate school of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, continues to serve a growing student population of Southern Baptist college students. These students are receiving a Christian education of the highest quality and relevance. The aim of Boyce College is to raise up a new generation of leaders for faithful service in our churches and the mission field. Boyce attracts students who are already serious about their faith and challenges them to grow in their commitment to Christ and His church while they pursue undergraduate education. This depth of conviction has resulted in healthy growth as more and more students are drawn to Boyce's theological clarity and academic rigor. The non-duplicating headcount at Boyce College was 1,099 students in 2018-2019.

The professors at Boyce College are not only recognized experts in their scholarly fields, but they also possess a clear commitment to shepherd and mentor their students. This is why Boyce students receive excellent instruction in the classroom, as well as a vibrant, all-around student experience. Resident advisors work to cultivate biblical community within the residence halls. Students are exposed to a number of Southern Baptist pastors and leaders through weekly dorm meetings and chapel services. Student groups, such as the student council and

an undergraduate academic journal, provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and experience that will serve them and our churches in the future. The honors program continues to grow and gives students in the program an opportunity for a deeper and more challenging academic experience. This program has proven effective in attracting some of the sharpest young minds in the SBC.

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

The central mission assignment for the seminaries is the education of pastors. That reaches back to our founding in 1859. The Master of Divinity program forms the core of Southern's efforts to provide master's level theological education. This is then supplemented through various master's level offerings, such as our Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling, Missiology, Theological Studies, and more. The Global Campus continues to expand as a vehicle for delivering theological education to master's students around the world. Students from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and over twenty countries are enrolled in degree programs. Within the Global Campus, the Online Hispanic Program has grown exponentially, which helps prepare and train ministers of the gospel in the Spanish-speaking world.

The significance on the M.Div. centers the entire institution on the preparation of pastors. The M.Div. program continued as the largest program at the seminary with a total enrollment of 2,208 students for 2018-2019, which is a 4% increase from the previous year. In an era when the M.Div. is experiencing wide-spread decline, we are particularly proud of the work the Lord has done in raising up so many current and future pastors and entrusting us with their education. Southern Seminary also maintains an unparalleled faculty whose focus remains on instructing master's level students. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our faculty also continues to set the pace for serving in local SBC churches, speaking at conferences, and contributing to evangelical scholarship through writing books and delivering academic presentations. In 2018-2019 alone, Southern Seminary professors published over 25 books and contributed many articles to various academic journals. When you enter a classroom at Southern Seminary, you will find one of many consecrated Christian scholars whose commitment to the gospel, to the church, and to the Lord Jesus Christ is translated into a love for students and the task of teaching.

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

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Educational Ministry. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the total annual headcount for all Professional Doctoral Studies degree programs was 411 students. Specific attention was paid to prospective student recruitment efforts. Completing a degree while in full-time ministry can be challenging, so at Southern, professional doctoral students begin their program with a plan. Trained mentors guide students toward completion at a healthy pace, ensuring a greater number of students not only complete the program, but achieve the level of growth they desire. Southern Seminary continues to add value to the student experience through chapel services, focused panel discussions, and writing mentors throughout the program. The Broadus Society Fellowship exposes students to experienced preachers and provides a venue for mutual encouragement. Our graduates continue to hold key leadership positions in our SBC local associations, state conventions, and national entities. They are also pastoring hundreds of established SBC churches and are planting churches all over the world.

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

Southern Seminary offers research doctoral education through the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Missiology, and Master of Theology. These academic programs are among

the most highly respected in the nation and continue to produce well-trained pastor-scholars who serve in local church leadership, academics, and entity leadership. Research Doctoral Studies include in their program offerings a fully modular Th.M. degree. This program allows students to receive a more intensive level of education in a range of subjects through week-long concentrated courses taken with a cohort. For the 2018-2019 academic year, the total annual headcount for all Research Doctoral Studies degree programs was 400 students. The program, however, is not merely large, but of the highest quality. Workshops on academic writing were offered during the summer term. Dozens of our current students and graduates of our program presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and continue to shape the entire evangelical academic landscape. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. The weekly 1892 Club continued to attract many students each week for fellowship and interaction with a visiting scholar. Modular students are provided a chapel experience and lunch during their time on campus to facilitate further learning and fellowship between other students and scholars. Southern is equipping many of the most gifted academic and church leaders within the Southern Baptist community. In an academic job market considered severe by almost any standard, Southern doctoral graduates are continually sought after to serve in both traditionally academic and church-based posts. Amongst member schools of the Association of Theological Schools, Southern Seminary has continued to lead the way in the number of graduates that currently hold teaching posts. In addition to this, many of our graduates hold administrative positions of leadership in institutions of higher learning all over the country. As with our other programs, graduates are giving leadership throughout the SBC at the local, state, and national levels. This is a great testimony to the strength of our program and the quality of our students.

What opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2020 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SBTS is accomplishing each of its Ministry Assignments?

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

Boyce College has experienced growth in terms of enrollment, educational excellence, and opportunities for students outside the classroom. The opportunity for 2020 primarily consists of building on the momentum already present to expand the reach of Boyce College among prospective students in order to maintain healthy growth. We believe that our current students are our best drivers for future growth. So, Boyce aims to deliver excellent educational offerings, as well as extracurricular activities, with the goal of forming godly and well-equipped future Southern Baptist leaders. The addition of the Bachelor of Communication degree will prepare students to be effective communicators in a diverse and complex world, extending the mission of the school to new academic territory. As we maintain the SBC's commitment to abstain from government funding, we will need to carefully structure Southern Seminary and Boyce College in terms of personnel and facilities to make sure we are able to offer a program that is the highest in academic quality and competitively priced.

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

Southern Seminary is committed to providing the best possible theological education for current and future pastors and ministry leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention. This means not only maintaining an excellent faculty but providing an education that aims at the formation of ministry leaders who are intellectually capable, morally faithful, and walking closely with the Lord. An opportunity that comes out of this commitment is to continually improve not only our on-campus efforts, but opportunities for our online and modular students to be mentored,

trained, and served both inside and outside of the classroom. As increasing numbers of our students are attending through our Global Campus program, Southern Seminary leadership, faculty, and staff must respond to the calling to bring excellent education through this growing opportunity. The high quality of our online program is rooted in the high quality of our on-campus program. Professors are continuing to improve their pedagogy through provided training, not only in the classroom, but also for their online teaching. The unique pedagogical challenges inherent in online learning require that our professors receive additional training and instruction in order to provide the best possible experience for our online students. With the rising number of online courses being taken, Southern Seminary maintains vigilant efforts to get online students connected to the campus.

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

The professional doctoral studies team continuously strives for excellence and innovation in serving those seeking to develop their ministry competencies and skills. One of the challenges that most professional doctoral programs face is maintaining a high rate of degree completion. Southern Seminary continues to see rising graduation rates and will seek to improve even more. Students are being assigned writing mentors and are helped with a project strategy immediately as part of their first week of classes. This helps students to focus on their project throughout their entire program. This focus allows the student to begin the writing process earlier and has been effective in helping them complete the degree program. We will continue to increase the quality of program orientation and introduction to doctoral writing as part of our efforts to ensure successful graduates.

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

While Southern's research doctoral program remains one of the strongest in Christian higher education, the aim is always to increase the quality and reach of the program. One area of opportunity will be to expand the non-residential offerings in our traditional programs (Church History, Systematic Theology, Old Testament, and New Testament). These programs will continue to strengthen the pastor-theologians within the SBC in these foundational disciplines. Southern Seminary continues to develop partnerships related to international student teaching opportunities with the intention of student deployment. Currently, there is a growing need and opportunity for international theological education. Thousands of pastors around the world have no means to be trained. A continued focus on developing the pedagogical skills of our students will be paired with a continued commitment to encourage research doctoral students to exercise their academic gifting in the service of local churches. The extensive pedagogical training that Southern Seminary students will receive will allow them to become even more competitive in the current academic job market.

Enrollment by Degree Program Converted to Full-Time Equivalent As per SBC Seminary Formula

	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
Prebaccalaureate Programs:				
Diploma Theology	24	26	36	31
Diploma Missions	13	26	47	49
Boyce: Associate of Arts	29	23	25	31
Special (including Prebacc. and SWI)	180	189	194	119

	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
Baccalaureate Programs:				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	329	299	268	242
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	612	632	656	653
Basic Degree Programs:				
M.Div.	1,405	1,500	1,399	1,400
M.A.	283	287	279	251
M.A.T.S.	54	78	121	127
M.C.M.	6	8	9	12
Special (Postbacc.)	53	51	29	22
Advanced Degree Programs:				
T.h.M.	75	66	66	78
D.Min.	248	246	226	221
D.Miss.	12	15	16	14
D.Ed.Min.	79	109	161	190
Ed.D.	47	46	46	40
Ph.D.	308	301	302	268
Special	3	1	3	2
Total FTE Enrollment	3,760	3,903	3,883	3,750
Official FTE	2,294	2,328	2,339	2,311
(Nondup. HC)	5,373	5,489	5,459	5,485

Degree Program Graduates

Degree Programs:	2015–2016	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019
Prebaccalaureate Programs:				
Diploma Theology	1	0	0	0
Diploma Missions	6	0	0	0
Worldview Studies Certificate	0	9	0	2
Seminary Wives Institute	19	14	20	13
Boyce: Associate of Arts	11	9	3	9
Baccalaureate Programs:				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	21	22	19	20
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	54	51	66	57
Basic Degree Programs:				
M.Div.	217	217	212	205
M.A.	74	71	66	69
M.A.T.S.	24	18	35	54
M.C.M.	0	1	0	1
Advanced Degree Programs:				
Th.M.	38	36	38	46
D.Min.	42	41	36	29
D.Ed.Min.	6	4	23	22
D.Miss.	1	0	2	1
Ed.D.	10	11	7	6
Ph.D.	35	36	41	34
Total Graduates	561	546	579	591

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 The Southern 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: The Board of Trustees of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted the following response on October 14, 2019:

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the highest standards of care for every member of the seminary community and to preparing ministers of the gospel and servants of Christ to fulfill this responsibility wherever they are called and however they serve. The challenge of sexual abuse is a particularly urgent challenge, especially to Christians and our churches. Southern Seminary has made abuse awareness, prevention, and care a top institutional priority. We require all students, faculty and staff to complete MinistrySafe, a third-party training and assessment tool. Furthermore, Southern Seminary has clear policies on all matters appropriate for such an institution, including mandatory reporting of the abuse of minors and other reporting responsibilities and instructions for care published in our student and employee handbooks. The Seminary’s policies and procedures have recently undergone a thorough legal review in order to make certain that all policies are appropriate, complete, and up to date. In this light, policies now even more thoroughly define reporting responsibilities and the procedure for reporting any abuse or suspected abuse. This policy is regularly re-communicated to the campus community through all available means.

Since the 2018 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Seminary has continued to make our commitment clear. Mrs. Garnetta Smith has been appointed as the seminary’s Women’s Support Coordinator, a cabinet-level position that functions as liaison and support for all women on campus, and with particular responsibility to women who experience or are aware of any harassment or abusive behavior.

Southern Seminary is committed to work fully with the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and has gratefully received their report and findings and has also received the “Caring Well” curriculum and will be using this material as a useful resource in the preparation for curriculum and training for students, faculty, and staff.