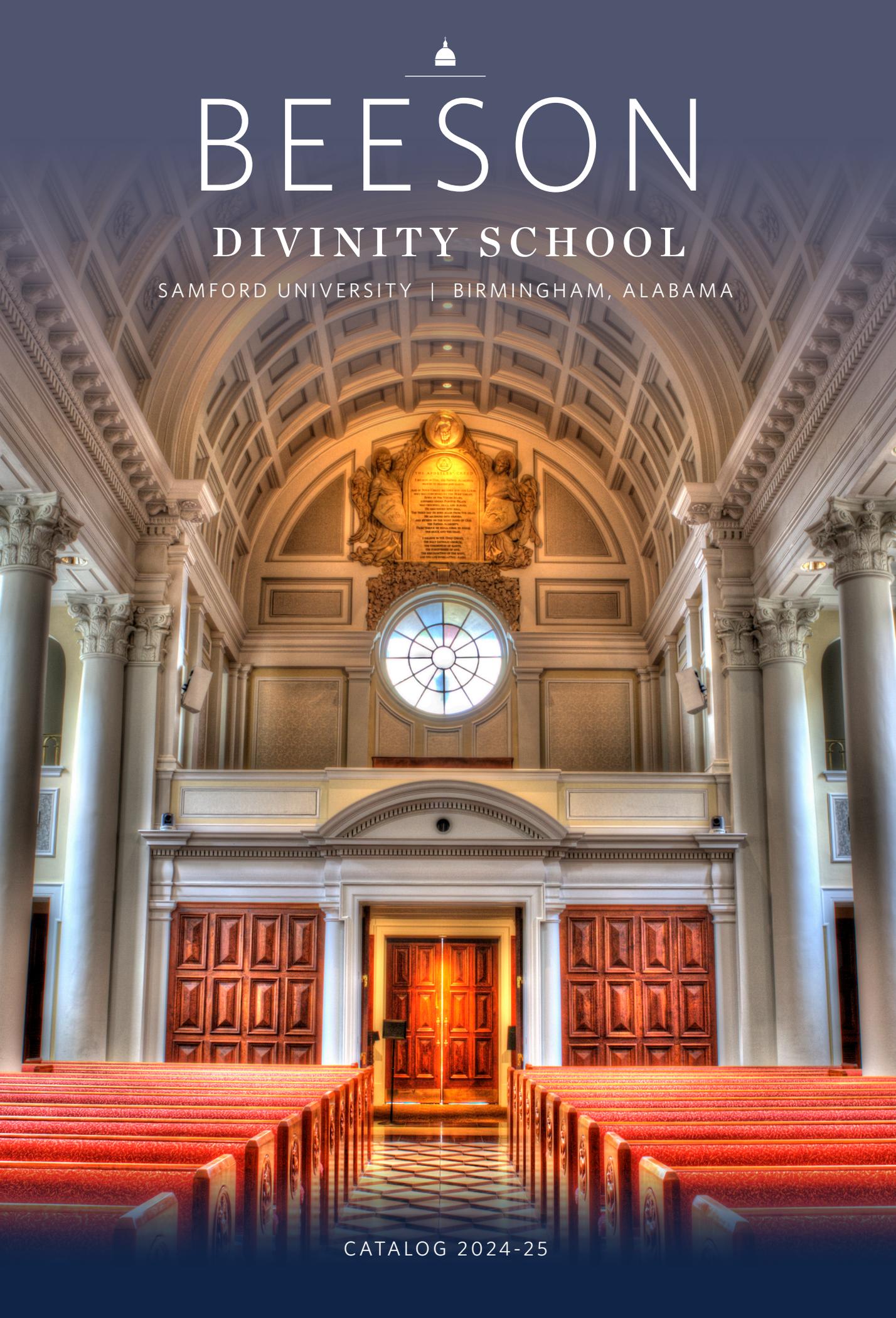




BEESON

DIVINITY SCHOOL

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



CATALOG 2024-25

2024-25 Catalog

Preparing God-called persons to serve as ministers in the Church of Jesus Christ

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



It is an honor and delight for me to serve as the second dean of Beeson Divinity School. In this our 37th year, we are building on a legacy crafted for us by faithful founders like Ralph Waldo Beeson and Timothy George. This heritage inspires us with hope for the future, primarily because it is a heritage of loyalty to Christ and his church.

The mission of Beeson Divinity School is to prepare God-called persons to serve as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this by providing face-to-face, classical graduate theological education, worshiping the Triune God, and encouraging the practices of Christian spirituality in covenanted community.

Our faculty and staff equip the Lord's servants for kingdom work around the world, especially in and through local churches. We facilitate and resource the church's endeavors to make and grow Christian disciples in response to Jesus' command (Matthew 28). In the words of the apostle Paul, inspired by the Spirit, we encourage and prepare the Lord's people "for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4). We do this mainly by educating preachers and teachers of the canon of Holy Scripture and secondarily by training faithful, thoughtful Christian laity. In every case, we want students to be men and women of God.

Hodges Chapel, where the Beeson community meets for worship, stands at the center of Divinity Hall. It is redolent with symbols of the faith and decorated with beautiful Christian art. Its cross-shaped form reminds us of the centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Its prominence and location at the heart of our building bears witness to the fact that Beeson is not merely a graduate school for the study of theology but rather a living community of faith and learning whose highest purpose is to know God and enjoy him forever.

What a blessing it is to serve the church of Christ day by day. What a wonderful place Beeson is to serve the living God. These are exciting days to love God and neighbor here in Birmingham. Let's get on our knees and ask the Lord to guide us into the future.

Douglas A. Sweeney

Dean, Beeson Divinity School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Beeson Divinity School is to prepare God-called persons to serve as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this by providing face-to-face, classical graduate theological education, worshipping the triune God and encouraging the practices of Christian spirituality in covenanted community.

We seek to accomplish our mission through
the regular practice of worship,
a well-designed curriculum,
guided practical ministry experience
and nurturing relationships
in an evangelical community of faith and hope and love,
so that
every student may grow toward full maturity in Christ,
practicing the disciplines of personal and communal spirituality,
developing biblical and theological depth,
being committed to evangelism and missions,
developing global awareness,
enhancing competencies for ministry,
respecting denominational identity
and embracing the vision of being a servant leader;
and to improve continuously the overall quality of Beeson Divinity School
through
enhancing its resources, relationships and reputation
so that
the experience of graduate theological study at Beeson Divinity School is
held dear by its students,
and the ministries of its graduates respected by churches and denominational leaders,
to the end that the worldwide body of Christ is built up
and God is glorified in ever-increasing measure.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

At the founding of Beeson Divinity School in 1988, “The Baptist Faith and Message” (1963) was adopted by the Samford University Board of Trustees as the confessional standard for the school. We affirm without reservation the total truthfulness of Holy Scripture and the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy embodied in this statement of faith. At the same time, in accordance with the desires of Ralph Waldo Beeson, the school was established as a “Christian, Protestant, evangelical and interdenominational” theological community. We all agree to teach in accordance with and not contrary to those evangelical essentials of the Christian faith, such as the Holy Trinity, the person and work of Jesus Christ, salvation by grace alone, and a life of discipleship and faithful obedience to God’s Word. Members of the divinity school faculty who are not Baptist by denomination submit in writing their own convictions concerning those articles in the statement of faith that touch on denominational distinctions. In this way, we seek to preserve both the theological integrity and the interdenominational variety of our faculty as set forth in the founding documents of the school.

The Apostles’ Creed, which is etched in stone in Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel, expresses our common commitment to the historic faith of the church.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION

History of Samford University

Samford University is a Christian university and the largest privately supported and fully accredited coeducational institution of higher learning in Alabama. The university was founded by Baptists of Alabama and today maintains a close relationship with the Alabama Baptist State Convention (Southern Baptist Convention). While the university cherishes this relationship and sees its role centered on Christian belief, Samford is open to students of all denominations and faith traditions.

Founded by a group of educational, economic and religious leaders, the school was chartered in 1841 and opened its doors on Jan. 3, 1842, in Marion, Alabama, as Howard College. In 1887, it was relocated in Birmingham, and in 1957, the institution was moved to its present campus.

In 1965, the master's degree program was reinstated. This development, coupled with the existing diversity of degree programs, resulted in Howard College's official elevation to university status on Nov. 9, 1965. In the same year, the new university was named for Frank Park Samford, chairman of the Howard College Board of Trustees, and one of the institution's most generous individual benefactors. The university now consists of School of the Arts, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Brock School of Business, Beeson Divinity School, Orlean Beeson School of Education, School of Health Professions, Cumberland School of Law, Moffett & Sanders School of Nursing, McWhorter School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health.

History of Beeson Divinity School

On February 9, 1988, the Board of Trustees of Samford University authorized the establishment of the School of Divinity beginning in the 1988-1989 academic session. In one sense, this action fulfilled the founding purpose of the University adopted in 1841 which provided for "the establishment of a Theological Institution, connected with the college hereinafter established."

In December 1988, the Samford Board of Trustees voted to name the school the Beeson School of Divinity in honor of Ralph Waldo Beeson and his late father, John Wesley Beeson. Ralph Beeson provided what was, at that time, the largest gift from a living individual in Samford history to establish the first divinity school at a Baptist college or university in the nation. It was Mr. Beeson's desire that the school be interdenominational and evangelical in character, providing a rigorous program for the preparation of ministers for the Church of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Timothy George served as founding dean of the school, stepping down from that position in 2019. Over the course of his 31 years of leadership, George helped to establish a solid foundation for the school, building a world-class faculty and graduating over 1,000 students to serve in Christian ministry around the globe.

Dr. Douglas Sweeney has served as dean of Beeson Divinity School since 2019. With 19 full-time faculty members and a staff of 15, Beeson offers the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theological Studies, Master of Arts in Christian Counseling, Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy in Theology for the Church.

Accreditation

Beeson Divinity School at Samford University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to award the following degrees:

- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS)
- Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theology for the Church

For questions or concerns about the accreditation of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, contact:

Southern Association of Colleges
and Schools Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
404-679-4500
www.sacscoc.org

The Commission on Accrediting
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
412-788-6505
www.ats.edu

Distinctive Features

Beeson Divinity School is a community of believers and scholars, offering students a unique opportunity to combine both faith and learning. Students are thoroughly grounded in the classical doctrines and traditions of the Christian faith. The Word of God is taught, believed and lived by faculty and students.

The divinity school is explicitly evangelical, standing without apology for the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy. Faculty and students stress by word and example a life of prayer, devotion and Christian growth. At Beeson Divinity School, spiritual formation goes hand-in-hand with intellectual development.

The program of study offers comprehensive preparation for the tasks demanded by ministry in the world today. The presence of more than 700 congregations in the greater Birmingham area means all students have an opportunity to learn ministry through a mentoring relationship with an experienced church leader. Through weekly chapel services and special guest lecturers, students have opportunities to interface with the finest preachers, scholars and Christian leaders in the evangelical community. The annual Reformation Heritage Lectures, the Biblical Studies Lectures, and the William E. Conger Jr. Lectures on Biblical Preaching feature outstanding theological scholars of the evangelical tradition. Other conferences throughout the year provide additional opportunities for ongoing learning and inspiration.

Students are important at Beeson Divinity School. Because of the low faculty-student ratio, students receive personal attention through ongoing interaction with professors. Faculty members are experts in their fields of study and are committed to the Word of God and the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual and Community Life

The development of spiritual life within Christian community is as essential for theological students as academic development and practical skill enhancement. Weekly chapel services are a time of gathering as a community of faith for corporate worship. Students are expected to attend, and offices are closed so that all faculty, staff and students can attend. The worship experience is followed by community lunch in the Student Commons. Faculty members lead weekly mentoring groups structured to include prayer, focused meditations, Scripture reading and sharing. Participation is required for all full-time students.

Additional opportunities for encouraging and developing personal spiritual discipline, as well as courses offered in spiritual formation, are integral strands to the overall tapestry of Christian community life at Beeson Divinity School.

Expectations/Regulations

The Samford University community affirms the value of a peaceful and purposeful community founded on the moral and ethical integrity of students and faculty. Because of our strong commitment to the Christian values on which the university was founded, reasonable expectations of student behavior are necessary for contributing to a healthy and quality environment. Using principles of fundamental fairness, students are held accountable for their actions that violate our stated values. The *Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook* contains the statement of values, minimum sanctions for inappropriate behavior and the appeal procedure.

Housing

The divinity school does not own or provide housing for students. Most divinity students choose to live in one of the numerous apartment complexes near the Samford campus. Single student housing on campus is reserved for undergraduates at Samford.

Library

Davis Library, centrally located on campus, furnishes divinity school faculty and students with a mixture of group seating, study rooms and individual carrels for quiet study. Utilizing funds drawn from the Beeson endowment, several million dollars have been spent to build the library's theological holdings. Materials necessary for reference, research, independent study and recreational reading have been carefully added since the school's inception.

The entire public staff of the Davis Library is available to all students. Circulation, reference and interlibrary loan departmental staffs are available throughout library hours. Extensive library hours include weekends and late evenings during the week.

The divinity school also enjoys the services of a theological librarian, who oversees collection development and provides research support to faculty, staff and students.

University Health Services

Samford University, in partnership with MedHelp, is pleased to provide healthcare services to our campus community. In partnership with MedHelp, Samford's on-campus Health Center is staffed by a physician and a nurse practitioner during regular operating hours. Students and employees also have access to MedHelp's five locations in Birmingham after hours and on weekends. The Health Center accepts walk-ins throughout the day; appointments are also available. To make an appointment, call 205-726-2835.

Samford graduate students who are enrolled in at least six credit hours are eligible to participate in the Student Health Plan. For full details on student health insurance (including coverages and premiums), please visit samford.myahpcare.com or call 205-726-2916.

Location

Samford University is located in picturesque Shades Valley, six miles from the heart of Birmingham, one of Alabama's largest cities and the state's industrial, business and cultural center. Divinity school students enjoy the best of two worlds—an environmental setting for study, contemplation and social enjoyment and easy access to the varied offerings of a metropolitan area.

As a university-based divinity school, Beeson Divinity School offers students the opportunity to be involved in the larger community of a vibrant university. Divinity school students can fully participate in the activities of the university, including recreational facilities, concerts, theatrical productions, art exhibitions, lectures, recitals and sporting events.

Student Services

The Director of Student Services serves as a resource to students and provides guidance in accessing available counseling services and other appropriate services. Student Services also provides oversight and support to Beeson's Student Government Association (SGA) and the Minority Student Fellowship (MSF). These and other divinity student organizations provide additional opportunities for social interaction and community building. Student concerns and suggestions can be addressed through these groups as well.

Placement

The divinity school assists students and alumni in their efforts to seek and secure positions of service in vocational Christian ministry. The placement coordinator provides vocational counseling, assistance with resume development and interview preparation by appointment. The school maintains a list of available part-time and full-time ministry positions and regularly hosts representatives from churches and ministry organizations for recruiting visits at the divinity school.

The placement office also coordinates a Vocational Guidance Initiative which provides structured vocational mentoring to masters students throughout their time at Beeson. For additional information about placement services, go to beesondivinity.com/placement or call 205-726-2337.

The Global Center

Beeson Divinity School's Global Center exists to encourage, connect and equip Samford University's campus and the church for cross-cultural and global mission. The Global Center hosts regular lecture events, prayer meetings and fellowship events for students, faculty and staff to build cross-cultural awareness and inform visitors about major issues in world missions and global Christianity.

The newly-renovated Global Center exhibit area highlights major figures in cross-cultural Christian witness throughout history, as well as major issues of global concern for 21st century cross-cultural workers. The resource room hosts a small library of books and periodicals on global missions and more that is available for student use. Additionally, the space includes a hospitality station with coffee and tea to welcome students and visitors, and features multiple seating areas for study, fellowship or events.

The Global Center facilitates the short-term cross-cultural ministry practicum (CCMP) required for MDiv Students. In addition, the center oversees the Missions Certificate, an emphasis program with special electives and requirements designed to equip and mobilize students discerning a call to cross-cultural ministry. For more information, visit beesondivinity.com/global-center.

The Center for Women in Ministry

The Center for Women in Ministry at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School exists to encourage and equip women called to Christian ministry and to serve as a resource for the Church of Jesus Christ for the edification of the Church and for the thriving of women in ministry. The Center holds to the commitments of Beeson Divinity School and does not advocate for a complementarian or egalitarian theological position as such, but rather assists all women in evangelical, Protestant churches (whether complementarian or egalitarian) for the sake of flourishing in ministry.

Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute

The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute at Beeson Divinity School exists to serve and strengthen the whole person in relation to God, the church, other preachers and the world for faithful proclamation of God's Word. It seeks to do this by increasing knowledge and understanding as a preacher, deepening formation as a Christian and preacher, and strengthening competence and skill in the practice of preaching.

The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute began in fall 2018 and is named in honor of longtime Beeson faculty member and renowned preacher Dr. Robert Smith Jr. The Preaching Institute is funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

FACULTY



Gordon C. Bals

Associate Professor of Divinity
Pastoral Care and Counseling
BS, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
MA, Colorado Christian University
EdD, University of Sarasota



Gerald L. Bray

Research Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
BA, McGill University
MLitt, DLitt, University of Paris–Sorbonne



Joshua D. Chatraw

Assistant Professor and Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism and
Cultural Engagement
BBA, Georgia Southern University
MDiv, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
PhD, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



D. Mark DeVine

Associate Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
BS, Clemson University
MDiv, PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



Thomas L. Fuller

Associate Dean, Director of Thriving Pastors Institute
Pastoral Leadership
BA, Samford University
MDiv, DMin, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
PhD, University of Alabama

FACULTY



Timothy F. George

Distinguished Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
AB, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
MDiv, Harvard Divinity School
ThD, Harvard University



Mark S. Gignilliat

Professor of Divinity, Director of PhD program
Old Testament
BA, Bob Jones University
MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary
PhD, University of St. Andrews, Scotland



H.H. (Chip) Hardy

Associate Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
BA, University of Oklahoma
MDiv, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
MA, PhD, University of Chicago



Alexander T. Kirk

Assistant Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
BA, University of Florida
MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando
MA, University of Toronto
PhD, Durham University



Stefana Dan Laing

Associate Professor of Divinity
Theological Librarian
History and Doctrine, Spiritual Formation
BA, Macquarie University
MDiv, PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

FACULTY



Jonathan Linebaugh

Associate Professor and Anglican Chair of Divinity
BS, Messiah College
MDiv, Trinity School for Ministry
PhD, University of Durham, United Kingdom



Piotr J. Małysz

Associate Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
BA, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań Poland
MDiv, Concordia Theological Seminary
ThD, Harvard University



Osvaldo Padilla

Professor of Divinity
New Testament
BA, Moody Bible Institute
MA, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
PhD, University of Aberdeen, Scotland



David Parks

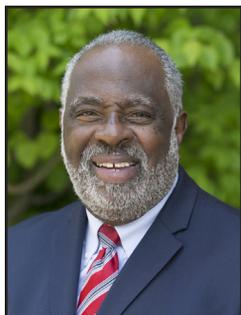
Director of the Global Center and Contextual Learning
Christian Missions
BA, Samford University
MDiv, Beeson Divinity School
PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



M. Sydney Park

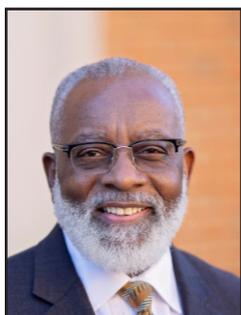
Associate Professor of Divinity
New Testament
BA, University of Chicago
MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary
ThM, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
PhD, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

FACULTY



Robert Smith, Jr.

Distinguished Professor of Divinity
Christian Preaching
AS, God's Bible College
BS, Cincinnati Bible College
MDiv, PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Doctor of Sacred Theology (Hon.), Temple Community Bible College



Ronald D. Sterling

Lecturer in Pastoral Studies
Director of Student Services and Placement Services
Spiritual Formation
BS, Southern University
MDiv, DMin, Beeson Divinity School



Douglas A. Sweeney

Dean, Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
BA, Wheaton College
MA, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
MA, PhD, Vanderbilt University



Frank S. Thielman

Professor and Presbyterian Chair of Divinity
New Testament
BA, Wheaton College
BA, MA, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
PhD, Duke University



Douglas D. Webster

Professor of Divinity
Pastoral Theology, Christian Preaching
BA, MA, Wheaton College
PhD, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto School of Theology, Canada

STAFF



Caleb Craft
Director of Enrollment Management and Academic Support



Neal Embry
Marketing and Communication Manager



Dr. Gary Fenton
Development Officer



Brady Graves
Program Manager
Spirit and Power Project



Victoria Graves
Programs Administrator



Emily Knight
Recruitment Coordinator and Alumni Relations Officer



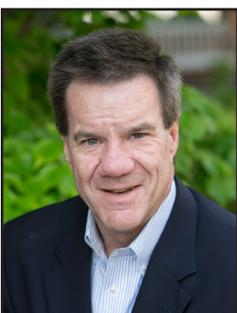
Melissa Matthews
Administrative Assistant
Associate Dean's Office



Valerie Merrill
Administrative Assistant to the Faculty



Evan Musgraves
Research Assistant



James C. Pounds Jr.
Director of Operations



Anna Russell
Events Coordinator
Director of the Center for Women in Ministry



Callie Trombley
Program Assistant
Global Center



Rob Willis
Media and Technology Manager



Michele Wilson-Morris
Administrative Assistant to the Dean



Kyle Young
Director of Admission and Alumni Relations

Part-time Faculty

Brad Boswell

BA, Union University
MTS, Boston College
MA, PhD, Duke University
Visiting Assistant Professor, Samford University

Reginald Calvert

BA, Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College;
MDiv, DMin, Beeson Divinity School
Pastor, New Jerusalem Baptist Church

David Eldridge

BA, Mississippi College
MDiv, Beeson Divinity School
PhD, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

L. Melissa Carlisle Golden

BA, Samford University
MA, ThM, PhD, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
President and Licensed Counselor, Transformational Counseling, Inc.

Zac Hicks

BA, Biola University
MDiv, Denver Seminary
DMin, Knox Theological Seminary
Pastor, Church of the Cross

John D. Laing

BS, University of North Carolina (Charlotte)
MDiv, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Senior Command Chaplain, Texas Military Department

Scott Leveille

BS, University of Alabama at Birmingham
MDiv, Beeson Divinity School
PhD, University of Toronto

S. Randy Todd

BA, Furman University
MA, PhD, Vanderbilt University
Professor, Samford University

Collin Hansen

BSJ, Northwestern University
MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Vice President and Editor in Chief, The Gospel Coalition

ADMISSION

Beeson Divinity School of Samford University admits qualified men and women of any Protestant Christian denomination, race, color and national or ethnic origin, without regard to physical disability. The decision to admit a student rests with the admission committee, appointed by the associate dean of the divinity school. The admission committee selects each entering class from applicants whose prior academic performance gives the strongest promise of success in the chosen degree program and whose application data and interview indicate the most promise of effective leadership in Christian ministry and compatibility with the community and spiritual life of the divinity school. Admission is also based on the following considerations.

1. **Christian Character**—as evidenced by membership and active participation in the life of a church, recommendation by Christian leaders and compatibility with the stated purposes of the divinity school.
2. **Commitment to Ministry**—as evidenced by an endorsement from a congregation or church governing body, a personal statement of call to ministry, a description of past and current involvement in ministry and clearly stated vocational goals.
3. **Academic Preparation**—as evidenced by a command of the English language in the admission essays and prior academic history. Candidates for the MDiv, MATS, and MACC degrees must possess a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Candidates for the Master of Theology (ThM) must possess a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited school whose standards are similar to those of Beeson Divinity School. Additionally, ThM candidates must have a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all previous graduate coursework. Previous studies in Hebrew and/or Greek may be required, as appropriate to research interest. See page 20 for PhD requirements. Admission for all programs is competitive.
4. **Willingness to Engage Fully**—in the curricular and co-curricular life of the Beeson Divinity School community. Engagement in all aspects of Beeson's community life, both inside and outside the classroom, is vital to students' formation for faithful ministry leadership. In admission decisions, preference is given to applicants who commit to full-time study (9-12 credit hours per semester) and to attend the weekly chapel service (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meeting (Thursdays at 11 a.m.)

Admission Procedures

Candidates for admission must complete all components of the application before the deadline date corresponding to the term in which they plan to enroll. The administrative staff of the divinity school is eager to help applicants move through the admission process as easily as possible.

Master's Degree Application

Admission/Scholarship Deadlines

There are two application cycles for all master's degrees.* Persons who complete an application by the priority deadline for the respective entry term will be considered first for admission and scholarship. Admission and scholarship decision letters are typically sent within one month of each priority deadline to those who complete an application by the deadline. Those who apply after the priority deadline but before the final deadline will receive admission and scholarship decision letters on a rolling basis, typically within one month of completing the application.

Fall Entry Term

Priority Deadline: February 1

Final Deadline: June 1

Spring Entry Term

Priority Deadline: September 1

Final Deadline: December 1

**MACC students who begin in spring will be restricted to six credit hours and not permitted to begin DVCO-prefixed courses until their first fall semester.*

Application Requirements

All items on this checklist must be received by the application deadline. Further instruction is given on the online application.

- **Online Application Form**

- **Essay(s)***

Personal Faith and Vocation Essay

Master of Divinity (MDiv) applicants who wish to be considered for a tier one scholarship must also write an essay on the Apostles' Creed.

Master of Theology (ThM) applicants must also submit an academic writing sample (3000-5000 words) from within the past five years.

**See online application for essay prompts*

- **Recommendations**

Academic recommendation completed by a college- or graduate-level instructor

Character recommendation completed by a pastor, church member, campus minister, mentor or employer who can speak to your Christian character and calling to ministry; cannot be a family member or peer

Church endorsement completed by your senior pastor or a full-time church elder or minister; cannot be a family member

- **Admission Interview**

MDiv and MATS applicants are responsible for scheduling an interview with the admission staff prior to the application deadline. In-person interviews on Samford's campus are preferred, but Zoom interviews are acceptable. Schedule your interview through the application portal.

MACC and ThM candidates will not schedule an interview during the application process. Final candidates will be invited to interview later.

- **Official transcript(s)**

Official transcripts from all institutions attended since high school graduation. Please see the application portal for instructions about how to send the transcripts.

- **\$35 non-refundable fee**

The fee may be paid by credit card when submitting online application. The fee is waived for graduates and employees of Samford University and students who attend a Preview Day or an official campus visit.

Admission Requirements for Students without an Accredited Bachelor's Degree

A stated requirement for admission to a master's degree program at Beeson Divinity School is a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. However, accrediting standards allow for admission of students without an accredited bachelor's degree, not to exceed ten percent of the total enrollment in a program. Applicants who do not hold an accredited bachelor's degree must meet the following criteria:

1. Have obtained an associate's degree or the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution *OR* have obtained a bachelor's degree or its equivalent from a non-accredited institution
2. Have accrued at least ten years of professional work experience
3. Demonstrate organization and responsibility in their interactions with the admission staff during the application process
4. Demonstrate the ability to write clearly and coherently in the Personal Faith and Vocation Essay

Additionally, applicants who do not hold an accredited bachelor's degree must write and submit an additional essay (on the Apostles Creed) to further demonstrate their ability to produce written work at the graduate level.

Students who meet these criteria will be considered for admission. If granted admission, the following terms shall apply:

1. The student will be admitted provisionally, which requires:
 - a. enrolling in the free Foundations of Theological Education course prior to the start of the first semester,
 - b. taking no more than nine credit hours during the first semester, and
 - c. scheduling check-in appointments with the director of enrollment management and academic support during the first semester.
2. The student will not be eligible to receive the John Wesley Beeson Scholarship or any tier-one scholarships during the first year of enrollment. However, students will, at minimum, receive the Ralph Waldo Beeson tuition scholarship during the first year of full-time enrollment.

Background Check

In the interest of maintaining a safe learning environment for divinity students, all acceptance decisions are conditional upon the applicant's successful completion of a criminal background check. If the admission committee has offered admission to a candidate, the candidate's decision letter will provide detailed instructions for initiating the criminal background check. These confidential checks are conducted by an authorized third party and are provided at no cost to the applicant.

Part-time Enrollment

Part-time enrollment for master's degree programs is defined as less than nine (9) credit hours in a fall or spring semester. In admission decisions, preference is given to applicants who commit to studying on a full-time basis (9-12 credit hours per semester). All full-time students are required to attend weekly chapel services (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meetings (Thursdays at 11 a.m.). Part-time students are strongly encouraged to do the same. To be considered for admission for part-time study, applicants must explain their reasons for wishing to study part-time during the admission interview. Students studying on a part-time basis are not eligible for scholarship assistance. Additionally, students who are enrolled for fewer than nine (9) credit hours in any regular semester must pay the per-credit-hour tuition rate for courses taken.

Additional information regarding part-time enrollment at Beeson Divinity School can be found on page 32.

Doctoral Degree Application

Admission Standards

Admission to the PhD program is competitive. Applicants for admission must possess a strong record of achievement in previous graduate theological studies and evidence capacity for success in doctoral-level studies. They must demonstrate commitment to the Christian faith, Christian character and maturity, orthodox and confessional doctrinal convictions, and a desire to serve the church of Jesus Christ. To this end, they must be able to articulate coherently their research interests and vocational objectives.

Consideration for admission will be given to applicants who hold a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree or its educational equivalent from an ATS-accredited school, with a GPA of 3.5 or above. Consideration may be given to applicants who do not hold the MDiv degree if, in the view of the admission committee, the applicant's previous graduate theological studies include sufficient coverage of the theological disciplines to prepare them well for research doctoral studies. Acceptable candidates for admission will have completed a minimum of six hours of graduate course work in the biblical languages. Competence in the biblical languages and any modern research languages pertinent to research interests must be demonstrated before comprehensive exams.

PhD Application Dates

The spring application window opens on April 1 and closes on August 1. Admission decisions are made and communicated in September. Those accepting offers of admission must submit a nonrefundable enrollment confirmation deposit of \$200 by October 15.

The fall application window opens on October 1 and closes on February 1. Admission decisions are made and communicated in March. Those accepting offers of admission must submit a nonrefundable enrollment confirmation deposit of \$200 by April 11.

PhD Application Requirements

All items on this checklist must be completed and received by the application deadline. Further instruction is given on the online application.

- Completed online application and \$35 application fee (waived for BDS graduates)
- Official transcripts from all schools attended since high school
- Ministry resume or *curriculum vitae*
- Three letters of recommendation: two academic recommendations and one pastoral/church recommendation.
- An academic writing sample (3,000-5,000 words) from within the last five years
- Two essays:

Statement of intended research interest (1,000-1,500 words): the admission committee recognizes students will circle around various dissertation ideas when discerning their research topic. This statement seeks an understanding of the student's general field of interest for the dissertation (e.g., Patristics or Pauline Epistles), aiding the committee in its assigning of faculty supervisors. Also, this statement should demonstrate the applicant's awareness of the particular field they wish to engage at the dissertation level.

Statement of motivation and purpose for the degree (1,000-1,500 words): this essay provides the admission committee with an understanding of the student's motivation for postgraduate study (i.e., "why" and "for what purpose"). It is important for the student to craft this essay in conversation with the program overview.

International Students

Beeson Divinity School recognizes the importance of a multinational and multicultural student body and welcomes admission applications from international students. International applicants are encouraged to allow six months for completing the application process due to the steps involved. International applicants must submit the following materials to Beeson Divinity School along with the standard application materials described above:

1. An official transcript of academic work that has been evaluated by World Education Services (wes.org) from each secondary school and college or university attended
2. Before completing an application for admission to a master's degree program at Beeson Divinity School, applicants whose native language is not English must submit one of the following English proficiency test scores to the admission office:
 - TOEFL
 - o iBT: 90 or above
 - o Computer: 232 or above
 - o Paper: 575 or above
 - IELTS: 6.5 or above
 - Duolingo: 120 or above

Once the above material is completed, an international prospect may begin the standard application process.

Note: Samford University can only issue F-1 or J-1 visas to international students who are admitted to the MDiv or MATS programs.

TOEFL Waiver

In some instances, an applicant may request that the TOEFL requirement be waived. Beeson Divinity School will consider all such requests on a case-by-case basis. A waiver may be granted by Beeson's director of admission if at least three of the following criteria are met:

1. Students are transferring from another degree program offered in English.
2. A student received his or her primary and secondary education at an English-speaking institution.
3. A student received his or her undergraduate (bachelor's level) education at an English-speaking institution.
4. English is a national language of the country in which the student is a citizen.
5. English is the national language of the country in which the student has been a resident for the last three years.
6. The student's application essay demonstrates proficiency in the English language.
7. The student demonstrates proficiency in the English language during his or her application interview.

Students must submit a course-by-course evaluation of all academic work through the WES before receiving a waiver for English proficiency test scores.

In cases of uncertainty regarding an applicant's English language proficiency, an applicant may be asked to provide an additional writing sample. The decision of Beeson's director of admission is final and not subject to further appeal.

Important Financial and Visa Information for International Students

Following an admission decision, the applicant will need to complete the Affidavit of Financial Support, including an official bank statement. The USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) requires proof of funds totaling approximately \$30,000 (minus any scholarship assistance) in order for an I-20 to be processed. Therefore it is recommended that funding be secured before the completion of the application process. Please contact Jennifer Beck (jlbeck@samford.edu) if you have any questions.

The United States Information Agency's insurance regulations for J visa holders require international students and their dependents to have and maintain health insurance during residency in the United States. Proof of coverage is required before registering for classes. The law mandates that Samford University must deny student status to international students who do not continue to comply. Information about specific carriers, minimum coverages, and premium costs is available from Samford University Health Services.

Transfer Students

Beeson Divinity School accepts transfer credit hours earned at accredited graduate institutions prior to admission to Beeson Divinity School. Students who desire to transfer credits to Beeson should submit to the office of the associate dean a letter specifying the courses for which they desire credit, syllabi and catalog descriptions for the courses, and official copies of transcripts. More information is available under "Transfer Credit" (p. 33).

Students Seeking Readmission

Applicants for readmission are evaluated along with first-time applicants for available spaces in any given term. This is a competitive process, with the readmission applicant's previous academic performance at Beeson Divinity School weighing heavily in the admission committee's evaluation. Students who have not been enrolled at Beeson Divinity School for more than one year (or who have transferred from Beeson Divinity School to another institution for any period of time) and who wish to be considered for readmission to Beeson must submit the following:

1. New application form
2. Official transcripts of credits earned since leaving Beeson Divinity School, if applicable
3. Essay explaining why the student's studies at Beeson Divinity School were interrupted and why the applicant wishes to be considered for admission again

To be considered for fall re-enrollment, the application deadline is June 1. For spring re-enrollment, the application deadline is December 1. Students who are readmitted must follow the curriculum requirements specified in the catalog for the academic year in which the student resumes enrollment at Beeson Divinity School. The divinity school may set additional requirements for readmitted students, all of which will be included in the readmission letter, along with scholarship information as applicable.

Transient Students

Beeson Divinity School accepts transient students who are regularly enrolled in graduate programs at other schools but wish to take a course(s) at Beeson Divinity School. A transient student application can be secured from the Office of Admission for any term. A transient student applicant must be in good academic standing with the school at which he or she is regularly enrolled to be considered for enrollment in a course(s) at Beeson Divinity School. Transient applications must be received at least four weeks before the beginning of the term to be attended. If admitted, transient students will pay the applicable per credit hour rate for that term.

Visitors

The Visitor Program is available to people who would like to enrich their faith and their ministry, to students who need additional study of a course they have previously taken for credit, and to students who desire to supplement their course work. This program is not available to prospective students. A limited number of visitors may be admitted. Visitors are not allowed in certain courses. Professors have the prerogative to allow or prohibit visitors in any course. No records are kept, and visitors receive no grades or credit for courses. Interested individuals must apply directly to the divinity school through the associate dean's office for each course.

Non-degree Seeking Students

Students who wish to take courses at Beeson but who do not wish to obtain a degree should use the same application process as the other master's degree candidates. On the Enrollment Information tab of the online application, students will select the "non-degree seeking" option. If admitted, non-degree seeking students must submit a letter of intent, the standard \$200 non-refundable deposit, and a background check to confirm their enrollment. These students should also expect to participate in New Student Orientation and abide by the student policies outlined in the student handbook.

Students may take a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours cumulatively under non-degree-seeking status. Non degree-seeking students will pay the per-credit-hour tuition rate and are not eligible for Beeson scholarships. Although attending chapel and participating in a mentor group is not required, we recommend participating when possible as these events help students become an active part of the Beeson community.

Non-degree students may request to become degree-seeking students by submitting a letter to the associate dean by the application deadline for the first semester during which a student wishes to be a degree-seeking student (June 1 for fall enrollment, December 1 for spring enrollment).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
Degree Programs Tuition and Fees
 (as of 2024-25)

Endowment earnings and student tuition primarily support the programs of the divinity school. Tuition scholarships are awarded annually to all full-time students who meet the academic requirements.

Tuition per semester for Master’s programs

full-time, 9–12 credits (MDiv, MACC, and ThM)	\$8,743
full-time, 9–13 credits (MATS)	\$8,743
per-credit rate applies beyond 12 credits (MDiv, MACC and ThM) or 13 credits (MATS)	

Tuition per credit, for Master’s programs*

fall and spring terms	\$832
May and summer terms	\$411

A student pays the per credit rate when taking fewer than nine credits or more than 12 (M.Div. / Th.M.) or 13 (M.A.T.S.) credits per semester.

**Th.M. students who enroll in PhD seminars will pay the doctoral program per-credit hour tuition for PhD seminars*

Tuition per trimester, PhD

spring, summer, and fall terms	\$3,213
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Tuition per credit, PhD

spring, summer, and fall terms	\$918 per credit hour
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Fees

Application (nonrefundable)	\$35
Returned check	\$30
Auto decal (fall and spring only)	\$30
Books and supplies (estimated)	\$800–900/year
University Fee	
Fall and spring	\$450
May and summer	\$285
Continuation fee (PhD only; after 12 semesters)	\$1,000/semester
Dissertation fee (PhD only)	\$500

Terms of Payment

All admitted students must submit a \$200 Enrollment Confirmation Deposit to complete the admission process. The deposit is nonrefundable and is applied toward the student’s account. Failure to submit the deposit when accepting a place in the entering class forfeits the student’s admission to Beeson Divinity School.

All student charges are payable each term on or before the due date. Students are responsible for seeing that payments are made. If needed, loan arrangements for meeting this responsibility are between the student and the supporting financial institutions. Fees not paid by the financing companies must be remitted by the student on the scheduled due dates.

The student is urged to make any necessary financial arrangements well in advance of due dates. Students who do not pay their bill by the due date are subject to having their registration canceled until payment is received. A student may be reinstated by paying their balance in full, which will include a \$100 reinstatement fee. Following this payment, an electronic clearance slip will be sent from the Bursar's Office to the Registrar to re-establish a student's class schedule. Students who are in arrears to any department or enterprise of the university, or past due on any school-affiliated loan program, may not be permitted to receive reports of grades, transcripts or a diploma.

Tuition Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education

Students who wish to complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) for credit toward a Beeson Divinity School degree program must first apply for admission to a qualified CPE program and gain acceptance by that program before registering for the divinity school course (see details on page 54). In addition to the tuition and fees charged by Samford University for the course, the CPE program will typically charge tuition as well. Beeson Divinity School will pay the tuition charged by a CPE program, up to a maximum of \$350. Payment will be made to the program upon receipt of an invoice submitted to Beeson Divinity School by an approved vendor.

Refund Policy

The refund policy of the divinity school is that of the university. It is the university's (not the divinity school's) academic calendar that applies when refunds are calculated. See page 34 for the official process for withdrawing. For more information on these policies, please contact Samford's One Stop at 205-726-2905.

Drop and Add Policy and Refunds

Drops and adds are changes in a schedule that do not involve complete withdrawal from the university. **During** the drop/add period of any semester or term, if a schedule change results in a reduction of total credits below full-time status (nine credits), the student's tuition will be changed to the part-time rate, and the student will forfeit BDS tuition scholarship awards. **After** the drop/add period of any term, if a schedule change results in a reduction of total credits below full-time status (nine credits), the student forfeits the tuition scholarship award(s) and must immediately pay back the scholarship that was awarded for the semester, therefore paying the total tuition at the full-time rate. Dropping a course after the drop/add period will not result in a reduction of charges for tuition or fees, unless it results in withdrawal from the university, in which case the university's tuition refund schedule applies.

Appeals to Refund Policies

Students who believe that they have individual circumstances warranting an exception to published refund policies may appeal the application of the policy. To appeal, the student should contact: Office of the Registrar, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229; registrar@samford.edu

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available in the form of federal student loans and federal work-study jobs. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine eligibility for need-based aid in either of these forms. The FAFSA may be completed online at fafsa.gov. Processing time for the FAFSA can take up to four weeks. Students must complete the FAFSA annually (i.e., for each new academic year of study). Eligibility for need-based aid is determined year by year. Questions or requests for assistance with financial aid matters should be directed to the Samford University One Stop office (onestop@samford.edu | 205-726-2905).

Scholarships for MATS, MACC, and ThM Students

All full-time students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS), the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC), or the Master of Theology (ThM) programs will receive the Ralph Waldo Beeson scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 per semester.* The number of semesters the scholarship is awarded varies depending on the degree program.

*ThM students will pay the doctoral program per-credit-hour tuition rate for any PhD seminars in which they enroll. Additionally, the Ralph Waldo Beeson scholarship will be pro-rated for any full-time ThM student enrolled in less than 9 master's level credit hours during a fall or spring semester.

Scholarships for MDiv Students

Only students enrolled for full-time study (nine credit hours or more per semester) may receive scholarship assistance. Students must be fully admitted before a scholarship award is made. A student's application for admission to Beeson is also an application for scholarships. Therefore, students should present their best writing and recommendations in the application process.

The amount of MDiv scholarship assistance covers anywhere from 25% to 100% of the full-time tuition rate. On average, scholarships cover approximately half of the tuition cost for full-time MDiv students.

Tier one scholarships are the most competitive, covering anywhere from 55% to 100% of full-time tuition cost. Consideration for these scholarships requires an additional essay on the Apostles' Creed.

To qualify for consideration for a tier one scholarship, students must have:

- An undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale)
- Strong Christian character and ministry leadership potential, demonstrated in previous roles of service in church and/or community
- Expressed commitment to enter vocational Christian service upon graduation

Applicants who complete all requirements by the priority deadline (February 1 for fall entry, September 1 for spring entry) will be considered first for admission and scholarship. The admission and scholarship committee will review all applications. If necessary, finalists for tier one scholarships will be invited to an additional interview with members of the admission and scholarship committee.

While it is the school's intention for the scholarship amount initially awarded to remain consistent for the duration of a student's study at Beeson, the school reserves the right to adjust the scholarship amount each academic year. The director of enrollment management and academic support services will inform students annually of their scholarship award for the coming academic year.

Applicants can view the full list of Beeson scholarships at [BeesonDivinity.com/scholarships-tuition-and-fees](https://www.beesondivinity.com/scholarships-tuition-and-fees).

To remain eligible for Beeson tuition scholarships, students must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress, attend weekly chapel services, attend weekly faculty mentored group meetings, and attend the annual lecture series. Satisfactory academic progress is defined as maintaining the minimum GPA, each semester and cumulatively, for full-time study (nine credits or more, per semester), as required for the scholarship received. Applicable GPA requirements are included in scholarship descriptions within students' admission and scholarship letters. Students are expected to attend weekly chapel services unless providentially hindered from doing so. Likewise, students are expected to attend the weekly faculty mentored group meetings. Eighty percent (80%) attendance is required each semester.

Other Sources of Financial Assistance

In addition to scholarships and federal loans, other sources of financial assistance include:

- Assistantships—Each academic year, a limited number of student assistantships are available. Student assistants receive a semester stipend based on performance of duties assigned by a faculty or staff member. Assistants normally are expected to work three to eight hours per week, depending on whether the assistance load is "full-time" or "half time."
- Veteran's Benefits—Veterans of the Armed Forces may be eligible for one of several types of educational assistance. Details are available from Samford's One Stop at 205-726-2905 or 800-888-7245.
- External Sources—Many denominations and agencies offer varying types and amounts of aid. Beeson Divinity School makes every effort to stay alert to these sources. Students are expected, however, to determine their eligibility and to apply for such aid as appropriate.
- Student Employment - Students have several opportunities at Beeson and the wider Samford community for employment through Federal Work Study (FWS) and the Institutional Student Employment Program (ISEP). Visit [samford.edu/admission/student-employment](https://www.samford.edu/admission/student-employment) for more information about campus jobs.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Beeson Divinity School operates on a semester system. The academic year is comprised of two semesters (fall and spring), an interterm (early January), and four summer terms. Credits earned for each course are expressed as semester credits. Masters students must be enrolled for at least nine credits to be classified as full time. No student may take more than 12 credits (MDiv, MACC and ThM) or 13 credits (MATS) without special permission from the associate dean.

Students graduate under the requirements stated in the Beeson Divinity School catalog at the time of entering the program, provided they do not withdraw longer than two consecutive semesters. If course requirements change while a student is pursuing the degree, the student may elect to graduate under the new requirements. Upon choosing this option, the student must meet all the new requirements.

Entering students are required to participate in an orientation session. Orientation is conducted before the beginning of classes in fall and spring semesters.

Current students should also refer to the BDS Student Handbook for further details on academic policies.

Academic Appeals

The procedure for registering an academic appeal is available from the office of the associate dean and in the Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook.

Advanced Standing

Students who believe they have competence in the subject of a required course may request permission in writing from the associate dean to substitute another course. The request must be accompanied by transcripts and syllabi of relevant courses. Students may be required to demonstrate competency through a written and/or oral examination. When awarded, advanced standing is without credit; the total number of academic credits required for a degree is not reduced.

Class Attendance

Attendance in all classes is both required and expected. Nevertheless, it is sometimes the case that a student will miss class due to circumstances beyond their control. When a student is absent for such a reason, that student must inform the professor as soon as possible and provide whatever documentation the professor requires to support the claim. While there may be multiple reasons for an absence (e.g., illness, medical condition, accident), mission trips and/or other ministry-related opportunities are not considered a sufficient reason to miss class. The professor is not required to allow a student to make up any work missed as a result of an absence.

Changing Degree Programs

Students wishing to transfer between degree programs must submit a request in writing to the office of the associate dean. Requests must take the form of a 1–2 page essay explaining the rationale for the transfer specifically addressing changes in one's vocational plans. Such requests must be received by the standard deadline date for applications for admission for the following semester. See Student Handbook for further details.

Cross-Registration

Divinity students may not register for courses in other academic divisions of Samford University without permission of the academic deans in both areas.

Degrees Taken in Sequence

When students enroll for the MDiv degree after having received the MATS or MACC degree at Beeson Divinity School, they are required to earn a minimum of 58 additional semester credits to receive the MDiv degree.

When students enroll for the MACC degree after having received the MATS or MDiv degree at Beeson Divinity School, they are required to earn a minimum of 24 additional semester credits to receive the MACC degree.

When students enroll for the ThM degree after having received the MDiv degree at Beeson Divinity School, they are required to earn a minimum of 24 additional semester credits to receive the ThM degree.

In every case, all normal requirements for the second degree must be met.

Directed Study

Directed studies allow advanced students to pursue in-depth a subject not regularly offered in the curriculum. These courses are offered at the associate dean and faculty member's discretion. Courses are for three credits. Directed study courses are open to all ThM students, MDiv students who have completed 32 semester credits, and MATS students who have completed 20 semester credits of Beeson Divinity School course work. Students must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for directed study. No more than six credits of directed study may be taken by MDiv students, and no more than three credits of directed study may be taken by MATS students during a student's divinity school career. Details are available in the associate dean's office. Requests are due by October 15 for spring semester and March 15 for fall semester.

Grading System

Academic achievement is graded on a system of letter grades with quality points assigned as follows:

A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+	3.3	D+	1.3
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	0.7
C+	2.3	F	0.0

A represents the highest proficiency.

A- represents slightly less than the highest proficiency.

B+ represents outstanding proficiency.

B represents ability and achievement of a high but second order.

B- represents ability and achievement of a high but third order.

C+ represents a better than average performance.

C shows average ability or achievement.

C- shows slightly below average achievement.

D+ shows performance slightly below average.

D reflects performance below average throughout the course.

D- reflects performance just above failing throughout the course.

F indicates failure and can be changed only if it is the result of a clerical error made by the institution.

FA is given to a student who is dropped from a course because of excessive absences or who withdraws without proper permission. It carries the same penalty as **F**.

FX indicates failure due to values violation. See the Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook.

INC An Incomplete (**INC**) may be awarded when a student has attended and is passing a course but, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete the requirements prior to the end of the semester. To be eligible for an incomplete, the student must have completed the majority of the coursework (e.g., 50 percent or more) with a passing grade. The student must request an Incomplete from the instructor prior to the final exam and provide a reason for the need.

The student is responsible for arranging with the instructor the necessary assignments to complete the course requirements without further class attendance. Students must complete the outstanding coursework within the following term. Failure to do so will result in an automatic **F**.

Z (no grade) is given when a faculty member does not assign a grade based on performance. The instructor must change a **Z** to the earned grade.

W indicates a student withdrew before the academic penalty period but was in good standing.

WF indicates a student withdrew during the academic penalty period and was failing the course. **WF** carries the same penalty as **F**.

Pass represents successful completion of requirements in a satisfactory fashion for a course offered on a pass-or-fail basis.

Fail indicates failure to complete requirements in a satisfactory fashion for a course offered on a pass-or-fail basis.

Note: The numerical value assigned to a letter grade is determined by the divinity school grading scale noted in each syllabus.

Leave of Absence

Students who wish to interrupt their studies may request a leave of absence for one semester, with the option of requesting a second semester. Leave of absence is granted by the associate dean. Time granted for such a leave does not count against the total time allowed for completion of a degree. Upon returning, a student may be expected to resume studies under the catalog requirements current at the time. Except in cases of emergency, requests are due by October 1 for spring semesters, and March 1 for fall semesters. Reapplication must be made for a second consecutive semester of leave.

A student on leave of absence must file a written statement of intent to resume studies by March 1 for the upcoming fall semester and by October 1 for the upcoming spring semester. Placement in desired classes and scholarship aid cannot be guaranteed otherwise. All grades of incomplete at the time leave is granted must be completed before studies can resume. A student who does not request and receive an approved temporary leave of absence must reapply for admission to the divinity school and meet all admission requirements in force at the time.

Because the MACC and PhD have required summer courses, students in these programs must also request a leave of absence for any summer term in which they do not enroll in a course. These requests are due by March 1. MDiv and MATS students are not required to request a leave of absence if they choose not to enroll in summer courses.

Non-course Load

Faculty strongly recommend that students who work concurrently with their theological studies limit themselves to no more than 20 hours per week of church or non-church employment during semesters in which they are registered as full-time students (nine or more credits per semester).

Part-time Studies

Part-time enrollment for master's degree programs is defined as less than nine (9) credit hours in a fall or spring semester. Unless admitted with permission to study on a part-time basis, students must obtain permission to change from full-time enrollment to part-time enrollment. This requires submitting a request to the associate dean's office, explaining the reason for wishing to change to part-time study.

MATS, MACC, and MDiv students studying on a part-time basis are not eligible for scholarship assistance. Additionally, students enrolled for less than nine (9) credit hours in any regular semester must pay the per-credit-hour tuition rate for courses taken. Part-time students are not required to attend the weekly chapel service (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meeting (Thursdays at 11 a.m.), but are strongly encouraged to do so.

Academic Probation/Suspension

Students who have attempted nine (9) or more semester credits must maintain a grade point average of 2.0. Regardless of a student's cumulative grade point average, failure to achieve a 2.0 grade point average in any semester will result in a student being placed on probation. Regardless of a student's cumulative grade point average, failure to achieve a 2.0 grade point average in a second consecutive semester will result in that student being required to withdraw. Students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 in two consecutive semesters will be required to withdraw even if their semester grade point average has not fallen below 2.0 in two consecutive semesters.

A student who has been required to withdraw will not be eligible to apply for readmission until one full semester has elapsed. Summer terms and interterms will not count as a semester for this purpose. During the time a student is required to withdraw, credit earned at another institution will not be accepted for credit toward requirements for graduation from Beeson Divinity School. Readmission is not automatic. Applications for readmission must be made by Oct. 1 for spring readmission and Mar. 1 for fall readmission.

Theses

Students in the ThM may complete a thesis to satisfy the writing component of the program. Students in the MDiv and MATS degree programs may wish to write a thesis for elective credit toward their degree requirements. Eligibility for thesis writing is restricted to ThM students, MATS students who have completed at least 20 hours of coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.25, and to MDiv students who have completed at least 48 hours of coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.25. A student must gain approval from the associate dean's office and the academic affairs committee, as well as the consent of two faculty members to act as supervisor and second reader of the thesis, before proceeding.

Guidelines for gaining approval to write a thesis and for writing the thesis are available from the office of the associate dean and in the Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook.

Transfer Credit

Beeson Divinity School accepts transfer credits earned at accredited graduate institutions prior to admission. Once accepted, students who desire a transfer credit evaluation should submit a letter requesting evaluation to the associate dean, along with official copies of transcripts to be evaluated and a syllabus for each course to be evaluated. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the associate dean.

For the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS), the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC), and the Master of Divinity (MDiv), Beeson Divinity School will accept for transfer from another accredited theological school no more than one-third of the credits required for the degree. In most cases, transfer credits must be applied before beginning work at Beeson Divinity School. The exact allowance of transfer credit is determined on an individual basis. Up to nine hours of course work may be completed at another institution after the student has begun work at Beeson Divinity School. Non-seminary graduate courses taken before enrollment in Beeson Divinity School may be considered for possible transfer credit provided the courses were taken within three years and can be viewed reasonably as contributing to the development of a student's degree program. Such transfer credit will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Normally, no more than 12 semester credits for non-seminary graduate courses will be granted toward an MDiv degree or six credits toward a MACC or MATS degree.

For the master of theology (ThM), Beeson Divinity School will accept for transfer from another accredited theological school no more than six credits required for the degree. All transfer credits must be applied before beginning work at Beeson Divinity School. The exact allowance of transfer credit is determined on an individual basis. No course work may be completed at another institution after the student has begun work at Beeson Divinity School.

For course work to be eligible for transfer, a student must have received a B- or above in the course. No less than two-thirds of the required credits of study for a degree must be completed in residence at Beeson Divinity School after the student has transferred all relevant previously earned credits. All decisions on transfer credits are made by the associate dean.

Withdrawal from Beeson Divinity School

Before withdrawing from the divinity school, a student must speak with the associate dean. The student may then complete the following process and procedures:

- Please see the director of enrollment management and academic support services to discuss university withdrawal. You will be directed to an online withdrawal form.
- From that point, the student follows Samford University procedures for withdrawing.
- If a student drops out of the university without permission, the permanent grade report will show a grade of FA in all courses for that term. FA carries the same penalty as F.
- The permanent record of a student who withdraws officially from the university in the schedule change period of a term will not show any courses attempted and will list no academic penalty.
- The permanent record of a student who withdraws officially from the university before the published last date to withdraw without academic penalty will show W in courses attempted.
- A student who withdraws after the published last date to withdraw automatically receives an F.

Failure to attend class does not constitute withdrawal. Students are responsible for completing the appropriate paperwork and submitting it to the director of enrollment management and academic support services.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the flagship degree of Beeson Divinity School. It combines academic and practical training to prepare God-called persons for full-time ministry leadership. This degree offers a balanced curriculum of biblical studies, historical and theological studies, spiritual formation and ministry leadership development. MDiv graduates are prepared to serve in pastoral capacities in vocational Christian ministry roles, whether in traditional parish settings or in other Christian ministry organizations. The degree is also offered in tandem with several other graduate degrees in other schools of the university (see Joint Degree Programs on p. 43).

The requirements for an MDiv degree can be completed in three years of full-time study. The degree must be completed within six years; nevertheless, in extenuating circumstances, a student may request an extension. A letter justifying such a request must be addressed to the associate dean.

The MDiv degree requires at least 87 semester credits with a minimum of 58 credits completed at Beeson Divinity School. A grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale is required. Students are required to satisfy all student accounts.

Degree Objectives

Graduates of the MDiv program will be:

1. Able interpreters and expositors of the Scriptures, who use sound hermeneutical methodology to teach the Bible to others faithfully and clearly.
2. Well-grounded in the doctrines of historic Christian orthodoxy, who articulate orthodox doctrinal convictions in denominational context.
3. Growing in love for God and neighbor and in Christlike character, relating to others with respect and charity, engaging consistently in practices of Christian spirituality and demonstrating Christlike character in ministry leadership roles.
4. Well-equipped to share the gospel, both locally and globally, in biblically faithful and culturally appropriate ways.
5. Faithful and competent ministers, who feed and lead God's people well.

MDiv Curriculum

Biblical Studies (30 credits)

DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVNT 511 Introduction to New Testament Greek (3) * (Fall and Spring)

DVNT 512 Greek Syntax and Translation (3)* (Spring and Summer)

DVNT 616 Greek Exegesis Practicum (3) (Fall and Summer)

DVNT 731 or 732 Greek Exegesis Book Study (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVOT 511 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (3) (Fall and Summer)

DVOT 512 Hebrew Syntax and Translation (3) (Spring and Summer)

DVOT 616 Hebrew Exegesis Practicum (3) (Fall and Summer)

DVOT 731 or 732 Hebrew Exegesis Book Study (3) (Fall and Spring)

Historical and Doctrinal Studies (21 credits)

DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine (3)* (Spring and Summer)

DVHD 601 Reformation and Early Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Fall)

DVHD 602 Later Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Spring)

DVHD 605 Pastoral Theology (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVHD 606 Ecclesiology and Worship (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVET 701 Doctrine and Ethics (3) (Fall and Spring)

Spiritual and Pastoral Formation Studies (24 credits)

DVCC 655 Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (0) (Summer)

DVEV 500 Evangelism and Church Planting (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVML 701 Supervised Ministry Practicum I (3) (Fall)

DVML 702 Supervised Ministry Practicum II (3) (Spring)

DVMS 500 Introduction to Christian Missions (3) (Interterm and Spring)

DVPM 701 Pastoral Care and Counseling (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVPR 601 Christian Preaching (3) (Fall)

DVPR 602 Preaching Practicum (3) (Spring)

DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation (3)* (Fall, Spring, and Summer)

Electives (12 credits)

Total for MDiv Degree (87 credits)

* Designates core courses, which must be taken by students entering in a fall semester in their first two semesters and one summer, and by students entering in a spring semester in their first three semesters and one summer. Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g., DVHD 502) before taking the 501 course in the same subject (e.g., DVHD 501). Old Testament Theology (DVBF 502) is required in first semester of study, regardless of semester of entry.

Ministry Practicum Requirements

As preparation for faithful and competent ministry practice, the Master of Divinity requires students to engage in ministry under supervision. These supervised ministry experiences afford students opportunities to develop vital skills and capacities for service in various contexts and cultures and to reflect biblically and theologically on the nature of gospel ministry. Two such practicums are required for the MDiv: Supervised Ministry Practicum and Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum.

Supervised Ministry Practicum (SMP)

The SMP requires that a student engage in the practice of ministry, under supervision, for no fewer than 12 hours per week for 35 consecutive weeks, beginning in early September and concluding in early May. The SMP may be carried out in a variety of ministry settings, subject to the approval of the director of contextual learning. Most students serve in a local congregation but may do so in other settings, such as Christian parachurch organizations, chaplaincy roles or campus ministry sites. Students preparing for ministry or missionary service in other cultures may desire an intensive experience of ministry to or among international populations. The Global Center is prepared to assist students in shaping an SMP with such a focus. Supervision must be provided by a ministry mentor (normally on-site), subject to the approval of the director of contextual learning. All mentors must meet the divinity school's qualifications and receive training for their role. Students submit proposals for SMP sites and mentors to the director of contextual learning for review and approval by July 1 of the year in which they intend to begin the SMP. For more information regarding the SMP, contact the contextual learning office at 205-726-2170.

Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (CCMP)

This curricular requirement arises from the recognition that cross-cultural ministry is no longer exceptional but normative for Christian ministers. Communities across the United States are increasingly multicultural and opportunities for mission involvement internationally are expanding rapidly. Competent ministry leaders must be prepared to cross cultural boundaries in the course of (and for the sake of) sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The CCMP can be satisfied in an abbreviated but intensive immersion into the practice of faith and ministry in a cultural context different from the student's own. The Global Center has partnered with ministries in various parts of the United States and internationally to provide optimal experiences for students. Students will choose from these selected options based on the ministry, location, budget and time frame available to visit the ministry. Students must fulfill the CCMP in a summer term during the course of their MDiv studies. Preapproved CCMP destinations and ministries have been chosen to meet the following criteria:

1. Location: Well outside the Birmingham metropolitan area
2. Duration: Minimum fourteen (14) consecutive days on location
3. Residence: In the community where the ministry is taking place
4. Substance: Ministering in a different cultural setting
5. Supervision: On-site mentor

While the ministries are preapproved, ministry partners will vary regarding the times students are able to join them, how many students they can host effectively, cost to join them, etc. After the director of the Global Center gives approval for a student to join a CCMP destination, final approval will need to be given by the ministry partner.

To receive credit for a CCMP, students should register for DVCC 655 by submitting the following to the Global Center:

1. Samford University Assumption of Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement
2. Global Center Registration Form for DVCC 655
3. Medical Information Questionnaire
4. Travel-Grant Application (if seeking financial assistance for the trip)
5. Proof of insurance for medical evacuation from the country of their visit to the United States is required for all international CCMP options. This can be purchased through Samford. Contact the Global Center for more information.

Students are eligible to enroll in the CCMP as early as the summer following their first year of study. For more information, contact the Global Center at global@samford.edu, 205-726-2170.

MDiv Certificate Programs

Certificate of Anglican Studies

Master of Divinity students who intend to pursue ordination in an Anglican communion may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of Anglican studies. This certificate is awarded with the successful completion of the Master of Divinity. Students pursuing the certificate must:

- Complete two (2) required courses:
 - DVAN701 Anglican History and Doctrine (may replace Doctrine & Ethics)
 - DVAN606 Anglican Worship and Sacraments (may replace Ecclesiology & Worship)
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701-702) in an Anglican ministry context
- Attend regularly (at least nine times per semester) morning prayer services offered at Beeson or at a local Anglican congregation
- Attend regularly (at least nine times per semester) evensong services (and the training beforehand) offered at Beeson or at a local Anglican congregation
- Demonstrate mastery of the core competencies for ministry leadership, based on evaluations conducted by professors and mentors in the Anglican Institute

In addition to these requirements, students are also encouraged to participate fully in other Anglican Institute program opportunities, such as monthly Anglican lunches, lectures, and sermons by visiting Anglican scholars and dignitaries. For more information, please contact Dr. Jonathan Linebaugh at 205-726-2661 or jlinebau@samford.edu.

Certificate of Missions

Students who wish to give special emphasis to Christian missions in their Master of Divinity studies may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of missions. Students pursuing the missions certificate must:

- Complete two (2) elective courses:
 - DVMS605 Contemporary Issues and Strategies in Missions
 - DVMS507 World Religions
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701-702) in a role that requires ministering cross-culturally
- Complete the Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (DVCC 655) over a minimum duration of six (6) weeks
- Attend regularly (at least five times per semester) the Global Voices program offered at Beeson
- Attend regularly (at least six times per semester) the morning prayer service for missions offered at Beeson

In addition to these requirements, students are also encouraged to attend other Global Center and missions-related programs and fellowships throughout the year. For more information, please contact Dr. David Parks at 205-726-2274 or daparks@samford.edu.

Certificate of Wesleyan Studies

Master of Divinity students who intend to pursue ordination in a Wesleyan communion may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of Wesleyan studies. This certificate is awarded with the successful completion of the Master of Divinity. Students pursuing the certificate must:

- Complete two (2) required courses:
 - DVWS701 Wesleyan History and Doctrine (may replace Doctrine & Ethics)
 - DVWS606 Wesleyan Polity, Ministry and Mission (may replace Ecclesiology & Worship)
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701-702) in a Wesleyan ministry context
- Attend three Wesleyan lunches each semester.
- Meet for a time of conversation with the professor of Methodist Divinity a minimum of once a semester.
- Participate in two evening gatherings for prayer, scriptural meditation, and Christian fellowship each semester.

For more information, please contact the associate dean, Dr. Fuller, at tlfuller@samford.edu.

Accelerated BA-to-MDiv Pathway Program

Beeson Divinity School, in cooperation with the Biblical and Religious Studies department in Samford's Howard College of Arts and Sciences, the Christian Ministry department in Samford's School of the Arts and the Human Development and Family Science department in Orlean Beeson School of Education, offers exceptional students the opportunity to complete the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree and the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree in a minimum of six years of full-time study rather than the typical minimum of seven years. This program of study is available only to students majoring in Biblical Studies, Religion or Religion w/a Concentration in Ministry Leadership (in the Howard College of Arts and Sciences), Christian Ministry (in the School of the Arts) and Human Development and Family Science (in the School of Education).

Students interested in the accelerated pathway program should seek guidance from their advisor as early as possible in their undergraduate studies. The undergraduate program of study requires completion of all university core curriculum courses, all general education requirements, and all courses required for the undergraduate major (96-98 credit hours total). Upon completion of the first 64 credit hours of undergraduate studies (or one year prior to the term in which a student wishes to begin graduate theological studies), he or she must apply for admission to the Master of Divinity program at Beeson Divinity School. Offers of admission are extended to applicants who demonstrate exceptional personal and spiritual maturity, a clear call and commitment to vocational Christian ministry, and strong academic performance in their undergraduate studies. If accepted, a student must complete all remaining undergraduate coursework and participate in a co-curricular program of spiritual and vocational mentoring before beginning studies at Beeson Divinity School.

To learn more about the accelerated BA-to-MDiv pathway program, please contact the office of admissions at 205-726-2227.

Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS)

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is an academic master of arts degree designed to provide students with a greater understanding of the Bible and of Christian history and doctrine, and to ground them more firmly in their devotion and service to Jesus Christ and his church. The MATS program is intended for Christian laypersons wishing to grow in their understanding of the faith, as well as for persons serving in vocational ministry roles that do not involve much preaching and teaching. This degree is also offered in tandem with several other graduate degrees in other schools of the university (see Joint Degree Programs on p. 43).

The requirements for the MATS degree can be completed in two years of full-time study. The program requires at least 48 credit hours, with a minimum of 32 credit hours being completed at Beeson Divinity School. The degree must be completed within four years. In extenuating circumstances, a student may request an extension. A letter justifying such a request must be addressed to the associate dean.

The curriculum includes four courses in biblical studies, four courses in Christian history and doctrine, three courses in ministry and formation, and five elective courses. The program concludes with a capstone summative assignment which can be satisfied in one of two ways:

1. In the Doctrine and Ethics course, students will write a major paper demonstrating their ability to use biblical-theological data and methodology to address a current issue of ethical, vocational, and/or ministry-related significance.
2. Students will write a thesis under the supervision of a faculty member. In choosing this option, a student would use 6 of their 15 elective credit hours.

Students in the MATS program may not take DVCC courses, DVCO courses, DVPR courses, or DVML courses without permission of the associate dean.

A grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is required. Students must satisfy all student accounts.

Curriculum

Biblical Studies (12 credits)

DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVNT 721 or 722 Exposition of New Testament Book (3) (Fall)

DVOT 721 or 722 Exposition of Old Testament Book (3) (Spring)

Historical and Doctrinal Studies (12 credits)

DVHD 501 Patristic History & Doctrine (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVHD 502 Medieval & Reformation History & Doctrine (3)* (Spring and Summer)

DVHD 601 Reformation & Early Modern History & Doctrine (3) (Fall)

DVET 701 Doctrine & Ethics (3) (Fall and Spring)

Ministry and Formation Studies (9 credits)

DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation (3) (Fall, Spring, and Summer)

DVEV 500 Evangelism & Church Planting (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVBF 601 Teaching the Scriptures (3) (Spring)

Electives (15 credits)

Total for MATS Degree (48 credits)

* Designates core courses, which must be taken by students entering in a fall semester in their first two semesters and one summer, and by students entering in a spring semester in their first three semesters and one summer. Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g., DVHD 502) before taking the 501 course in the same subject (e.g., DVHD 501). Old Testament Theology (DVBF 502) is required in first semester of study, regardless of semester of entry.

Degree Objectives

Graduates of the MATS program will:

1. Understand the content and character of the Bible and how to interpret English Bible texts responsibly.
2. Understand the doctrines of historic Christian orthodoxy and their significance for the life and work of the church, in evangelical contexts.
3. Understand the meaning of Christian vocation and its relevance to one's life and work.

Joint Degree Programs (MDiv and MATS)

Beeson Divinity School offers several joint degree programs in conjunction with other schools of the university. These programs allow students to earn two degrees concurrently with fewer credit requirements than needed to earn the degrees separately. The joint degree programs are:

- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Juris Doctor (MATS/JD)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Master of Social Work (MATS/MSW)
- Master of Divinity/Juris Doctor (MDiv/JD)
- Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration (MDiv/MBA)
- Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work (MDiv/MSW)

Joint degree programs require separate applications for admission to each of the respective schools. Students must gain admission to the program in each school.

Joint degree students are encouraged to plan their course work well in advance to minimize scheduling conflicts. Students should speak with the director of enrollment management and academic support concerning their scholarship status and eligibility.

For more information, please contact the admissions office at 205-726-2227.

Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC)

The Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (MACC) is a theologically grounded program that equips students to counsel in a variety of environments. Graduates complete courses in biblical and theological studies and in counseling theory and practice, helping them integrate truths of the Christian faith with the best of counseling theory and practice. In addition to church and parachurch settings, graduates are prepared to work in international ministries, non-profits, and social service organizations.

Curriculum

Biblical and Theological Studies (21 credits)

DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVHD 501 Patristic History & Doctrine (3)* (Fall and Spring)

DVHD 502 Medieval & Reformation History & Doctrine (3)* (Spring and Summer)

DVHD 601 Reformation & Early Modern History & Doctrine (3) (Fall)

DVET 701 Doctrine & Ethics (3) (Fall and Spring)

DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation (3) (Fall, Spring, and Summer)

Counseling Theory and Practice (33 credits)

DVCO 510 The Counseling Relationship (3) (Fall)

DVCO 520 Counseling Theory (3) (Summer)

DVCO 550 Human Growth & Development in Theological Perspective (3) (Fall)

DVCO 575 Mental Health and the Church (3) (Spring)

DVCO 625 Theological Foundations for Counseling (3) (Summer)

DVCO 680 Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling (3) (Summer)

DVCO 702 Marriage and Family Counseling (3) (Spring)

DVCO 703 Crisis, Trauma, and Grief Counseling (3) (Fall)

DVCO 704 Sexuality and Pastoral Care (3) (Summer)

DVCO 749 Community-Based Ministry Internship (3) (Fall)

DVCO 750 Counseling Practicum (3) (Spring)

Total for MACC Degree (54 credits)

Degree Objectives

Graduates of the MACC program will:

1. Be well-grounded in the teachings of Scripture and the orthodox doctrines of the Christian faith
2. Know how to think theologically about people and their problems
3. Have a comprehensive understanding of counseling theory and practice

4. Learn counseling skills and practice them under supervision
5. Develop skills for serious academic inquiry, life-long learning, and ongoing professional development
6. Mature in their personal faith and recognize its importance in the counseling encounter
7. Be equipped for vocational success and redemptive involvement within the Christian community and thoughtful engagement with the wider culture

Note: This program will not prepare students for counseling licensure in the State of Alabama.

Master of Theology (ThM)

The Master of Theology (ThM) provides advanced theological study beyond Master of Divinity (MDiv) studies as further preparation for ministry and/or as preparation for research doctoral (PhD) studies. The goals of the program are: to sharpen students' skills in biblical exegesis, historical theology, and/or preaching and pastoral care; to form students further in spiritual maturity; and to help students develop competence in research and writing, preparing some for doctoral work.

As with Beeson's MDiv and PhD programs, the emphasis in the ThM is on theology in the service of the church and kingdom of God. Students are not required to specialize in one field of study. The program is flexible, allowing some students to use it to prepare for doctoral research and allowing others to enhance their learning and skills in a variety of subjects related to the service of the Lord and his church. Each student will be assisted in developing their program of study by a member of the Beeson faculty.

The requirements for the ThM degree can be completed in one year of full-time study. The program requires at least 30 credit hours, with a minimum of 24 credit hours being completed at Beeson Divinity School. Students may be given transfer credits for up to six credit hours of advanced master's level coursework completed in previous graduate theological studies. The degree must be completed within two years. In extenuating circumstances, a student may request an extension. A letter justifying such a request must be addressed to the associate dean.

Curriculum

Theology Core (24 credits)

Students may choose six courses from either advanced master's level courses or PhD seminars.

Theology Research (6 credits)

Students must satisfy the research and writing requirements of the degree, either by writing two major research papers or by writing a single thesis under the supervision of a regular member of the Beeson faculty. In either case, students will complete 6 credit hours in:

DVTH 798 Master's Thesis 1 (3)

DVTH 799 Master's Thesis 2 (3)

Total for ThM Degree (30 credits)

Degree Objectives

Graduates of the ThM program will:

1. Gain greater skills in biblical exegesis, historical theology, and/or preaching and pastoral care.
2. Be further formed in spiritual maturity.
3. Be competent to plan and conduct theological research and writing.

Doctor of Philosophy in Theology for the Church (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Theology for the Church is a research doctoral program that equips its graduates for theologically robust ministry in and for the church of Jesus Christ. The program's focus is not restricted to ecclesiology, rather it attends to theology broadly understood as rigorous scholarship in service to the church. The program requires completion of a common set of courses in biblical theology, historical theology, and practical theology, successful passage of comprehensive exams, and dissertation research and writing. Students will work closely with a faculty member, who will act as a resource and guide for students' research and supervise them in their dissertation work.

Consideration for admission will be given to applicants who hold a graduate theological degree from an accredited school, with a GPA of 3.5 or above. Reading competency in Greek or Hebrew is required for matriculation. Depending on the area of determined research, competency in Latin, French, and/or German may be required.

Program Overview

The PhD in Theology for the Church requires successful completion of at least 42 semester credits, as outlined below:

Enrollment terms are spring, summer, and fall (14 weeks each). For the first five terms of enrollment, students read and prepare reviews of their reading in preparation for attending a seminar on campus for one week. Following each seminar, students write a paper relating the seminar topic to their area of research interest. For the sixth term of enrollment, students complete a directed readings course in the area of their research focus.

Alongside on-campus seminars, in fall and spring semesters, students meet virtually for a common research seminar. The seminar will convene on-line and in-person every other week (six times each spring and fall semester). The seminars will serve several purposes: presentation of faculty/student research; shared reading; guest presentations; culture/relational building of the academic community; and development of the research prospectus.

Comprehensive examinations are administered in the term following completion of the seminars. Students must pass one standard exam and one exam particular to the student's chosen area of dissertation research. Students will also submit a portfolio of their research—typically in the form of papers—from their two years of coursework.

Students prepare and submit a dissertation research prospectus in the term following completion of the comprehensive exams. The prospectus will include:

- 1) a 500-word abstract on the scope of the project
- 2) an architectonic of the entire project including an annotated table of contents
- 3) an identification of key interlocutors on the secondary level

- 4) a basic description of the state of research and the contribution the proposed work will make to the scholarly advancement of the subject matter
- 5) a writing schedule and plan for completion.

Numbers three and four will contribute substantially to the *Stand der Forschung* chapter of the dissertation (typically chapter one). Students will present their research prospectus to their supervisor, internal reader, and director of the PhD program.

Upon acceptance of the dissertation prospectus, a student is allotted four (4) terms for dissertation research and writing. A PhD dissertation is not expansive coverage of a particular topic nor, necessarily, an “original” contribution. A PhD dissertation is an entrance card into the field of theological research and writing. Therefore, a PhD by its very nature requires engagement with the scholarly community on the topic with a sense of clarity about the dissertation’s role in advancing scholarship on the subject matter: whether by means of noting an attenuation in the discipline, a problematic line of argument/reasoning, or a road less traveled that advances scholarship on the matter. Identifying the range of interlocutors on a subject is important because a PhD demonstrates both the ability to do primary source critical research as well as engaging a range of scholarship while situating one’s work within it.

The dissertation will be 60,000-80,000 words in length. Students must successfully defend the dissertation to complete the program and be awarded the degree.

On-campus Seminars

Seminars will be conducted on the Samford campus for one week each term – one week in March (spring), one week in July (summer), and one week in October (fall). Seminars will meet Monday-Friday for 5-6 hours each day. Each day’s class will begin with morning prayer.

These week-long intensives are postgraduate-level engagement with the discipline on offer. Rather than aiming at coverage, these seminars are intended to demonstrate graduate-level engagement with the discipline, model for the students a higher level of critical interaction with subject matter and prepare students for close reading of texts while expanding their own research habits. These courses will include pre-course work (reading and critical interaction), along with a post-course research component.

Supervision

Each student will be assigned a faculty supervisor during the first term of enrollment. The assignment of a supervisor will be considered during the admission process in relation to the student’s research interests and the availability of a faculty member to provide supervision in that research area.

The faculty supervisor will meet with students under his or her supervision when students are on campus for seminars. The faculty supervisor will also communicate with students periodically over the course of the program to provide guidance and feedback to students’ research.

The faculty supervisor will chair a student's dissertation committee for review of the dissertation research prospectus and the dissertation itself, culminating in the oral defense of the dissertation.

Curriculum

Discipline Seminars (15 credits)

DVOT 808 Seminar in Old Testament Studies (3) (Spring)

DVNT 810 Seminar in New Testament Studies (3) (Summer)

DVHD 825 Seminar in Pre-Reformation Historical Theology (3) (Fall)

DVHD 835 Seminar in Reformation and Modern Historical Theology (3) (Spring)

DVTH 857 Seminar in Ecclesial Life and Mission (3) (Summer)

Research Seminars (4 credits)

DVTH 815 Theories & Methods of Theological Scholarship (1)* (Fall and Spring)

Directed Readings (3 credits)

DVTH 864 Special Studies in Ecclesial Theology (3) (Fall)

Comprehensive Examinations (4 credits)

DVTH 871 Comprehensive Exams (4) (Spring)

Theological Research Prospectus (4 credits)

DVTH 880 Theological Research Prospectus (4) (Summer)

Theological Research Dissertation (12 credits)

DVTH 890 Theological Research Dissertation (3)* (Fall, Spring, and Summer)

*DVTH 815 and DVTH 890 will each be completed four (4) times during the degree.

Total for Degree: 42 credits

CURRICULUM

Due to the need to assess curriculum offerings regularly, every prerequisite cannot be listed in this publication. Thus, students should consult with the director of enrollment management and academic support services for current information on prerequisites. Unless stated otherwise, sequential courses must be taken in sequence (e.g., DVHD 501 before DVHD 502); DVOT and DVNT courses have DVBF 502 and/or 503 as prerequisites; DVHD 501 and 502 are prerequisites for all DVHD courses numbered above 502; and courses numbered above the required course in the relevant discipline have the required course as a prerequisite (e.g., DVEV 500 for all other DVEV courses). Exceptions to prerequisites are rarely granted for reasons other than students having conflicts in their final semester. Students with advanced backgrounds should petition for advanced standing (see page 29).

ANGLICAN STUDIES

DVAN 606 *Anglican Worship and Sacraments*

The course is a requirement for the Certificate of Anglican Studies. It will look at Anglican sacraments and sacramentals, and demonstrate the extent to which Anglicanism resembles other Christian traditions and where, how and why it differs from them. It will devote roughly equal amounts of time to the pre-Reformation heritage, the Reformation and the rites recognized as sacraments in some churches but as sacramentals among Anglicans. The course is aimed specifically at Anglican ordinands and emphasizes what they need to know in order to understand the basic principles of sacramental ministry, as well as the apparent peculiarities, of the Anglican tradition. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVHD502. Three credits.

DVAN 701 *Anglican History and Doctrine*

The course is a requirement for the Certificate of Anglican Studies. It will look at Anglican history and doctrine and demonstrate the extent to which Anglicanism resembles other Christian traditions and where, how and why it differs from them. It will devote roughly equal amounts of time to the pre-Reformation heritage, the Elizabethan Settlement and the modern period. The course is aimed specifically at Anglican ordinands and emphasizes what they need to know in order to understand the basic principles, as well as the apparent peculiarities, of the Anglican tradition. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVHD501. Three credits.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

DVBF 502 *Old Testament Theology*

This course studies the historical, literary and canonical contexts of the Old Testament and its individual books. Special attention is given to the Old Testament's theological unity, role in biblical theology and significance for Christian thought and practice. Three credits.

DVBF 503 *New Testament Theology*

This course studies the historical, literary and canonical contexts of the New Testament and its individual books. Special attention is given to the New Testament's theological unity, role in biblical theology and significance for Christian thought and practice. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVBF502 for MDiv and MATS. Three credits.

DVBF 504 *Biblical Theology*

This course studies theological interpretation of the Old and New Testaments. Attention is given to major theological themes, issues of unity and diversity and specific theological problems raised by the inclusion of both Testaments in a single Christian Bible. *Prerequisites:* DVBF 502 and 503. Three credits.

DVBF 521 *Special Topics in Biblical Foundations*

This course is a special study in a selected aspect of biblical foundations not otherwise covered in the Biblical Foundations curriculum. Three credits.

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY

DVCC 655 *Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum*

This practicum introduces students to issues related to cross-cultural ministry through firsthand experience in a cross-cultural ministry setting. Course offered in summer only. (M.Div. students only) *Prerequisites:* DVMS 500. Zero credits.

COUNSELING

DVCO 510 *The Counseling Relationship*

The relationship the counselor develops with the counselee is central to the counseling process. Effective counseling grows out of a strong therapeutic alliance. Thus, the counselor must know herself, how to relate in the counseling setting and the various skills and techniques that support effective counseling. The character of the counselor will be considered and how this supports various skills and techniques will be examined. The course will examine the principles of care and counseling with an emphasis on basic counseling skills and the ability to relate to others. Three credits.

DVCO 520 *Counseling Theory*

The course will help the student develop foundational theoretical concepts, skills, and techniques needed to understand and practice effective counseling. The course reviews prominent counseling theoretical orientations from a biblical/theological orientation. The students will be exposed to current research in the counseling field, evidence-based treatment theories and incorporate that with traditional counseling modalities and theological reflection to begin building their own personal model of counseling. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 510. Three credits.

DVCO 550 *Human Development in Theological Perspective*

This course helps students develop a theologically grounded understanding of the nature of persons and the self. Development will be looked at through the lens of biblical anthropology across all of life's stages. The course will provide an understanding of human development, the process of change, the impact of trauma and developmental crises, attachment issues, resilience, and the process of meaning-making, thus equipping the Christian counselor with a nuanced and sensitive understanding of the context in which we and our clients live and grow. It will provide the faith-informed counseling student an opportunity for self-reflection, self-evaluation, and self-understanding to facilitate the process of becoming a thoughtful provider of counseling resources. Three credits.

DVCO 575 *Mental Health and the Church*

The course is designed to help the student become grounded in both a theological/physiological and practical understanding of mental health and mental health issues. Given the use of both the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and psychotropic medication in the wider behavioral health world this course is designed to help the student gain a working knowledge of the diagnosis of psychopathology, the DSM, and psychotropic medication. The student will gain an understanding and knowledge of clinical mental health issues, and how they are addressed both inside and outside the church. Particular attention will be paid to the assessment, referral and shepherding of congregants with mental health issues and the means and methods to care for and shepherd families of those struggling with mental health issues. Three credits.

DVCO 625 *Theological Foundations for Counseling*

This course considers the relationship between doctrine and daily life—from baptisms to funerals and the often-painful experience that is lived between—with reference to the source and summaries of Reformation theology: the scriptural canon (source) as well as the ancient creeds and Reformation confessions (summaries). Moving from scriptural texts and dogmatic themes to homiletical and pastoral case-studies, we will explore the connection between biblical and theological “truth” and ministering what Thomas Cranmer called “the comfortable words.” These words are embodied in the process of counseling. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVCO 680 *Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling*

Recognizing the role of a Christian counselor as someone who provides soul care, this course examines the theology and practice of ministry of the Word, shepherding, personal holiness, the priesthood of all believers, and the counselor’s self-understanding along with the identity, roles, and functions of the counselor in relation to the standards of conduct required in the counseling field and the goals and objectives of professional organizations, codes of ethics, legal considerations, and standards of preparation of counselors and other people helping specialists to ensure client equity, access, and success. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 510. Three credits.

DVCO 702 *Marriage and Family Counseling*

This course introduces the student to marriage & family development and counseling and intervention for everyday marriages and/or families or ones in distress. The student will gain a biblical/theological understanding concerning marital and family development while also learning how to practically address marital and family problems. Particular attention will be given to the process of shepherding, nurturing, or enhancing marital and family growth from a pastoral/congregational perspective/counseling perspective. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 550. Three credits.

DVCO 703 *Crisis, Trauma, and Grief Counseling*

This course provides an understanding of complex and shock trauma while also paying particular attention to issues of crisis and grief. The student will be introduced to the nature of complex trauma development, including the neuroscience behind it. This will put shock trauma, crisis and grief in context illuminating how the body stores trauma and why somatic counseling interventions and trauma sensitive counseling is important and efficacious. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 550. Three credits.

DVCO 704 *Sexuality and Pastoral Care*

This course will investigate the theological, physiological, psychological, spiritual and social-cultural variables associated with life-giving sexuality, sexual identity and sexual disorders. Attention is given to a theology of sexuality as it relates to living Christian values regarding sexuality in contemporary society. Consideration is given to common sexual issues and their treatment from a pastoral perspective. The Bible presents a wonderfully high view of sexuality, that when understood and lived out well empowers the pastor/counselor and congregation to incarnate the Gospel with more fullness as each member moves toward redeemed sexuality. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 550. Three credits.

DVCO 749 *Community-Based Ministry Internship*

The Community-Based Ministry Internship (CBMI) is designed to enhance personal and counselor formation of students preparing for counseling ministry leadership, through group supervision, hands-on counseling engagement, the counsel and guidance of counseling mentors, and reflection on counseling/ministry experiences. It requires completion of 250 clock hours in an approved site under appropriate supervision. Additional requirements include one hour of individual supervision and group supervision per week with qualified supervisors. The student will also gain an understanding and knowledge of how churches and Christian non-profits can missionally engage and care for the local community and work with community mental health organizations. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 575. Three credits.

DVCO 750 *Counseling Practicum*

The Counseling Practicum is a supervised field experience for students wishing to provide counseling in related helping professions. It introduces them to the practice of counseling and provides them with experience in delivering counseling services. The students will participate in at least fifty (50) clock hours of direct service to clients in individual, family and/or group formats and receive counseling supervision. They will review video/audio recordings of counseling sessions for discussion and evaluation. The course will help the students develop essential interviewing, case conceptualization, and case management skills. *Prerequisite:* DVCO 749. Three credits

ETHICS

DVET 701 *Doctrine and Ethics*

This course examines major elements of theology and ethics with special attention given to the doctrines of Revelation, Trinity, Creation, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology. Special attention also is given to the application of a model of Christian ethics to specific ethical problems. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 602 for MDiv; DVHD 601 for MATS and MACC. Three credits.

DVET 711 *Racial Reconciliation*

This course is designed to develop a moral sensitivity to the history of race relations in the South, while causing students to think about racism not only as sociological and historical but as a distorted theology that was/is translated into action. Students develop a biblical theology of racial reconciliation and consider ways the church can work to promote racial reconciliation today. Three credits.

DVET 721 *Special Topics in Ethics*

This course is a special study in a selected aspect of ethics not otherwise covered in the ethics curriculum. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVET 701. Three credits.

EVANGELISM

DVEV 500 *Evangelism and Church Planting*

This course is an introduction to evangelism coupled with an introduction to the history and theology of the Church Planting Movement. The study of evangelism moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of the current philosophical and sociological scene in which the evangelistic mission must be implemented. Attention is given to the history and principles of important evangelistic movements and their relevance for today as well as contemporary trends and methodologies in effective evangelism through the globalization of the gospel. The study of church growth surveys the basic principles of church planting in the local church. Three credits.

DVEV 521 *Special Topics in Evangelism*

This course is a special study in a selected aspect of evangelism not otherwise covered in evangelism curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVEV 500. Three credits.

HISTORY AND DOCTRINE

DVHD 501 *Patristic History and Doctrine*

This course examines major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the end of the first century to the eighth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of Scripture and its interpretation, the Trinity and Christology. Three credits.

DVHD 502 *Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine*

This course examines the major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the eighth century to the sixteenth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of the church and the sacraments. *Prerequisite:* C-or above in DVHD 501. Three credits.

DVHD 601 *Reformation and Early Modern History and Doctrine*

This course examines the major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of justification and the work of the Holy Spirit. *Prerequisites:* C-or above in DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 602 *Later Modern History and Doctrine*

This course examines major elements of twentieth-century history and doctrine, including the expansion of Christianity, liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, neo-evangelism and the charismatic movement. Special attention is given to the doctrines of Scripture, Christology, salvation, eschatology, anthropology and selected major confessions. *Prerequisites:* C- or above in DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 605 *Pastoral Theology*

This course examines the theology and practice of significant pastoral issues such as the call of God, the mission of the church, the priesthood of all believers, the pastor's self-understanding, the ministry of the Word, worship, sacraments, preaching, music, church growth, leadership and the formation and growth of the congregation. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502, DVSF 501. Three credits.

DVHD 606 *Ecclesiology and Worship*

This course is a practical study of Christian worship based on the doctrine of the church. It traces the biblical and historical patterns and principles of significant aspects of worship as they fit within the theology and polity of the church in general and in the various traditions within the church specifically to promote more effective worship practices in the church. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 651 *Introduction to Latin*

This course covers basic elements of Latin grammar and gives students a reading knowledge of simple religious texts by the end of the semester. Three credits.

DVHD 652 *Latin Syntax and Translation*

This course continues study from DVHD 651, Introduction to Latin, including reading original theological texts and other texts. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 651 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVHD 702 *Readings in Augustine*

This course covers some of the major works of the greatest father of the Western church. Students read Augustine's *Confessions*, *The City of God* and *The Trinity* and look closely at Augustine's life, theology and spirituality. Students prepare one term paper on some aspect of Augustine's thought. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 501. Three credits.

DVHD 703 *Calvin and the Reformed Tradition*

This course studies the life and theology of John Calvin. Attention focuses on Calvin's role in the development of Reformed Protestantism as well as his distinctive contribution to Reformation theology. Readings include selections from Calvin's commentaries, letters, polemical and theological treatises and *Institutes*. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 705 *History of Biblical Interpretation*

This course covers the history of interpretation of Scripture from New Testament times to the present. Special attention is given to doctrinal issues, and cases are illustrated from specific biblical texts. Three credits.

DVHD 708 *Doctrine of the Trinity*

This course looks at the way the understanding of the Trinity has evolved during the history of the church and considers different approaches that can be, have been and currently are taken toward the permanent issues that surface in Trinitarian interpretation. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 713 *Doctrine of God*

This course is an intensive investigation of biblical teachings and philosophical arguments concerning God. Special attention is given to the Trinitarian understanding of God. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 715 *Christology*

This course is a biblical and historical study of the person of Christ with special emphasis on patristic and contemporary understandings of Christ. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 721–722 *Special Topics in History and Doctrine*

These courses cover special studies in a selected aspect of history and doctrine. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 825 *Seminar in Pre-Reformation Historical Theology*

This seminar introduces students to the leading theologians and theological movements in the patristic and medieval periods, offering an opportunity for intensive reading in, reflection upon, and discussion of some of the periods' most important theological works. *Th.M. and Ph.D. only.* Three credits.

DVHD 835 *Seminar in Reformation and Modern Historical Theology*

This seminar introduces students to the leading theologians and theological movements in the period of the Protestant Reformation and later, offering an opportunity for intensive reading in, reflection upon, and discussion of some of the period's most important theological works.. *Th.M. and Ph.D. only.* Three credits.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

DVML 551, 651 *Clinical Pastoral Education I and II*

These courses are basic half-units (200 hours each) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at an ACPE-accredited institution. Students work as chaplains/ministers to patients, families and/or hospital staff (when conducted in a medical-care setting). Emphasis is on clinical work, personal and theological reflection, peer and supervisor feedback and application of experience to ministry. Students must apply for admission to an accredited CPE program and gain acceptance into said program before registering for this course. For more information on program fees, see "Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education" under Financial Information. One credit (DVML 551); Two credits (DVML 651).

DVML 701 *Supervised Ministry Practicum 1*

This course is designed to enhance the personal and pastoral formation of students preparing for Christian ministry leadership via field-based learning. Students engage in the practice of ministry under the counsel and guidance of a ministry mentor, learning and growing from their experiences through the discipline of theological reflection. Students in this course must engage in supervised ministry for no fewer than 12 hours per week, September 1 through December 31. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of contextual learning. Students also meet bi-weekly in a small group setting for instruction and discussion in ministry-related matters. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 605. Three credits.

DVML 702 *Supervised Ministry Practicum 2*

This course is designed to enhance the personal and pastoral formation of students preparing for Christian ministry leadership via field-based learning. Students engage in the practice of ministry under the counsel and guidance of a ministry mentor, learning and growing from their experiences through the discipline of theological reflection. Students must engage in supervised ministry for no fewer than 12 hours per week, January 1 through April 30. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of contextual learning. Students also meet bi-weekly in a small group setting for instruction and discussion in ministry-related matters. *Prerequisite:* DVML 701. Three credits.

DVML 751 *Clinical Pastoral Education*

This course is one unit (400 hours) of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at an ACPE-accredited institution. Students work as chaplains/ministers to patients, families and/or hospital staff (when conducted in a medical-care setting). Emphasis is on clinical work, personal and theological reflection, peer and supervisor feedback and application of experience to ministry. Students must apply for admission to an accredited CPE program and gain acceptance into said program before registering for this course. For more information on program fees, see “Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education” under Financial Information. Three credits.

MISSIONS

DVMS 500 *Introduction to Christian Missions*

This course serves as a general introduction to Christian missions. It seeks to integrate biblical theology, missions history, current global issues, cross-cultural competency and missions strategy. It is designed to equip current and future local pastors with the tools for leading churches on mission locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It will also acquaint students with various strategies for missions and church planting as well as challenge students with God’s call to missions. Three credits.

DVMS 506 *Contemporary Missions: Issues and Strategies*

This course provides an in-depth survey of contemporary missions through the prism of issues and strategies. The course also introduces the Bible and missions, short-term missions, cross-cultural communication, the call to missions and mobilizing the local church. Three credits.

DVMS 507 *World Religions*

This course serves as an introduction to the study of both major worldviews and world religions. It seeks to provide the student with an anthropological perspective on the worldviews which provide the foundation for, and often clash with, the explicit beliefs of both religious adherents and the non-religious alike. The course will examine the major world religions from a biblical perspective and help students to understand a person's worldview and religious affiliation in a way that helps them to better contextualize the gospel. Three credits.

DVMS 721 *Special Topics in Missions*

This course is a detailed study of one aspect of the practice of cross-cultural missions and the global church. Special features include field investigation, lectures and seminars by experienced practitioners in the area of cross-cultural missions and hands-on instruction where possible. *Prerequisite:* DVMS 500. Three credits.

NEW TESTAMENT

DVNT 511 *Introduction to New Testament Greek*

This course studies the language in which the New Testament was written with special attention to the basic forms of nouns and adjectives, the inflection of simple indicative verbs and the rudiments of Greek syntax. Three credits.

DVNT 512 *Greek Syntax and Translation*

This course continues study of Greek grammar and syntax, translation of selected passages from the Greek New Testament and an introduction to exegetical method. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 511 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVNT 616 *Greek Exegesis Practicum*

This course is a comprehensive study of intermediate Greek grammar and exegetical method based on the Greek text of Ephesians or 1st Peter. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 512 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVNT 721–722 *Special Topics in New Testament*

These courses are special studies in a selected aspect of New Testament studies not otherwise covered in New Testament curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 503. Three credits.

DVNT 731–733 *Special Topics in New Testament Exegesis*

These courses consist of exegetical study of a selected book or books based on the Greek text. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 616. Three credits.

DVNT 810 *Seminar in New Testament Studies*

This seminar explores the history, nature, and tasks of New Testament theology, attending to major issues that have dominated the development of New Testament theology. *Th.M. and Ph.D. only.* Three credits.

OLD TESTAMENT

DVOT 511 *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*

This course studies the essentials of biblical Hebrew grammar, including phonology, morphology and vocabulary. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 512. Three credits.

DVOT 512 *Hebrew Syntax and Translation*

This course continues study of biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax and translation of selected passages from the Hebrew Bible. *Prerequisite:* C-or above in DVOT 511 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVOT 616 *Hebrew Exegesis Practicum*

This course studies the method and research tools of Hebrew exegesis with application to a selected book or books in the Old Testament. *Prerequisite:* C-or above in DVOT 512 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVOT 721–722 *Special Topics in Old Testament*

This course is a special study in a selected aspect of Old Testament studies not otherwise covered in Old Testament curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 502. Three credits.

DVOT 731–733 *Special Topics in Old Testament Exegesis*

These courses consist of exegetical study of a selected book or books based on the Hebrew text. *Prerequisite:* DVOT 616. Three credits.

DVOT 808 *Seminar in Old Testament Studies*

This seminar explores the history, nature, and task of Old Testament theology. Beginning with a doctrine of Scripture, the course addresses the history of the discipline, key figures in and approaches to Old Testament theology, and the discipline's relation to biblical theology and Christian dogmatics. *Th.M. and Ph.D. only.* Three credits.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

DVPM 701 *Pastoral Care and Counseling*

This course is a detailed study of the history, theology and skills of pastoral counseling. A major emphasis of the course is the development of a biblical counseling model. Skill development focuses on listening, diagnosis, development of strategies, application of biblical principles and referral. Special topics include premarital, family, career, crisis, grief and substance-use counseling. *Prerequisite:* DVSF 501. Three credits.

DVPM 601 *Life and Work of the Pastor*

This course consists of selected studies of problems and opportunities related to the personal life and professional ministry of the Christian pastor. Three credits.

DVPM 702 *Marriage and Family Counseling*

This course studies principles and methods of dealing with specific marriage and family problems with an emphasis on premarital counseling. Prerequisite: DVPM 701. Three credits.

DVPM 703 *Crisis, Trauma, and Grief Counseling*

This course explores in-depth the psychological and systemic dynamics associated with experiences of crisis, trauma and grief. Emphasis is placed on the role of the minister in responding to crisis situations, in providing pastoral guidance in times of bereavement and loss, in providing safety in the church for individuals to process past experiences of abuse and trauma and in serving as a role model for the community as a messenger of truth and grace. This course is oriented toward the practical rather than the theoretical and toward the victim rather than the victimizer. *Prerequisite or corequisite:* DVPM 701. Three credits.

DVPM 705 *Introduction to Chaplaincy Ministry*

This course provides a survey of various forms of chaplaincy ministry: military, healthcare, public service, campus, industrial, and institutional. Students will examine qualifications, responsibilities, and certifications pertinent to chaplaincy ministry. Theological challenges for ministry in secular and pluralistic settings will receive particular emphasis. Some attention will be devoted to denominational requirements and expectations of chaplains. Three credits.

DVPM 721 *Special Topics in Pastoral Ministry*

This course is a detailed study of one aspect of the practice of pastoral ministry in the context of the local church. Special features include field investigation, lectures and seminars by experienced practitioners in the area of ministry and hands-on instruction where possible. Three credits.

PREACHING

DVPR 601 *Christian Preaching*

This course is a detailed study of the principles of sermon preparation and delivery. Topics include types of sermons and the relationship of exegesis, hermeneutics and theology to the task of preaching. Special attention is given to the development of skill in preparation of expository sermons from the biblical text. The course also introduces principles of sermon delivery. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 731, 732, or 733. Three credits.

DVPR 602 *Preaching Practicum*

This course studies sermon delivery by means of experience in a laboratory setting. The course includes study of the principles of speech communication as well as the delivery of sermons for self-study and evaluation. Audio and video recordings of sermons are utilized. *Prerequisite:* DVPR 601. Three credits.

DVPR 607 *Expository Preaching*

This course gives students experience in applying exegetical and homiletic principles to the preparation of expository sermons. Sermons by recognized expository preachers as well as sermons by members of the class are evaluated. The aim is to make biblical exposition relevant to contemporary needs with specific attention given to preaching through individual books of the Bible. *Prerequisite:* DVPR 601. Three credits.

DVPR 609 *Doctrinal Preaching*

This course examines the theology, history and practice of doctrinal preaching. Attention is given to the biblical/theological basis for doctrinal preaching, the historical development of doctrinal preaching and hermeneutical issues related to the art of doctrinal preaching. The essential and relevant nature of doctrinal preaching for the contemporary church is emphasized. *Prerequisite:* DVPR 601. Three credits.

DVPR 721 *Special Topics in Preaching*

This course is a special study in a selected aspect of preaching not otherwise covered in the preaching curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVPR 601. Three credits.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

DVSF 501 *Spiritual Formation*

This course is designed to help students reflect on the practice and experience of biblical spirituality. Students will engage with multiple traditions from an evangelical perspective to learn more about their own tradition and glean from others. Three credits.

DVSF 601 *Early Christian Spirituality*

This course focuses on key writers, such as Irenaeus, Athanasius, Gregory of Nyssa and Evagrius of Pontus to illuminate key themes from the patristic period, such as the nature of sin and the passions, the image of God in human salvation and the personal nature of theology grounded in prayer. The intent is to examine differences and similarities between this period and now and to make judgments concerning the usefulness of early Christian spirituality today. *Prerequisite:* DVSF 501 Three credits.

DVSF 621–622 *Special Topics in Spiritual Formation*

These courses are special studies in a selected aspect of spiritual formation not otherwise covered in the Spiritual Formation curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVSF 501. Three credits.

THEOLOGY

DVTH 701 *Faith and Vocation*

This course functions as the capstone to the MATS program for students who began their MATS before the fall of 2024 (i.e., students still in the 37 hours program). These students learn to integrate theological disciplines in the reflection on a topic(s) of personal faith and vocation. This course must be taken in the semester in which the student expects to graduate. *Only eligible for MATS students who began the program prior to Fall 2024.* One credit.

DVTH 741 *Directed Study*

This course is designed by the advanced student in consultation with the instructor to pursue a topic of special interest not otherwise covered in the divinity curriculum. See page 30 for a complete description and procedures for a directed study course. Three credits.

DVTH 798 and 799 *Master's Thesis*

Two-part thesis course. See page 33 for further details. *MDiv, MATS, and ThM students only*. Three credits each course.

DVTH 815 *Theories and Methods of Theological Scholarship*

This common doctoral seminar acculturates students to the practices of theological scholarship. Students are introduced to select important new contributions in the fields of biblical, historical, and systematic theology. The seminar also provides a platform for students to discuss and receive feedback on their own research projects. Students in the PhD program are required to complete four semesters of the course. *PhD only*. One credit.

DVTH 857 *Seminar in Ecclesial Life and Mission*

This seminar introduces students to the theological nature and purpose of the church in the world. Through intensive reading, reflection, and discussion, students will discover how theology for the church forms the basis of a theology of the church. Emphasis is given to interpreting both church and world in the light of God's creating and redeeming work in the whole narrative of Scripture. Students explore a variety of topics related to the being and life of the church as particular expressions of God's Word. *PhD and ThM only*. Three credits.

DVTH 864 *Special Studies in Ecclesial Theology*

This course is a directed readings course in a selected area of research focus. Under the supervision of a student's dissertation chair, the course is intended to provide the student with intensive preparation for writing the research prospectus and beginning dissertation research proper. *PhD only*. Three credits.

DVTH 871 *Comprehensive Exams*

Upon completion of the course work required for the PhD in Theology for the Church, students will prepare for and take comprehensive examinations. Students must pass one standard exam and one exam particular to the chosen area of dissertation research. Students will also submit a portfolio of their research—typically in the form of papers—from their two years of coursework. *PhD only*. *Prerequisite*: DVTH 814 and DVTH 864. Four credits.

DVTH 880 *Theological Research Prospectus*

Upon completion of the required seminars and satisfactory achievement in the comprehensive examinations, students, in consultation with their supervisor, will identify a research topic for the dissertation. Students will then write and submit a prospectus outlining the proposed research. The theological research prospectus will be reviewed and considered for approval by the student's dissertation chair, an internal reader, and the director of the PhD program. *PhD only*. *Prerequisite*: DVTH 871. Four credits.

DVTH 890 *Theological Research Dissertation*

Students who have passed their comprehensive examinations and gained approval of their theological research prospectus will conduct the proposed research and write a dissertation of 60,000-80,000 words. Students are allowed four semesters to complete, submit, and defend the dissertation. *PhD only. Prerequisite: DVTH 880.* Four credits.

WESLEYAN STUDIES

DVWS 606 *Wesleyan Ecclesiology, Polity, Ministry and Mission*

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to Wesleyan ecclesiology, polity, ministry (lay and ordained) and mission with attention given to the Transitional Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church. Students from other Wesleyan churches will be directed in their study by utilizing the appropriate disciplinary and denominational materials necessary for fulfilling ordination requirements. The course incorporates instruction, discussions of required readings, written summaries and reflections, case studies, and student presentations. *Prerequisite: DVHD502.* Three credits.

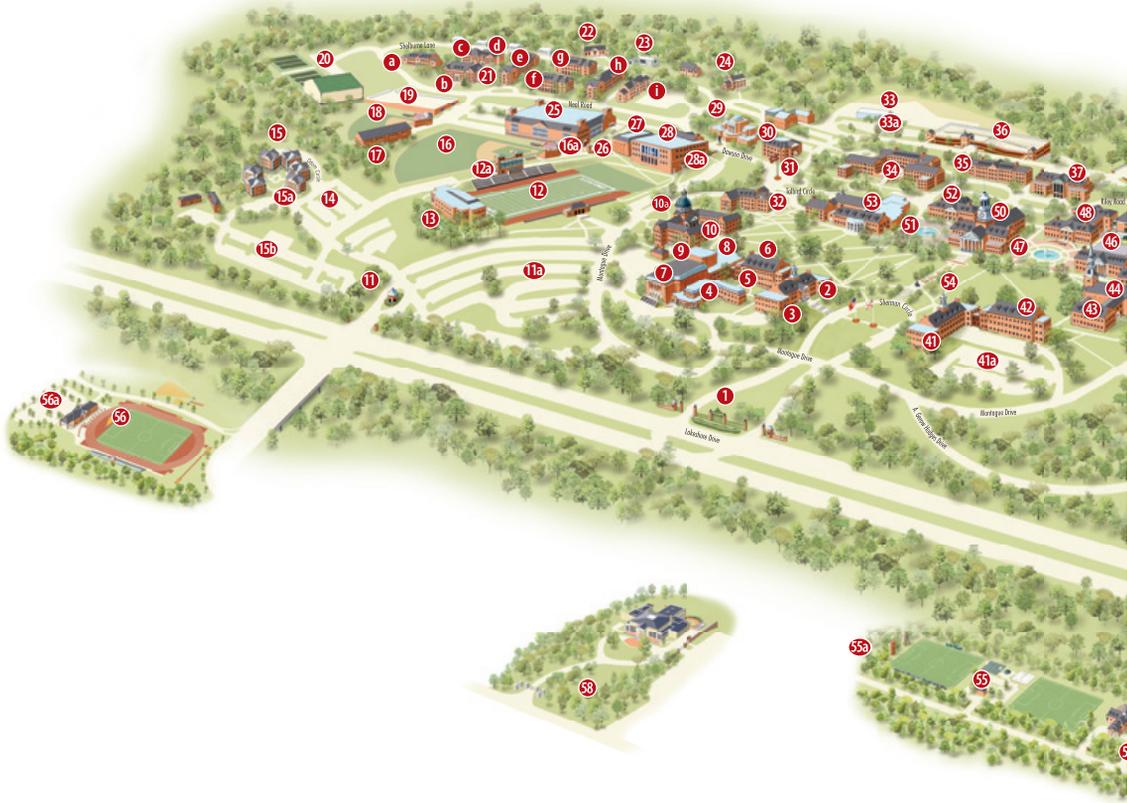
DVWS 701 *Wesleyan History and Doctrine*

This course introduces students to Wesleyan history and doctrine with an emphasis on the continuing reception of John and Charles Wesley. Attention will be given to the origins and spread of the Wesleyan tradition and the emerging ecclesial families that now comprise a global movement. Defining doctrines will be studied to understand their binding significance for Wesleyans within the Triune faith of the Church catholic. Emphasis will be placed on the Trinity, the Scripture way of salvation, sanctification, holiness- both personal and social, and Christian perfection. John Wesley's sermons and Charles Wesley's hymns will be primary sources for this work that will highlight the content and form of "practical divinity." *Prerequisite or corequisite: DVHD501.* Three credits.

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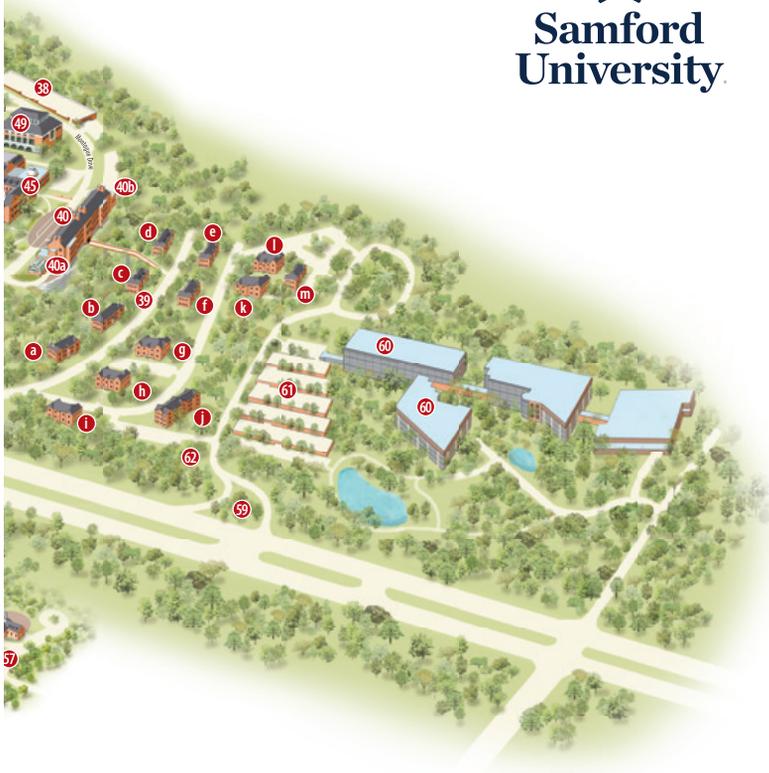
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Main Gate 2. Sherman Oak 3. Frank Park Samford Hall (Admission, Administration) 4. Jane Hollock Brock Hall
Jane Hollock Brock Recital Hall 5. Hazel P. Boren Courtyard and Garden 6. John H. Buchanan Hall (Arts) 7. Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center 8. Bonnie Bolding Swearingen Hall
Benjamin F. Harrison Theatre
Bolding Studio
Samford Art Gallery 9. Gertha Itasca Earwood Bolding Memorial Garden 10. Divinity Hall (Divinity) 10a. Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel 11. West Gate Entrance 11a. Lower Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center Parking Lot 12. F. Page Seibert Stadium 12a. Leo E. Bashinsky Press Tower 13. Sullivan-Cooney Family Field House 14. South Stadium Parking Lot | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. West Village 15a. Barbara Drummond Thorne Hall 15b. West Village Parking 16. Joe Lee Griffin Baseball Field 16a. Carl E. Miller Jr. Press Box 17. J. T. Haywood Field House 18. Bulldog Softball Field 19. West Parking Deck 20. Samford Tennis Center
Darwin E. Hardison Tennis Courts
Pat Murphy Courington Tennis Pavilion 21. West Campus Residence Halls <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. Alpha Omicron Pi</td> <td>f. Chi Omega</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Mountain View</td> <td>g. Alpha Delta Pi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Sigma Nu</td> <td>h. Zeta Tau Alpha</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Sigma Chi</td> <td>i. New Greek Housing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Phi Mu</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 22. Pi Kappa Phi House 23. Air Force ROTC Detachment 24. Theta Alpha House 25. Pete Hanna Center (Athletics)
Thomas E. and Marla H. Corts Arena
Fitness/Wellness Center | a. Alpha Omicron Pi | f. Chi Omega | b. Mountain View | g. Alpha Delta Pi | c. Sigma Nu | h. Zeta Tau Alpha | d. Sigma Chi | i. New Greek Housing | e. Phi Mu | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Bulldog Spirit Plaza 27. Leo E. Bashinsky Field House 28. F. Page Seibert Hall
Public Safety 28a. University Health Services 29. Dwight M. and Lucille S. Beeson Center 30. Orlean Bullard Beeson Hall (Education) 31. Victory Flag 32. John D. Pittman Hall 33. Art Lofts 33a. Upper Shop Lot 34. Lena Vail Davis Residence Hall 35. Mamie Mell Smith Residence Hall 36. North Parking Deck
Facilities Management 37. Cooney Hall (Business) 38. Northeast Parking Deck |
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| b. Mountain View | g. Alpha Delta Pi | | | | | | | | | | | |
| c. Sigma Nu | h. Zeta Tau Alpha | | | | | | | | | | | |
| d. Sigma Chi | i. New Greek Housing | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e. Phi Mu | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Directions to Campus

From I-65, take Exit 255 and turn east on Lakeshore Drive. Travel approximately 1.5 miles and turn left at the traffic light at the main entrance of Samford University. Turn left onto Montague Drive at the first stop sign. Divinity Hall is on the right with a large dome. The Hodges Chapel entrance faces west.



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| 39. Beeson Woods Residence Halls | 51. Ben Brown Plaza |
| a. James Hall | 52. Dwight M. Beeson Hall |
| b. Luther Hall | 53. Ralph W. Beeson University Center |
| c. Malcolm Hall | Dining Hall |
| d. Wesley Hall | Bookstore |
| e. Ralph Hall | The Hub (Information Center) |
| f. Orlean Hall | 54. Centennial Walk/University Quadrangle |
| g. Dwight Hall | 55. Intramural/Recreation Complex |
| 40. William Self Propst Hall | 55a. Alpine Tower |
| 40a. Conservatory | 56. Track and Soccer Stadium |
| 40b. Boyd E. Christenberry Planetarium | 56a. Track and Soccer Stadium Parking |
| 41. Robert I. Ingalls Sr. Hall | 57. Academy of the Arts |
| 41a. Ingalls Hall/Russell Hall Parking | 58. President's Home |
| 42. Thomas D. Russell Hall | 59. College of Health Sciences Gate Entrance |
| 43. James Horton Chapman Hall | 60. College of Health Sciences (Health Professions,
Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health) |
| 44. A. Hamilton Reid Chapel | 61. College of Health Sciences Parking |
| 45. Percy Pratt Burns Hall | 62. College of Health Sciences Main Campus Access |
| 46. Elinor Messer Brooks and Marion Thomas
Brooks Hall (Arts and Sciences) | |
| 47. Martha F. and Albert P. Brewer Plaza | |
| 48. Memory Leake Robinson Hall (Law) | |
| 49. Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library | |
| 50. Harwell G. Davis University Library | |

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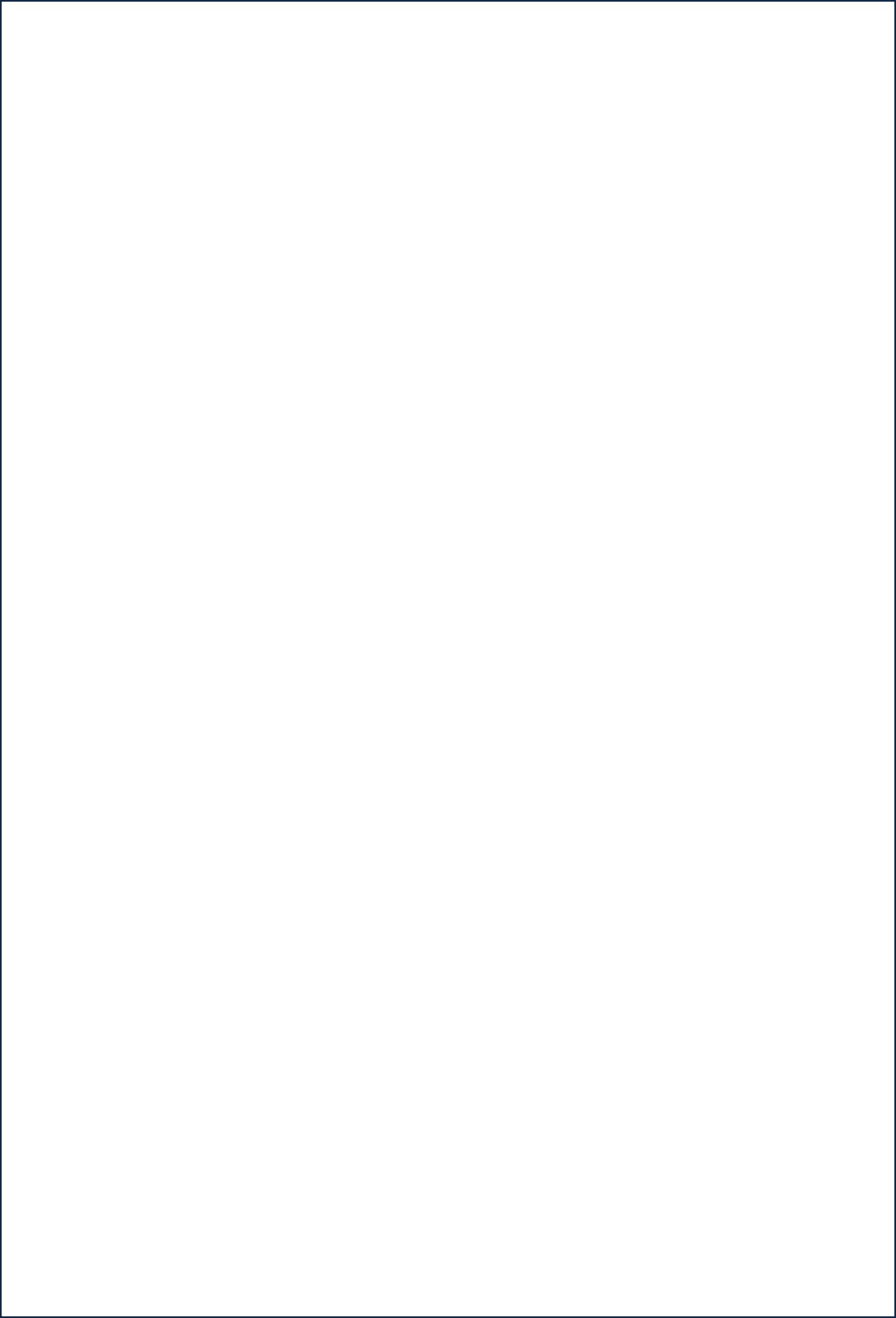
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Beeson Divinity School
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35229
205-726-2991
1-800-888-8266
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