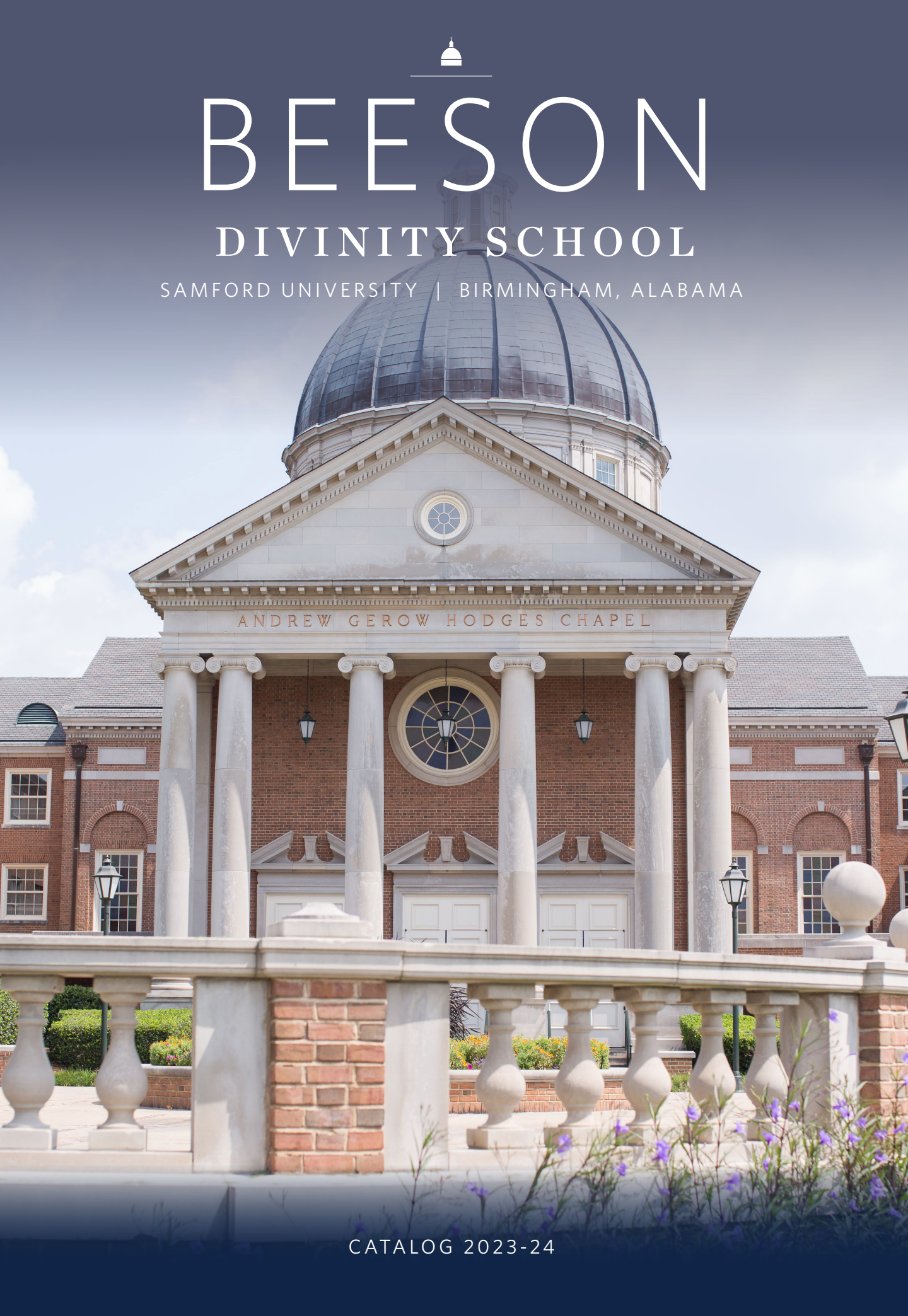




# BEESON

## DIVINITY SCHOOL

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



CATALOG 2023-24



# 2023-24 Catalog

*Quality Theological Education for a Lifetime of Ministry*

## CONTENTS

Dean's Message.....	1
Mission Statement.....	2
Confession of Faith.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Faculty.....	9
Staff.....	13
Admission.....	17
Financial Information.....	24
Academic Policies.....	28
Academic Programs.....	34
Curriculum.....	47
Index.....	62
Map.....	63

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



It is an honor and delight for me to serve as only the second dean of Beeson Divinity School. In this our 36th 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 Feb. 9, 1988, the Board of Trustees of Samford University authorized the establishment of a divinity school beginning in the 1988-89 academic year. 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 Dec. 1988, the Samford Board of Trustees voted to name the school Beeson Divinity School in honor of Ralph Waldo Beeson and his late father, John Wesley Beeson. Ralph Beeson provided one of the largest gifts from a living individual in Samford history to establish the only divinity school at that time at a Baptist college or university in the nation.

In its first year, Beeson Divinity School secured Timothy George to serve as the founding dean, as well as four full-time faculty and two adjunct faculty. The first entering class consisted of 32 students.

Beeson Divinity School has offered the Master of Divinity degree from its beginning. Within the first decade, the Master of Theological Studies (now M.A.T.S.) and the Doctor of Ministry degrees were added. Today, Beeson offers the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies, the Master of Theology, and the Doctor of Philosophy.

In 2019, Timothy George stepped down as dean of Beeson Divinity School. He was succeeded by Douglas A. Sweeney, who leads a full-time faculty of 14, eight part-time adjunct faculty and a staff of 15.

### **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 (M.Div.)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.)
- Master of Theology (Th.M.)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) 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. Divinity school faculty are committed to practice, and encourage students to practice, the discipline of employing inclusive language as one aspect of community building and a way of recognizing the worth of each individual.

### **Housing**

The divinity school does not own housing. 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](http://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 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.

For additional information about placement services, go to [beesondivinity.com/placement](http://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 both practicums required for M.Div. Students: the short-term cross-cultural ministry practicum and the supervised ministry practicum. In addition, the Global Center oversees the Mission 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](http://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 to the two beliefs that God calls women to Christian ministry and the Church needs God-called, theologically trained women in ministry. This Center 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 the flourishing of women 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 Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity and professor of Christian preaching. Dr. Mike Pasquarello, Methodist Chair of Divinity at Beeson, is its first director.

The Robert Smith Jr. 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  
B.S., U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
M.A., Colorado Christian University  
Ed.D., University Sarasota



**Gerald L. Bray**

Research Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
B.A., McGill University  
M.Litt., D.Litt., University of Paris–Sorbonne



**Joshua D. Chatraw**

Assistant Professor of Divinity  
Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism and Cultural Engagement  
B.B.A., Georgia Southern University  
M.Div., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



**D. Mark DeVine**

Associate Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
B.S., Clemson University  
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



**Thomas L. Fuller**

Associate Dean, Director of Thriving Pastors Institute  
Pastoral Leadership  
B.A., Samford University  
M.Div., D.Min., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Ph.D., University of Alabama

## FACULTY



**Timothy F. George**

Research Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
A.B., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
M.Div., Harvard Divinity School  
Th.D., Harvard University



**Mark S. Gignilliat**

Professor of Divinity, Director of Ph.D. program  
Old Testament  
B.A., Bob Jones University  
M.Div., Reformed Theological Seminary  
Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, Scotland



**Stefana Dan Laing**

Associate Professor of Divinity  
Theological Librarian  
History and Doctrine, Spiritual Formation  
B.A., Macquarie University  
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



**Jonathan Linebaugh**

Associate Professor of Divinity  
B.S., Messiah College  
M.Div., Trinity School for Ministry  
Ph.D., University of Durham, United Kingdom



**Piotr J. Malysz**

Associate Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
B.A., Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań Poland  
M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary  
Th.D., Harvard University

## FACULTY



**Osvaldo Padilla**

Professor of Divinity  
New Testament  
B.A., Moody Bible Institute  
M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
Ph.D., University of Aberdeen, Scotland



**David Parks**

Director of the Global Center and Contextual Learning  
Christian Missions  
B.A., Samford University  
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School  
Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



**M. Sydney Park**

Associate Professor of Divinity  
New Testament  
B.A., University of Chicago  
M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary  
Th.M., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
Ph.D., University of Aberdeen, Scotland



**Michael Pasquarello III**

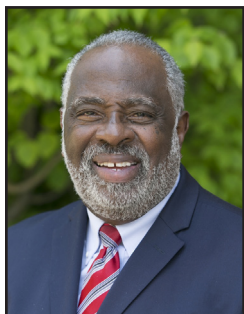
Methodist Chair of Divinity, Director of The Robert Smith Jr.  
Preaching Institute and Doctor of Ministry program  
History and Doctrine, Christian Preaching, Wesleyan Studies  
B.A., Master's College  
M.Div., Duke Divinity School  
M.A.R.S., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Allen P. Ross**

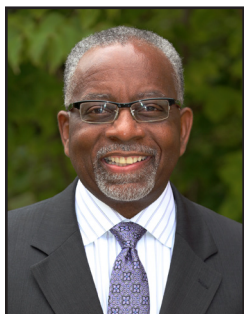
Professor of Divinity  
Old Testament  
B.A., Bob Jones University  
Th.M., Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary  
Ph.D., University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

## FACULTY



**Robert Smith, Jr.**

Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity  
Christian Preaching  
A.S., God's Bible College  
B.S., Cincinnati Bible College  
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Doctor of Sacred Theology (Hon.), Temple Community Bible College



**Ronald D. Sterling**

Director of Student Services  
Spiritual Formation  
B.S., Southern University  
M.Div., D.Min., Beeson Divinity School



**Douglas A. Sweeney**

Dean, Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
B.A., Wheaton College  
M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School  
M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University



**Frank S. Thielman**

Presbyterian Chair of Divinity  
New Testament  
B.A., Wheaton College  
B.A., M.A., University of Cambridge, United Kingdom  
Ph.D., Duke University



**Douglas D. Webster**

Professor of Divinity  
Pastoral Theology, Christian Preaching  
B.A., M.A., Wheaton College  
Ph.D., 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**  
Advancement Officer



**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**

### **Noel Forlini Burt**

B.A., Samford University; M.Div., Beeson Divinity School; Ph.D., Drew University; Coordinator, Preministerial Scholars, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

### **Tyshawn Gardner**

B.S., Stillman College; M.Div., Beeson Divinity School; Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Associate Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Director, Preministerial Scholars, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

### **John D. Laing**

B.S., University of North Carolina (Charlotte); M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Senior Command Chaplain, Texas Military Department

### **Kenneth A. Mathews**

B.A., Dallas Baptist University; Th.M., Dallas Theological University; M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan

### **J.D. Payne**

B.A., University of Kentucky; M.Div., Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Professor, Christian Ministry, School of the Arts, Samford University

### **S. Randy Todd**

B.A., Furman University; M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Professor and Chair of Classics, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University

### **Collin Hansen**

B.S.J., Northwestern University; M.Div., 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 M.Div. and M.A.T.S. must possess a four-year bachelor's degree from an accredited institution. Candidates for the Master of Theology (Th.M.) 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, Th.M. candidates must have a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all previous graduate coursework and demonstrate proficiency in Hebrew or Greek, as appropriate to research interest. See page 20 for Ph.D. requirements. Admission for all programs is competitive.
4. **Commitment to Full-time Studies**—as expressed in a willingness to engage fully in the curricular and co-curricular life of the Beeson Divinity School community. 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.) required of all full-time students. Engagement in all aspects of Beeson's community life, both inside and outside the classroom, is vitally important to students' preparation and formation for faithful ministry leadership.

### 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 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

Applications received between November 1 and July 1

Priority Deadline: February 1

#### Spring Entry Term

Applications received between May 1 and December 1

Priority Deadline: September 1

### Application Requirements

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

- Completed [online application](#)
- Essays
  - \* Personal Faith and Vocation Essay
  - \* Master of Divinity (M.Div.) applicants who wish to be considered for a tier one scholarship must also write an essay on the Apostles' Creed.
  - \* Master of Theology (Th.M.) applicants must also submit an academic writing sample (3000-5000 words) from within the past five years.
- Academic Recommendation (to be completed by a college- or graduate-level instructor)
- Character Recommendation (to be 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)
- Church Endorsement (to be completed by your senior pastor or a full-time church elder or minister; cannot be a family member).
- Admission Interview: Each applicant is responsible for scheduling an interview prior to the application deadline. Applications are not complete until an interview is conducted. In-person interviews on Samford's campus are preferred, but Zoom interviews are acceptable. Schedule your interview through the application portal.  
*Note:* Th.M. candidates are not required to complete an interview during the initial application process. Finalists for this degree program will be invited to an interview later in the application process.
- Official transcript(s) 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 (may be paid by credit card when submitting online application). The fee is waived for graduates 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 under "Academic Policies-Part-Time Studies."

## **Doctoral Degree Application**

### **Admission Standards**

Admission to the Ph.D. 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 (M.Div.) 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 M.Div. 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 Greek or Hebrew language. (Competence in the second biblical language and any modern research language must be demonstrated before comprehensive exams.)

### **Application Process**

Students are admitted annually to begin studies in the spring semester. Applications are received between April 15 and August 15. 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.

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
- 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](http://wes.org)) from each secondary school and college or university attended
2. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score of at least 550 (paper exam) or 80 (Internet exam) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Students should arrange to take the TOEFL by visiting [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) or by writing to Educational Testing Service at P.O. Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540.

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

**International applicants to master's degree programs must apply by the priority deadline for their preferred enrollment term** (September 1 for spring semester and February 1 for fall semester.)

### **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.

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](mailto: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. 32).

### **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 July 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 (July 1 for fall enrollment, Dec. 1 for spring enrollment).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Degree Programs Tuition and Fees

(as of 2023-24)

Current tuition and fees are also posted at [beesondivinity.com/scholarships-tuition-and-fees](https://beesondivinity.com/scholarships-tuition-and-fees). 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, M.Div., M.A.T.S., and Th.M.\*

full-time, 9–12 credits (M.Div. and Th.M.)	\$8,488
full-time, 9–13 credits (M.A.T.S.)	\$8,488
per-credit rate applies beyond 12 credits (M.Div. / Th.M) or 13 credits (M.A.T.S.)	

Tuition per credit, M.Div., M.A.T.S., and Th.M.\*

fall, spring, and January terms	\$808
May and summer terms	\$399

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 will pay the doctoral program per-credit hour tuition for Ph.D. seminars*

Tuition per trimester, Ph.D.

spring, summer, and fall terms	\$1,350
--------------------------------	---------

Tuition per credit, Ph.D.

spring, summer, and fall terms	\$900 per credit hour
--------------------------------	-----------------------

Fees

Application (nonrefundable)	\$35
Returned check	\$30
Auto decal	\$30/semester (fall and spring)
Books and supplies	\$800–900/year (estimated)
University Fee	\$320/semester (fall and spring); \$200/term (May and summer)
Continuation fee (Ph.D. only)	\$1,000/semester (after 12 semesters)
Dissertation fee (Ph.D. 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 not paying 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 p. 51). 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 "Academic Policies—Withdrawal from Beeson Divinity School" (p. 33) for the official process for withdrawing. For more information on these policies, please contact Samford's One Stop at 205-726-2905 or 1-800-888-7245.

### **Drop and Add Policy and Refunds**

Drops and adds are changes in a schedule that do not involve complete withdrawal from school. **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 forfeits a tuition scholarship award and must immediately pay total tuition according to the part-time rate. **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 a tuition scholarship award 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 refund and withdrawal policies apply.

### **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](mailto: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 [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.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 or 205-726-2905).

### **Scholarships for M.A.T.S. and Th.M. Students**

All full-time students enrolled in the Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.) or Master of Theology (Th.M.) 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.

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

### **Scholarships for M.Div. 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 M.Div. scholarship assistance covers anywhere from 29% to 100% of the full-time tuition rate. On average, scholarships cover approximately half of the tuition cost for full-time 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 (Feb. 1 for fall entry, Sept. 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 (M.Div. and Th.M.) or 13 credits (M.A.T.S.) 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.

### **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 from the M.Div. degree program to the M.A.T.S. degree program, or vice versa, 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. The associate dean, in consultation with the admission committee, will consider each request. Applicants will be informed of a decision and any scholarship changes in a letter three to four weeks after the application deadline.

### **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 M.Div. degree after having received the M.A.T.S. degree at Beeson Divinity School, they are required to earn a minimum of 58 additional semester credits to receive the M.Div. degree. It is understood that all normal requirements for the 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 Th.M. students, M.Div. students who have completed 32 semester credits, and M.A.T.S. 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 M.Div. students, and no more than three credits of directed study may be taken by M.A.T.S. students during a student's divinity school career. Details are available in the associate dean's office. Requests are due by Oct. 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 Oct. 1 for spring semesters and Mar. 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 Mar. 1 for the upcoming fall semester and by Oct. 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.

### **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.

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 Th.M. may complete a thesis to satisfy the writing component of the program. Students in the M.Div. and M.A.T.S. degree programs may wish to write a thesis for elective credit toward their degree requirements. Eligibility for thesis writing is restricted to Th.M. students, M.A.T.S. students who have completed at least 20 hours of coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.25, and to M.Div. 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. No online or correspondence credit will be accepted, though students with such credits may be considered for advanced standing.

For the master of arts in theological studies (M.A.T.S.) and the master of divinity (M.Div.), Beeson Divinity School will accept for transfer from another accredited theological school no more than one-third of the 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. Up to nine (9) 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 an M.Div. or M.A.T.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 M.Div. degree or six (6) credits toward a M.A.T.S. degree.

For the master of theology (Th.M.), Beeson Divinity School will accept for transfer from another accredited theological school no more than six (6) 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 (M.Div.)

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) 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. M.Div. 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. 41).

Admission to the M.Div. program requires a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

The requirements for an M.Div. 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 M.Div. degree requires at least 87 semester credits with a minimum of 57 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 M.Div. 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.

### 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)\* (Summer and Spring)  
DVNT 616 Greek Exegesis Practicum (3) (Summer and Fall)  
DVNT 731 or 732 Greek Exegesis Book Study (3) (Fall and Spring)  
DVOT 511 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (3) (Fall and Spring)  
DVOT 512 Hebrew Syntax and Translation (3) (Summer and Spring)  
DVOT 616 Hebrew Exegesis Practicum (3) (Summer and Fall)  
DVOT 731 or 732 Hebrew Exegesis Book Study (3) (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)\* (Summer, Fall and Spring)

Electives (12 credits)

Total for M.Div. 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 M.Div.: 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 intensified 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 M.Div. 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](mailto:global@samford.edu), 205-726-2170.

## **M.Div. 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 (replaces Doctrine & Ethics)
  - DVAN606 Anglican Worship and Sacraments (replaces 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, monthly Anglican theology nights, and 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (replaces Doctrine & Ethics)
  - DVWS606 Wesleyan Polity, Ministry and Mission (replaces 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 Dr. Michael Pasquarello III at 205-726-2786 or [mpasquar@samford.edu](mailto:mpasquar@samford.edu).

**Accelerated B.A.-to-M.Div. 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 (B.A.) degree and the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) 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 B.A.-to-M.Div. pathway program, please contact the office of admissions at 205-726-2227.

## **Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.)**

The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.) is an academic M.A. degree, designed to provide a deeper understanding of the content of the Christian faith. The M.A.T.S. program is ideally suited for persons wishing to gain a foundational understanding of the core theological disciplines for personal enrichment and growth, for the enhancement of their ministries in non-ordained capacities and/or as an introductory graduate theological degree. The degree is also offered in tandem with several other graduate degrees in other schools of the university (see Joint Degree Programs on p. 41). The M.A.T.S. degree does not provide the breadth and depth of preparation expected or required by most churches and denominations for pastoral ministry roles or for ordination. Admission to the M.A.T.S. program requires a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution.

The curriculum includes four courses in biblical studies, four courses in Christian history and doctrine, and four elective courses. The program concludes with a capstone course in which students draw upon the biblical and theological disciplines to reflect on their faith and vocation and integrate those reflections in a coherent thesis assignment.

Students in the M.A.T.S. program may not take DVCC courses, DVPM courses, DVPR courses, DVML courses or DVHD 605 without permission of the associate dean.

The requirements for the M.A.T.S. degree can be completed in two years of full-time study. The program requires at least 37 credit hours, with a minimum of 24 credit hours being completed at Beeson Divinity School. 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 (21 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) (Summer and Fall)

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

#### Capstone Course (1 credit)

DVTH 701 Faith and Vocation (1) (Spring)

#### Electives (12 credits)

Total for M.A.T.S. Degree (37 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 M.A.T.S. 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**

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 (M.A.T.S./J.D.)  
Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Master of Social Work (M.A.T.S./M.S.W.)  
Master of Divinity/Juris Doctor (M.Div./J.D.)  
Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration (M.Div./M.B.A.)  
Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work (M.Div./M.S.W.)

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. To receive divinity scholarship assistance, joint degree students must take a minimum of nine (9) credit hours of divinity courses per semester.

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

## **Master of Theology (Th.M.)**

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) provides advanced theological study beyond Master of Divinity (M.Div.) studies as further preparation for ministry and/or as preparation for research doctoral (Ph.D.) 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 M.Div. and Ph.D. programs, the emphasis in the Th.M. 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 Th.M. 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 Ph.D. 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 Th.M. Degree (30 credits)

### **Degree Objectives**

Graduates of the Th.M. 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 (Ph.D.)**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) 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 Ph.D. in Theology for the Church requires successful completion of at least 42 semester credits, as outlined below:

Students begin study in a spring term. 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 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 Ph.D. program.

Upon acceptance of the dissertation prospectus, a student is allotted four (4) terms for dissertation research and writing. A Ph.D. dissertation is not expansive coverage of a particular topic nor, necessarily, an “original” contribution. A Ph.D. dissertation is an entrance card into the field of theological research and writing. Therefore, a Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. 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



### **Doctor of Ministry in Christian Preaching (D. Min.)**

NOTE: Effective June 1, 2020, Beeson Divinity School announced its intent to discontinue the Doctor of Ministry degree. Students currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to complete the requirements for the degree. No other persons will be admitted into the program.

The D.Min. is the highest earned degree for the practice of Christian ministry. The degree is designed to enhance understanding and to improve skills of ministers, equipping them for the highest level of excellence in the practice of ministry.

The D.Min. degree requires completion of 36 credits in varied phases of learning. Degree requirements include five weeks on campus for seminars, four semesters of field-based research and completion of a ministry research project and report. The D.Min. degree can be completed in three and a half years.

#### **Degree Objectives**

Graduates of the Doctor of Ministry in Christian preaching will:

1. Improve in their abilities to interpret Scripture and to communicate its message with clarity and conviction.
2. Grow in their knowledge and understanding of homiletical principles and practices.
3. Learn to integrate more fully personal, pastoral and theological concerns in their preaching.

## 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 p. 28).

### 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 is required of all students in their first semester. 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. 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) Zero 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. 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, Sept. 1 through Dec. 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, Jan. 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 Colossians. *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. 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:* DVOT 511. 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. 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.

**DIRECTED STUDY**

**DVTH 701 *Faith and Vocation***

This course functions as the capstone to the M.A.T.S. program. 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. (M.A.T.S. students only.) 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 p. 28 for a complete description and procedures for a directed study course. Three credits.

**DVTH 798, 799 *Master's Thesis***

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. For a description and procedures, see p. 31 in the "Academic Policies" section. 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 Ph.D. program are required to complete four semesters of the course. *Ph.D. 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. *Ph.D. and Th.M. 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. *Ph.D. only.* Three credits.

**DVTH 871 *Comprehensive Exams***

Upon completion of the course work required for the Ph.D. 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. *Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. program. *Ph.D. 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. *Ph.D. 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.



## Doctor of Ministry

### **DVDM 801 *Preaching and the Pastoral Identity***

This seminar explores the matter of pastoral identity as revealed in the Scriptures, given expression in the history of the Church and embodied uniquely by students and the implications for how one regards and practices the ministry of preaching and teaching. Three credits.

### **DVDM 805 *Ministry Context Studies I***

This course addresses the implications of pastoral identity for the preaching and teaching of the Bible in the student's ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry at the intersection of preaching and pastoral identity, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 801. Three credits.

### **DVDM 811 *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God***

This seminar examines the major theological themes that span the Old and New Testaments and the hermeneutical principles that undergird faithful and responsible exposition of biblical texts in one's preaching ministry. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 805. Three credits.

### **DVDM 815 *Ministry Context Studies II***

This course enhances students' ability to choose and utilize a biblical theology appropriate for the preaching and teaching of the Bible in a student's ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry that involves the application of biblical theology to their preaching ministry, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 811. Three credits.

### **DVDM 821 *Preaching and Culture***

This seminar engages the dynamic tension between the Word of God and culture, the nature and mission of the church in relation to culture(s) and the challenge of proclaiming biblical truth in changing cultural contexts. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 815. Three credits.

### **DVDM 825 *Ministry Context Studies III***

This course enhances students' ability to develop a theological vision and biblical hermeneutic that is cross-cultural, culturally sensitive and effective for preaching in their ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry that relates to the interchange between preaching and culture, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 821. Three credits.

### **DVDM 831 *Moving from Text to Sermon***

This seminar introduces students to homiletical principles and practices for text-driven preaching and assists them in developing processes by which to improve their preaching and teaching ministries. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 825. Three credits.

**DVDM 835 *Ministry Context Studies IV***

This course enhances students' ability to prepare and deliver text-driven sermons in their ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry in the planning, development and delivery of sermons, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 831. Three credits.

**DVDM 841, 842, 843, 844 *Selected Topics I, II, III, and IV***

These elective, one-week seminars in selected topics may take the form of a directed study designed by the advanced student in consultation with the professor to pursue independently a topic of special interest not otherwise covered in the curriculum. Some courses offered under this heading include Issues in Marriage and Family Ministry, Leading Your Church in Worship, Pastoral Evangelism and Doctrinal Preaching. Three credits each.

**DVDM 860 *Project Proposal Writing Seminar***

This seminar is designed to provide guidance for students as they write proposals for their ministry research project. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 835. Three credits.

**DVDM 871, 872, 873 *Ministry Research Project I, II, and III***

The implementation of a ministry research project in the student's place of ministry includes a formal written report that describes and evaluates the ministry initiative followed by an oral examination on the project and its report. Students are given three semesters to complete the project and report. A continuation fee is charged for subsequent semesters. Three credits each.

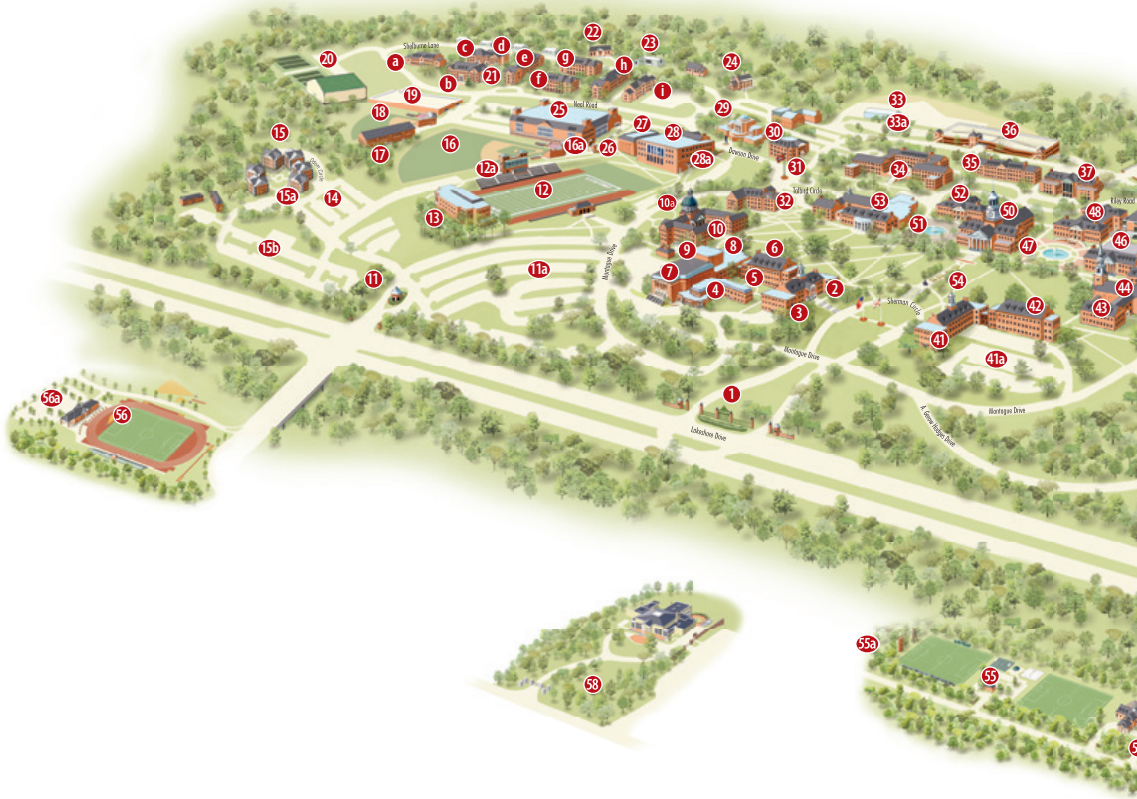




## INDEX

Academic Policies .....	28
Academic Programs .....	34
Accreditation.....	5
Admission.....	17
Confession of Faith.....	3
Curriculum.....	47
Faculty .....	9
Financial Aid .....	25
Financial Information.....	24
Global Center .....	8
Grading System .....	29
History of School .....	4
International Students .....	21
Library .....	6
Mission Statement .....	2
Scholarships.....	26
Transfer Credit.....	32
Tuition .....	24
Withdrawal Policy.....	33

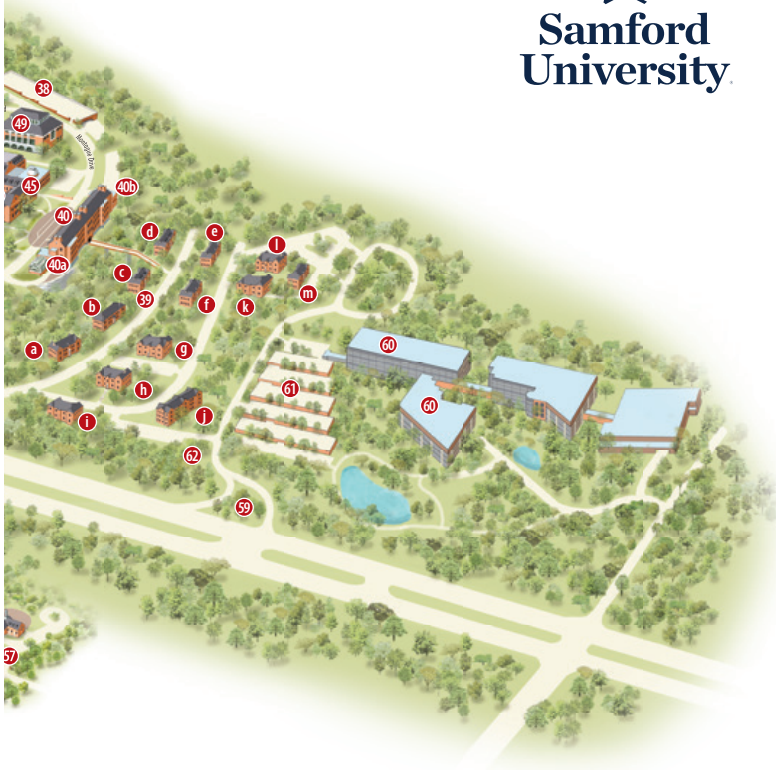
MAP



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

**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.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 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,<br>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<br>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                                       |  |

**Information in this catalog covers academic years 2023-24.**

Information contained in this catalog is accurate as of the date of publication. Beeson Divinity School of Samford University reserves the right to revise, amend or change items set forth in this catalog from time to time. Accordingly, readers of the catalog should inquire as to whether such revisions, amendments or changes have been made since the date of publication. Such revisions, amendments or changes may include, but are not limited to, the right to modify requirements for admission or graduation, to change tuition, to modify or cancel course offerings, to set minimum and maximum class sizes, to change designated instructors in courses, to change textbooks used, to alter regulations affecting the student body and to dismiss or drop from the school any student at any time if such change is deemed in the best interest of the school or the student.

The Beeson Divinity School catalog is published by Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama 35229. Second class postage is paid at Birmingham, Alabama.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Divinity School catalog, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229.

Volume 24  
August 2023

USPS 253-020

Samford University complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including applicable provisions of and amendments to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services. Inquiries and concerns regarding this policy may be directed to the vice president for business affairs or general counsel, Office of Business and Financial Affairs, 200 Samford Hall, Birmingham, AL 35229, 205-726-2811. This notice is available in alternative formats upon request.

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



**Samford University**  
Beeson Divinity School

beesondivinity.com  
205-726-2991