

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: June 2018

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts substantive changes only from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS). Canadian schools are not included in this report. References correspond to the [compendium of accrediting documents](#). Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#).

*At its semiannual meeting June 4-5, 2018, in Pittsburgh, PA, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **June 5, 2018**, unless otherwise noted—viz. the actions effective **June 21, 2018**, as taken by the Officers Committee of the Board, which met in Denver, CO, on June 21, 2018, during the 2018 Biennial Meeting of The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting.*

ACTIONS RELATED TO VISITS FOR REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

Calvin Theological Seminary - Grand Rapids, MI

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Calvin Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Educational Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Evangelism and Missions
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Care
 - Master of Arts in Worship
 - Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Arts (Bible and Theology)
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Philosophy
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Christian Theological Seminary - Indianapolis, IN

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Christian Theological Seminary for a period of eight years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2026, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2026.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: None

Illiff School of Theology - Denver, CO

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Illiff School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts in Pastoral and Spiritual Care
Master of Arts in Social Justice and Ethics
Master of Theological Studies
Doctor of Philosophy

3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Memphis Theological Seminary for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2025, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Youth Ministry
 - Master of Arts (Religion)
 - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site at Arkansas Baptist College (1621 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Little Rock, AR, 72202) as an ongoing course-offering site approved to offer less than 50 percent of the Master of Divinity degree
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: None

Moravian Theological Seminary - Bethlehem, PA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Moravian Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Chaplaincy
 - Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling
 - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Phoenix Seminary - Scottsdale, AZ

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Phoenix Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Ministry
 - Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Master of Theology
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Saint Vincent Seminary - Latrobe, PA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Saint Vincent Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Ecclesial Ministry
 - Master of Arts [NOTE: Standard D (academic)]
 - Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies)

3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: None

San Francisco Theological Seminary - San Anselmo, CA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of San Francisco Theological Seminary for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2025, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
 - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Wartburg Theological Seminary - Dubuque, IA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry
 - Master of Arts [*NOTE: Standard D (academic)*]
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Westminster Theological Seminary in California - Escondido, CA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Westminster Theological Seminary in California for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts [*NOTE: Standard D (academic)*]
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: None

World Mission University School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of World Mission University School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2028, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Music
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Church Music
3. To approve the following extension site(s): 7342 Orangethorpe Avenue, #A103, Buena Park, CA 90621 as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling (Professional MA) degree only
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

ACTIONS RELATED TO VISITS FOR INITIAL ACCREDITATION

Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis - Plymouth, MN

1. To grant initial accreditation of Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2025, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2025.

2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Kearley Graduate School of Theology of Faulkner University - Montgomery, AL

1. To grant initial accreditation to Kearley Graduate School of Theology of Faulkner University for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2025, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)
 - Doctor of Philosophy (Biblical Studies)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Northwest Nazarene University Graduate School of Theology - Nampa, ID

1. To grant initial accreditation to Northwest Nazarene University Graduate School of Theology for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2025, before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Leadership and Formation
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: Yes

Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America - Santa Fe Springs, CA

1. To grant initial accreditation to Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America for a period of five years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring of 2023, one term before the period of accreditation expires on July 31, 2023.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Counseling Psychology (Professional MA)
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None
4. To grant approval to offer comprehensive distance education: No

OTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO PERIODS OF ACCREDITATION

Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico – San Juan, PR

To approve a one-year *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* spring 2019 *to* spring 2020) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (*to* July 31, 2020). [*Effective date: June 21, 2018*]

Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary – Mayaguez, PR

To approve an additional one-semester *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* spring 2019 *to* fall 2019), in order to allow for a comprehensive evaluation visit in July 2019, and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (*to* March 31, 2020). [*Effective date: June 21, 2018*]

ACTIONS RELATED TO COMPREHENSIVE DISTANCE EDUCATION APPROVAL

General Theological Seminary - New York, NY

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology - Brookline, MA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Chicago, IL

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry - Seattle, WA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

ACTIONS RELATED TO NEW (OR REVISED) DEGREES

Franciscan School of Theology - Oceanside, CA

To approve the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (Standard B) degree program.

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary – South Hamilton, PA

1. To approve the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) (Standard D) degree program. [*Action taken May 7, 2018, pending contingencies; final contingency met June 8, 2018.*]
2. To approve the Master of Arts in Global Leadership (Standard B) degree program.

Grace School of Theology - The Woodlands, TX

1. To approve the Master of Arts in Chaplaincy (Standard B) degree program.
2. To approve the Master of Arts in Military Chaplaincy (Standard B) degree program.

Houston Graduate School of Theology - Houston, TX

To approve the MA in Christian Ministry (Standard B) degree program.

Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry - Seattle, WA

To approve the Master of Arts (Standard D) degree program.

Talbot School of Theology - La Mirada, CA

To approve the Master of Arts (Classical Theology) (Standard D) degree program.

Union Presbyterian Seminary - Richmond, VA

To approve the Doctor of Ministry (Standard E) degree program.

United Lutheran Seminary – Philadelphia, PA

To approve the Master of Arts in Public Leadership (Standard B) degree program. [*Action taken February 2, 2018, pending contingencies; final contingency met May 25, 2018.*]

Vanderbilt University Divinity School - Nashville, TN

To approve the Master of Theology (Standard I) degree program.

ACTIONS RELATED TO NEW/EXPANDED/RELOCATED EXTENSION SITES

Dallas Theological Seminary - Dallas, TX

1. To grant approval to relocate the school's San Antonio extension site *from* Northeast Bible Church (19185 FM2252, Garden Ridge, TX 78266) *to* Wayside Chapel (1705 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213). This site has already been approved to offer three complete degrees: the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (Standard B degree), the Master of Biblical and Theological Studies (Standard D degree), and the Master of Arts (Christian Studies)—also a Standard D degree. However, in light of the Board's other action regarding all of the school's extension sites, this site is now approved to offer an additional six degrees (see other action [*#4.g, below*] for a complete list).
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
3. To grant approval to expand the eight existing complete-degree extension sites, as described below.
4. To exempt these eight sites from a focused evaluation visit since they meet the exemption criteria described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual* (section III.A.1.e).
 - a. Alpharetta, Georgia (at North Point Community Church, 4400 North Point Pkwy, Suite 100, Alpharetta, GA 30022) from the complete MACL, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete ThM, STM, MABC, MACE, MACM, and MAMW degrees.

- b. Atlanta, Georgia (at Passion City Church, 515 Garson Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30324) from the complete MACL, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete ThM, STM, MABC, MACE, MACM, and MAMW degrees.
- c. Austin, Texas (at Passion Hill Country Bible Church, 12124 Ranch Road 620 North, Austin, TX 78750) from the complete MACL, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete ThM, STM, MABC, MACE, MACM, and MAMW degrees.
- d. Houston, Texas (at 7100 Regency Square Blvd, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77036) from the complete ThM, MABC, MACE, MACL, MACM, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete MAMW and STM degrees.
- e. Manassas, Virginia (at McLean Bible Church—Prince William Campus, 10002 Battleview Pkwy, Manassas, VA 20109) from the complete ThM, MABC, MACE, MACL, MACM, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete MAMW and STM degrees.
- f. Nashville, Tennessee (at Fellowship Bible Church---Brentwood, 1210 Franklin Road, Brentwood, TN 37027) from the complete MACL, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete ThM, STM, MABC, MACE, MACM, and MAMW degrees.
- g. San Antonio, Texas (at the Wayside Chapel (1705 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213) from the complete MACL, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete ThM, STM, MABC, MACE, MACM, and MAMW degrees. *[NOTE: This is the new location approved in a separate action. (#1, above)]*
- h. Spring, Texas (at WoodsEdge Community Church in The Woodlands, 25333 Gosling Road, Spring, TX 77389) from the complete ThM, MABC, MACE, MACL, MACM, MACS, and MBTS to include also the complete MAMW and STM degrees.

NOTE: The above degree abbreviations are for these nine degrees: MABC = MA in Biblical Counseling (Standard B), MACE = MA in Christian Education (Standard B), MACL = MA in Christian Leadership (Standard B), MACM = MA in Cross-Cultural Ministries (Standard B), MAMW = MA in Media Arts and Worship (Standard B), MBTS = MA (Biblical and Theological Studies) (Standard D), MACS = MA (Christian Studies) (Standard D), STM = Master of Sacred Theology (Standard I), and ThM = Master of Theology (approved hybrid MDiv and ThM under Standards A and I).

George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University – Waco, TX

To grant approval for a new, complete-degree extension site located at Tallowood Baptist Church (555 Tallowood Rd, Houston, TX 77024) at which the complete Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, a Standard B degree, and the Master of Theological Studies, a Standard D degree, can be earned. *[Action taken June 2, 2017, pending contingencies; final contingency met May 24, 2018.]*

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary - New Orleans, LA

To grant approval to expand the complete-degree extension site at Angola Prison (Louisiana State Penitentiary, 17544 Tunice Trace, St. Francisville, LA 70775) *from* offering the MDiv only *to* offering also the MA in Pastoral Ministry (Standard B) degree.

North Park Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL

1. To grant approval to offer the complete MA in Christian Ministry program at a new full-degree extension site at Stateville Correctional Center (16830 Rte 53, Crest Hill, IL 60403; mailing address: 16830 S Broadway St, PO Box 112, Joliet, IL 60434).
2. To grant approval to offer the complete MA in Christian Formation, MA in Christian Ministry, and MDiv degree programs at a new, complete-degree extension site located at Mission Springs Camps and Conference Center (1050 Lockhart Gulch Rd, Scotts Valley, CA 95066).

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - Fort Worth, TX

1. To grant approval to relocate the Houston extension site *from* 4105 Broadway St, Houston, TX 77087 *to* Sagemont Church (11300 S Sam Houston Parkway E, Houston, TX 77089). This site is approved to offer the complete Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies (see 3 below).
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.

Union Presbyterian Seminary - Richmond, VA

To expand the Charlotte extension site (5141 Sharon Rd, Charlotte, NC 28210) to offer the Doctor of Ministry degree program.

ACTIONS RELATED TO CLOSING FULL-DEGREE EXTENSION SITES

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary - Springfield, MO

1. To approve closure (April 30, 2018) of the complete-degree site located at 6051 S Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 65829.
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary - Jacksonville, TX

1. To approve the closing of the complete-degree site located at 1501 College Ave, Conway, AR 72032. The school is reminded that it should inform Commission staff when the last student has graduated from or otherwise exited the MDiv, MA in Christian Ministries, and MA (Religion) programs offered at this site.
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-put plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School of Trinity International University - Deerfield, IL

1. To approve closure (May 12, 2018) of the complete-degree site located at 2606 W 96th St, Indianapolis, IN 46268.
2. To approve closure (May 12, 2018) of the complete-degree site located at 12121 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090.
3. To approve the school's teach-out plans since each meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.

ACTIONS RELATED TO CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE

Dominican Study Center of the Caribbean – Bayamon, PR

1. To approve the school's request for a change of governance resulting from a merger with Universidad Central de Bayamón, Inc., effective August 15, 2017. [*Effective date: June 21, 2018*]
2. To authorize that the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for March 18-21, 2019 serve also the purpose of the focused visit normally required within six months of a substantive change in governing control to verify that the school continues to meet applicable Commission Standards, particularly Standards 1, 7, and 8. [*Effective date: June 21, 2018*]

ACTIONS RELATED TO THE REMOVAL OF NOTATION

A [notation](#) is a warning, i.e., negative action, to denote that a school partially meets a given Standard, which it must fully meet within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation, i.e., adverse action (see [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

American Baptist Seminary of the West - Berkeley, CA

1. To accept the report required in June 2016 regarding Notation N9.c.
2. To remove Notation N9.c ("*The institution has not demonstrated the extent to which its students have met the learning outcomes appropriate for each degree program it offers or that its assessment efforts have led to improvement and there is no evidence of a credible plan or its implementation to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.*").

Mount Saint Mary's Seminary - Emmitsburg, MD

1. To accept the report required in June 2017 regarding Notation N7.a [imposed June 2015].
2. To remove Notation N7.a ("*The institution does not adequately or appropriately define, exercise, or implement the roles, responsibilities, and structures of authority and governance.*").

ACTIONS RELATED TO WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION

N/A

Report prepared June 22, 2018

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