

VIRGINIA BEACH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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2020–21  
Academic Catalog

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# 2020–21 Academic Catalog

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# 1. General Information

## 1.1 Vision & Mission

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary opened its doors in the summer of 1996 with the vision of training pastors, missionaries, and skilled Christian workers in the context of the local church. Colonial Baptist Church has served as the gracious host of VBTS since its inception and provides an appropriate context for ministerial training. The interactive relationship between the seminary and Colonial Baptist Church enables students to observe the practical application of sound theology and a biblically informed philosophy of ministry.

The development and application of ministry philosophy is a key focal point for the seminary. VBTS is committed to the ministry principle that God accomplishes His work through the sufficiency of the biblical text. God displays His grace in the church by applying the Scripture to the conscience of the believer, empowering the believer to live for Christ, and enabling the believer to properly distinguish between the priorities of Scripture and the preferences of human traditions. This “grace philosophy of ministry” exalts the text of Scripture, the person of Christ, and the edification of His church.

The mission of Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is to equip each student for local church ministry and global missions through biblical academic training in a ministry-based environment. In so doing, the seminary seeks to honor the Lord Jesus Christ and to uphold His inerrant word. The seminary mission statement is conceptualized in the expression, “Sharpening Servants for Global Ministry.”

The identity of the seminary is inseparably united with its affirmation of a dispensational hermeneutic, a pre-tribulational and pre-millennial view of the end times, and a Baptist perspective of the church.

## 1.2 Philosophy of Education

The seminary’s Philosophy of Education centers on four key elements: educational presuppositions, educational mission, faculty qualifications, and the educational process.

### Educational Presuppositions

The seminary is committed to the direct method of presenting divine truth from the Bible, using its original languages as its primary foundation, which it views as the authoritative and exclusive revelation from God to man in this age of Grace. In addition, it rejects all forms

of secular relativism, which deny the complete authority of the Holy Scriptures.

It believes that true scholarship is that which submits to the authority of Holy Scripture and in so believing rejects the exaltation of human intellect above the written Word of God.

The seminary emphasizes a biblical rather than a philosophic approach to education. It is not merely evangelical, but specifically Baptist in approach with an emphasis on creating a global biblical vision within each student. The normal (literal)-grammatical-historical-literary method of biblical interpretation is consistently applied to the text of Scripture. This hermeneutic governs our understanding of the progressive nature of biblical revelation. It also discerns a difference between the biblical terms "Israel" and "Church." Consequently, it follows a dispensational contour rather than a covenant or reformed expression of interpretation. In addition, it establishes the coming of Christ as both pretribulational and premillennial. Of necessity, the clear presentation of biblical revelation will include the gracious but firm refutation of theological error in the classroom experience.

#### Educational Mission

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a local church-based graduate school. It is the educational objective of the seminary as an independent Baptist institution to positively contribute to the larger body of Christ through the preparation of humble servant-scholars who can rightly divide the authoritative, infallible, inerrant Word of God, and passionately articulate the Gospel of the Grace of God. In order to fulfill its purpose to the greatest possible degree, the seminary makes theological education accessible to the local community through traditional resident education, as well as other communities by means of distance education.

#### Qualifications for the Faculty

The ultimate responsibility for training ministers of the gospel belongs to the local church (2 Tim 2:2). VBTS does not simply function in the context of a local church ministry; instead, it approaches the educational task in keeping with biblical ideals which pertain to the local church. Since teachers are integral to the teaching process, and since the biblical directive calls for qualified ministers to prepare the next generation of ministerial leadership, VBTS emphasizes the qualifications of its faculty as indispensable to its philosophy of education.

VBTS faculty members are expected to be Christian scholars committed to guarding truth, explaining truth, and proclaiming truth. Annually, faculty members affirm in writing their commitment to the seminary's Faith Statement. When each full-time faculty member, along with his family, actively participates in the ministries of Colonial Baptist Church, the educational distinctives of VBTS are publicly affirmed.

The faculty and Staff of the seminary endeavor to demonstrate a sincere reliance upon the grace of God for the outworking of the will of God in every aspect of seminary life. This involves a commitment to being men and women of integrity so that the atmosphere of the VBTS campus demonstrates a biblical love for people and a reverential fear of the Lord (2 Pet 3:14-18).

The faculty of VBTS is entrusted by the Board with the task of spiritual mentorship—the unique opportunity to prepare students for a ministry of the Word through both classroom and personal relationships (2 Tim 2:1-2). This sacred stewardship flows out of a “grace philosophy of ministry” which emphasizes the centrality of Christ, the necessity of God’s grace, the sufficiency of the biblical text, and the priority of the church. As such, the members of the faculty seek to motivate students to pursue a love for God, a love for the truth, a love for the church, and a burden for the lost.

#### Educational Process

As Christian scholars, the faculty are devoted to accurately handling the subjects assigned to them (2 Tim. 2:15-16). Since Christian scholarship must never be devoid of affection for the glory of God and His Word (Ps. 19:7-11), members of the faculty promote a positive classroom atmosphere. Truth is communicated enthusiastically, courageously, and creatively with the goal of exalting the person and work of Jesus Christ (Jn. 5:39). Although classroom instruction includes exposure to alternative views, it seeks to be constructive and affirmational to the larger Body of Christ, while avoiding speculations that are unproductive (Eph. 2:19-22; 4:11-16).

The teaching and learning process seeks to achieve higher orders of learning that are appropriate to graduate education. Learning outcomes are designed to emphasize the development of skills which equip students to engage course content at the analytical, evaluative, and application levels. Course content is designed to advance these learning outcomes. Residential course delivery combines various pedagogical approaches, including interactive lectures, student directed discussions, group projects, and individual research assignments. Online courses are designed to advance the vision and values of the seminary by bringing students and faculty together through synchronous and asynchronous video, instructor directed discussion boards, and interactive projects. Diverse and creative course delivery for both residential and distance learning is structured to facilitate higher orders of learning in a way that actively engages both teacher and student in the learning process. Finally, verification of learning is established by a variety of assessment devices at the course, program, and institutional levels. Each element of the learning process is informed by the Christian worldview of knowledge, reality, and ethics as expressed in the seminary’s Faith Statement.

### 1.3 Educational Objectives

As a result of receiving a degree from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, the graduate will be able to:

- A. *Exegete* the various portions of the biblical text in terms which account for its historical and literary contexts, with a view toward understanding the intention of the author.
- B. *Correlate* the results of exegetical studies into theological expressions that are clear, coherent, historically informed, and culturally relevant.
- C. *Communicate* the results of exegetical and theological studies in formats relevant to ministry and global mission.



- D. *Serve* effectively in those ministry capacities for which the particular degree program was intended to provide preparation.

## 1.4 Facilities

VBTS is located on the campus of Colonial Baptist Church. Built in 2006, the two-story 50,000 square foot seminary facility provides faculty and staff offices, classrooms, the library, and a coffee bar, along with personal and group study spaces for students.

## 1.5 Library

A strong theological library supports VBTS's educational programs. The Ernest D. Pickering Library consists of approximately 45,000 volumes and an expanding periodical collection. The library's goal is to consistently and aggressively expand holdings so that students have tools to undertake credible theological research. In addition to the Pickering Library, students have special access privileges to the Regent University Library, located approximately 5 minutes from the VBTS campus.

## 1.6 Location

The mild climate of southeastern Virginia is an excellent place to prepare for the Lord's work. The seminary is located thirty minutes west of the Atlantic Ocean, fifty minutes south of historic Williamsburg, and three hours east of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. Additionally, the world's largest naval base is within twenty minutes of our campus and provides many outreach opportunities.



## 2. Faith Statement

### Article 1. Concerning the Holy Scriptures

We believe and teach that the Bible, consisting of a total of sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments, is without error in the original manuscripts.<sup>1</sup> The author of the Bible was God the Holy Spirit who guided the human writers using their various personalities in such a way that the writings they produced were also the very words of God.<sup>2</sup> By His providence the Scriptures are being preserved so that we have the authentic word of God today.<sup>3</sup> We believe that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice,<sup>4</sup> and is fully sufficient for every spiritual need.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ps. 19:7-9; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17. <sup>2</sup>II Pet. 1:20-21; II Tim. 3:16. <sup>3</sup>Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35. <sup>4</sup>Acts 17:11; I Cor. 10:6-12; Eph. 6:17; II Tim. 3:15-17; I Jn. 4:1. <sup>5</sup>Ps. 119:1-12; II Tim. 3:15-17; Jas. 1:21; I Pet. 1:23.

### Article 2. Concerning the Tri-unity God

#### Article 2a. Concerning the True and Living God

We believe and teach that there is only one true and living God,<sup>1</sup> the eternal, self-existing, perfect Spirit,<sup>2</sup> who is to be worshipped, adored, and obeyed.<sup>3</sup> He is the Creator and Upholder of the universe, and as a personal Being cares for the smallest of all details within the world He has created.<sup>4</sup> Though one God, He exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>5</sup> These Persons are equal in essence and in every divine perfection,<sup>6</sup> but each has His own distinct work (ministry) to perform.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deut. 6:4-5; Jer. 10:10; I Tim. 3:15. <sup>2</sup>Hab. 1:12; Jn. 4:24; Jas. 1:17. <sup>3</sup>Ps. 2, 8, 9, 100; Rev. 5:1-14. <sup>4</sup>Gen. 1:1-25; Lk. 12:6-7; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:3, 10. <sup>5</sup>Matt. 3:16; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14. <sup>6</sup>Jn. 10:30; 14:10; 17:5; I Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:5-6. <sup>7</sup>Jn. 14:26; 15:26; Eph. 1:3-4, 6-7, 13-14.

#### Article 2b. Concerning God the Father

We believe and teach that God the Father, the first Person of the Tri-unity, orders and administrates all things according to His gracious purpose.<sup>1</sup> As the holy, absolute, and omnipotent Ruler of the universe, He is sovereign in creation, history, and redemption and has decreed that all things come to pass for His own glory.<sup>2</sup> Within the Tri-unity, the Father directs the work and ministries of the Son and Spirit to accomplish that glory.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ps. 19:1-3; 111:1-10; 115:1-3; 139:13-18; Rev. 4:11. <sup>2</sup>Isa. 6:1-3; 44:6-8; Eph. 1:11, 3:8-11; Rom. 11:33-36. <sup>3</sup>Jn. 1:14-18, 7:16, 28-29; 14:16-17, 26.

### Article 2c. Concerning God the Son

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Tri-unity, is the eternal Son of God.<sup>1</sup> All things were created by Him and for Him, and He is supreme over all things visible and invisible.<sup>2</sup> At His incarnation (physical birth) His human body was miraculously conceived in the womb of a virgin<sup>3</sup> by the power of the Holy Spirit,<sup>4</sup> and He became the God-Man with two natures, divine (fully God) and human (fully human).<sup>5</sup> He lived a sinless life on earth, died on the cross as a substitute for sinners bearing the judgment of their sins, and was raised bodily from the tomb as a testimony to the sufficiency of His sacrifice and as a guarantee of His people's future resurrection.<sup>6</sup> Upon His resurrection, the Father seated Him at His right hand, put all things in subjection under Him, and made Him Head of the Church.<sup>7</sup> He now not only reigns in Heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords,<sup>8</sup> but also graciously serves as the great High Priest of His people.<sup>9</sup> He will soon return at the Rapture for His Church, and later to the earth to set up His Kingdom following the Tribulation Period.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 10:30; Ps. 2. <sup>2</sup>Phil. 2:6-9; Col. 1:15-20. <sup>3</sup>Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25. <sup>4</sup>Lk. 1:26-38. <sup>5</sup>Jn. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:2-4. <sup>6</sup>Lk. 24:1-6; I Cor. 15:1-7, 23-26; I Pet. 2:21-24. <sup>7</sup>Eph. 1:20-22. <sup>8</sup>Phil. 2:10-11; Rev. 1:12-18; 19:14-16. <sup>9</sup>Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16. <sup>10</sup>Jn. 14:1-4; I Thess. 4:14-17; I Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 19:11-21.

### Article 2d. Concerning God the Holy Spirit

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Tri-unity, is a divine Person, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son.<sup>1</sup> The Old Testament teaches that He was active in creation,<sup>2</sup> in the spiritual life of Israel,<sup>3</sup> in revealing the words and will of God to humanity (prophecy),<sup>4</sup> and active in the affairs of mankind.<sup>5</sup> The New Testament is also rich with truth about the Spirit, and explains His unique coming, ministries, and purpose upon the earth since the glorification of Jesus.<sup>6</sup> Those ministries, the New Testament explains, include convicting men of sin, of righteousness, and of future judgment.<sup>7</sup> In addition, He regenerates (gives spiritual life to the spiritually dead) those who believe the Gospel,<sup>8</sup> baptizes each believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of their salvation,<sup>9</sup> and permanently indwells each believer.<sup>10</sup> He also performs significant ministries through each believer such as sanctifying, empowering, and gifting.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup>II Cor. 13:14. <sup>2</sup>Gen. 1:1-2. <sup>3</sup>Isa. 63:10-14. <sup>4</sup>II Sam. 23:1-2; Isa. 61:1-3. <sup>5</sup>Ps. 139:7-12. <sup>6</sup>Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-39. <sup>7</sup>Jn. 16:8-11. <sup>8</sup>Jn. 3:1-16. <sup>9</sup>I Cor. 12:12-13. <sup>10</sup>I Cor. 6:19-20. <sup>11</sup>Acts 1:8; I Cor. 6:19-20; 12:4-7; II Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:13-14, 17; I Jn. 2:18-27.

## Article 3. Concerning Creation

We believe and teach that the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not figuratively.<sup>1</sup> The six days of creation mentioned in Genesis chapter one were literal days, each being termed “evening and morning,”<sup>2</sup> and all animal and vegetable life follows God’s law in multiplying “after their kind.”<sup>3</sup>

We also believe and teach that the entire human race comes from one man, Adam, and one woman, Eve, literal people, who were directly created by God according to his likeness; meaning in part, they did not evolve from any lower form of life.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gen. 1:1-2:25; Neh. 9:6; Ps. 33:6-9; Jn. 1:3; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16-17. <sup>2</sup>Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; Ex. 20:11; 31:17. <sup>3</sup>Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25. <sup>4</sup>Gen. 1:26-27; 5:2; Rom. 5:12-21.

## Article 4. Concerning Angels and Satan

We believe and teach in the existence of angels who are mighty spiritual beings that were created by God. They serve Him in various ways and are specially appointed to watch over and minister to God's people.<sup>1</sup>

We also believe and teach that at some time in the past a large number of angels, under the leadership of the angel called Satan (Literally: "the Adversary"), rebelled against God and were removed from His presence.<sup>2</sup> They now roam the universe and are especially active on earth, opposing God and His purposes and ruling over the spiritual darkness of this world.<sup>3</sup> Satan, also called the Devil (Literally: "the Slanderer"), is a real personality who has extraordinary power to deceive the nations and is the enemy of God's people.<sup>4</sup> He is destined to be punished by Christ at His return and finally to be eternally incarcerated in the Lake of Fire.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Heb. 1:5-14; Rev. 1:20. <sup>2</sup>Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:11-19; II Pe. 2:4; Rev. 12:4. <sup>3</sup>I Tim. 4:1; Eph. 6:12. <sup>4</sup>Job 1-2; I Pet. 5:8-9; Rev. 13:1-18. <sup>5</sup>Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7-12; 20:1-3, 10.

## Article 5. Concerning the Fall of Man and Sin

We believe and teach that man was originally created a sinless being.<sup>1</sup> By voluntary transgression he fell from that sinless state by rejecting God's word and submitting to the deception of Satan,<sup>2</sup> and as a result, all mankind are now sinners by nature and by conduct<sup>3</sup> and are justly under divine condemnation.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:16-17; Eccl. 7:29. <sup>2</sup>Gen. 3:6-7; Rom. 5:12, 19. <sup>3</sup>Ps. 51:5; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-18, 23; 5:15-19; Jas. 2:10. <sup>4</sup>Jn. 3:36; Rom. 1:20.

## Article 6. Concerning Salvation

We believe and teach that God's plan of salvation is made available to all by the Gospel.<sup>1</sup> Salvation is initiated by God through election and is accomplished by grace apart from any human works.<sup>2</sup> It is man's responsibility to repent of his sin and accept the Gospel by personal faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>3</sup> All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are forgiven (their sins are judicially imputed to Christ) and justified (Christ's perfect righteousness is judicially imputed to each believer).<sup>4</sup> The new life given to all believers at regeneration will be nurtured in spiritual growth and produce spiritual fruit (see Sections 7-8).<sup>5</sup> True believers are saved forever and can never be eternally lost.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rom. 1:16-17; I Cor. 15:1-8; I Tim. 2:3-6. <sup>2</sup>Eph. 1:3-6; 2:1-10. <sup>3</sup>Lk. 24:45-47; Jn. 3:1-16; Acts 16:31. <sup>4</sup>Rom. 3:23-26; 5:1; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:21-22; 4:5-8; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:8-9. <sup>5</sup>Gal. 2:20; 5:16-24; I Pet. 1:23-25; II Pet. 3:18. <sup>6</sup>Jn. 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1-2, 31-39.

## Article 7. Concerning Sanctification

We believe and teach that at salvation each believer is positionally sanctified, that is, he is set apart for God, and that throughout the believer's life the Holy Spirit works to progressively conform each believer into the image of Christ.<sup>1</sup> It is the believer's privilege and responsibility to work out his salvation being empowered and shaped by the Spirit, and

though the believer will never experience the eradication of his sinful nature in this life, he may presently enjoy victory over specific sins through the power of the Spirit.<sup>2</sup> The believer lives in anticipation of God's finalization of the sanctification process, that is, the glorification of his body, and this will take place either at the believer's death or when Christ comes for His own.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 3:18; I Thess. 5:23. <sup>2</sup>Rom. 6:12-14; 7:18-25; II Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 5:11-18; Phil. 2:12-13. <sup>3</sup>Rom. 8:23-25; I Thess. 5:23; Phil. 3:20-21.

## Article 8. Concerning Personal Godliness and Marriage

We believe and teach that the result of the Spirit's work of conforming a believer's life into the image of Christ is a life of personal godliness.<sup>1</sup> Each believer learns to forsake worldliness and its patterns of life and thought<sup>2</sup> and to present himself as a living sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.<sup>3</sup> True believers must guard against the two extremes that holiness is produced by mere willful adherence to rules and regulations, or that life under grace permits the believer to indulge his flesh.<sup>4</sup> Each Christian is under a divine mandate to be holy, just as the Lord is holy.<sup>5</sup> A fruitful Christian life is produced through daily fellowship with the Lord and the control of the Holy Spirit.<sup>6</sup>

We also believe and teach that sexual intimacy outside the marriage bond is morally unacceptable.<sup>7</sup> The marriage bond is holy and defined by the Scriptures as a life-long union between a husband (male) and wife (female).<sup>8</sup> This marriage union will bring glory to Jesus Christ when the biblical roles of the husband and wife are fulfilled.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>II Cor. 7:1; Tit. 1:1; II Pet. 1:3-8. <sup>2</sup>Tit. 2:11-12; I Jn. 2:15-17. <sup>3</sup>Rom. 12:1-2. <sup>4</sup>Rom. 6:1-2, 12-13; 8:5-13; Tit. 2:11-14. <sup>5</sup>I Pet. 1:16. <sup>6</sup>Gal. 5:16-24. <sup>7</sup>Gen. 2:24-25; Ex. 20:14; Lev. 18:20, 22, 23-29; Prov. 5:1-14; Rom. 1:26-27; Eph. 5:3, 5; I Cor. 6:9-11, 15-20; Heb. 13:4. <sup>8</sup>Gen. 2:22-25; Prov. 5:15-23; Mk. 10:1-12; Heb. 13:4. <sup>9</sup>Eph. 5:22-33; I Pet. 3:1-7.

## Article 9. Concerning the Church

We believe and teach that the Church, the Body of Christ, is composed of all true believers who are placed into that Body by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation.<sup>1</sup> The Church is distinct from Israel having been formed by the grace of Christ beginning with the descent of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.<sup>2</sup>

The local, visible church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated together by a common faith and fellowship in the Gospel.<sup>3</sup> Such a church is to be governed by the Word of God,<sup>4</sup> and to observe the two ordinances of baptism (the immersion of true believers in water publicly identifying with the Father, Son, and Spirit) and the Lord's Table (a memorial celebration by true believers of the Lord's death, burial, resurrection, and coming again through the physical elements of the fruit of the vine and bread).<sup>5</sup> Its Scriptural officers are male believers referred to in Scripture as elders/pastors and deacons, and their qualifications are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.<sup>6</sup>

A local church is autonomous – not to be subject to the control of any outside persons or organizations – and, on all matters of membership, polity, government, missions, discipline,

and benevolence, the will of the congregation of the local church, being in accord with the Scriptures and exercised in grace and unity, is final.<sup>7</sup>

We also believe and teach that at the core of the church and its membership is a biblical theology of grace<sup>8</sup> which should be represented in the life of the local church through five New Testament grace essentials: Text (knowing Christ by learning God's Word and applying His truth through the power of the Spirit),<sup>9</sup> Community (showing Christ to one another through caring relationships, mutual accountability, and loving acts of service),<sup>10</sup> Equipping (serving Christ by equipping every member to mutually edify one another),<sup>11</sup> Worship (adoring Christ through God-exalting, Word-saturated, Spirit-led worship),<sup>12</sup> and Mission (proclaiming Christ to our generation from our neighborhoods to the nations).<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23. <sup>2</sup>Acts 2; 11:15-17; Eph. 3:1-6. <sup>3</sup>Acts 2:41-42. <sup>4</sup>I Tim. 3:14-16; II Tim. 3:16-17. <sup>5</sup>Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 6:1-7; I Cor. 11:23-34. <sup>6</sup>I Tim. 3:1-16; Tit. 1:5-9. <sup>7</sup>Matt. 18:15-18; Acts 13:1-3; I Cor. 5:4-5, 13; I Tim. 3:15. <sup>8</sup>Eph. 2:1-3:12. <sup>9</sup>II Tim. 3:15-17. <sup>10</sup>Acts 2:42-47. <sup>11</sup>Eph. 4:11-16. <sup>12</sup>Col. 3:16-17. <sup>13</sup>Acts 1:8.

## Article 10. Concerning the Corporate Gathering of the Church

We believe and teach that it is a New Testament pattern to set apart the first day of the week for spiritual purposes insofar as possible on the part of the individual believer.<sup>1</sup> It commemorates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and is a time for local believers to assemble for biblical worship, instruction, fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Acts 20:6-7; Heb. 10:24-25. <sup>2</sup>Acts 2:41-42; 20:7-12; I Cor. 16:1-2.

## Article 11. Concerning World Evangelization and the Church

We believe and teach that God has given a commission to every Christian to be a personal witness of the resurrected and living Christ. The unity and evangelistic aggressiveness of believers within a local church will best fulfill the commission mandates of Christ to His disciples as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- A. The *strategy* of the commission is located in Matthew 28:19-20 and calls for the making of disciples of all nations through baptism and teaching.
- B. The *substance* of the commission is outlined in Luke 24:44-48 as the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins based upon the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and this must be announced from Jerusalem to the nations (i.e. "from our neighborhoods to the nations").
- C. The *submission* to the commission by each believer is explained in John 20:21 as following the pattern of Christ's submission to the will of the Father.
- D. The *strength* of the commission is described in Acts 1:8 as reaching the present generation in all corners of the earth by relying upon the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this great task. As seen in Acts, this commission is most effective when the Spirit works through the united community of the believers in their local assemblies (e.g. 2:42-47; 9:31; 13:1-3).

<sup>1</sup>Matt. 28:19-20; Lk. 24:44-48; Acts 1:8.

## Article 12. Concerning Theological Error

We believe and teach that the Word of God predicts widespread departure from the revealed Word of God in these last days before Christ returns,<sup>1</sup> and that the local church must practice separation from those who deny the faith, or who distort the faith either by their continual, personal disobedience or by their false beliefs and teaching.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>I Tim. 4:1-3; II Pet. 2:1-3; I Jn. 4:1. <sup>2</sup>Rom. 16:17; II Cor. 6:14-17; I Tim. 1:3-8; II Tim. 3:1-5; Tit. 3:9-11; II Pet. 3:15-18.

## Article 13. Concerning Miraculous Signs and Events

We believe and teach that the modern-day Pentecostal and Charismatic movements are theologically incorrect.<sup>1</sup> The miraculous signs and supernatural events occurring in the New Testament church were gifts that authenticated the ministry of the apostles, were necessary because the early church was without the written New Testament documents, and were not intended to continue with regularity in the post-apostolic church.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>I Cor. 12:14; II Cor. 12:7-12; II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 4:7-11; II Pet. 3:15-17. <sup>2</sup>II Cor. 12:12; Heb 2:3-4; I Cor. 13:8-13.

## Article 14. Concerning Civil Government

We believe and teach that civil government is of divine appointment and necessary for the maintenance of good order in human society.<sup>1</sup> Believers are to pray for, honor, and obey civil authorities<sup>2</sup> except where to do so would be to violate plain commands and principles of the Word of God.<sup>3</sup> The Church and the State have separate spheres of authority and neither have jurisdiction over the other.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Rom. 13:1-7. <sup>2</sup>I Tim. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14. <sup>3</sup>Acts 4:18-20; 5:29. <sup>4</sup>Matt. 22:21.

## Article 15. Concerning Future Events

We believe and teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the eternal conditions of the righteous and the wicked. Those who are righteous will enter into eternal delight with Christ (Heaven), and those who are unrighteous will be lost forever (Hell).<sup>1</sup>

We also believe and teach that at death the believer will pass into the presence of Christ and remain in conscious joy until the resurrection of the body when Christ comes for His own.<sup>2</sup> The New Testament affirms that the hope of the believer is the imminent, personal appearance of Christ when He will gather all the Church, His Bride, to Himself in the air, and so they will always be with the Lord. This blessed hope will happen prior to the seven-year Tribulation Period, and will include the Judgment (Bema) Seat of Christ for all those who have been gathered to Him.<sup>3</sup> God's righteous judgments will then be poured out upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.<sup>4</sup> The climax of this fearful era will be the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth with His Bride in great glory to establish the Kingdom of God on earth for 1,000 years (the Millennial Kingdom),<sup>5</sup> and the ethnic people of Israel will finally enjoy the prophetic announcements of the Old Testament, being restored as one nation.<sup>6</sup> Following this thousand-year reign of Christ several events will take place,

culminating in Satan being cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented forever,<sup>7</sup> and the Great White Throne judgment at which time the bodies and souls of the unrighteous shall be reunited, judged, and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternal torment.<sup>8</sup> The saved will enter into the new heaven and new earth, and they will live with the Lord in glorified bodies forever.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Jn. 5:24-29. <sup>2</sup>I Cor. 15:51-57; II Cor. 5:8. <sup>3</sup>Dan. 9:24-27; II Cor. 5:1-10; I Thess. 4:13-18; Tit. 2:13; Rev. 3:10. <sup>4</sup>Rev. 6:1-17; 16:5-7. <sup>5</sup>Rev. 19:11-20:6. <sup>6</sup>Ez. 37:1-28; Isa. 65:17-25; Jer. 33:14-26. <sup>7</sup>Rev. 20:7-10. <sup>8</sup>Rev. 20:11-15. <sup>9</sup>Phil. 3:20-21; Rev. 21:1-22:5.





### 3. Seminary Administration, Faculty, and Staff

The Virginia Beach Theological Seminary faculty consists of men with earned degrees from reputable schools, experience in pastoral ministry or the mission field, and a mindset for mentoring. Faculty members are Christian scholars committed to a conservative, Baptist, dispensational approach to seminary education. Each member of the faculty is fully committed to the seminary's foundational principles and demonstrates that commitment annually by affirming the seminary's Faith Statement, mission and philosophy, and constitution. Each full-time faculty member, along with his family, actively participates in the ministries of Colonial Baptist Church, and in so doing models the goals and objectives of VBTS. The seminary faculty considers the values of personal integrity, theological transparency, local church orientation, the union of scholarship and devotion, and excellence in the classroom to be of the highest priority.

The faculty counts it a privilege to be entrusted with the task of the spiritual mentorship of students as each prepares for a lifetime of ministering the Word. Similarly, the faculty and staff are committed to one another in the pursuit of a genuinely biblical bond of unity (Philippians 2:1-11), avoiding a divisive and critical spirit toward colleagues, administration, chapel speakers, students, and other ministries. This commitment strives for unity, not uniformity (Ephesians 4:2-6), in a genuine display of Christ-like behavior toward one another. The faculty regards this kind of atmosphere to be both appropriate and necessary for training biblically faithful local church leadership.

#### **Daniel K. Davey**

*President*

Education:

B.A., Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, VA

Th.M., Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI

M.Div., Th.D., Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN



Ministry:

Colonial Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA – Associate Pastor (1982-87);

Senior Pastor (1988 to 2015)

Teaching ministries in Romania & Siberia

## **Eric J. Lehner**

*Academic Dean, Professor of Theology*

**Education:**

B.A., Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, TN  
M.Div., Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI  
Th.M., Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, Virginia Beach, VA  
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

**Ministry:**

Professor, Hungarian Baptist Theological Seminary, Cluj, Romania  
Teaching ministries in Russia and Ukraine  
Associate Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Westerville, OH



## **Mark A. Hassler**

*Associate Professor of Old Testament, Director of ThM Program*

**Education:**

B.A., Montana Bible College, Bozeman, MT  
M.Div., The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA  
Th.M., The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA  
Th.D., The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA

**Ministry:**

Faculty Associate, The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA  
Adjunct Professor, Capital Seminary and Graduate School  
Adjunct Professor, Foothill Institute for Theological Training  
Deacon, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA



## **Michael H. Windsor**

*Professor of Church History, Director of DMin Program*

**Education:**

B.A., M.A., University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI  
M.L.I.S., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI  
M.Div., Th.M., Th.D., Central Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Minneapolis, MN

**Ministry:**

Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Boyceville, WI  
Pastor, Blaine Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN  
Instructor, Twin Cities Bible Institute, MN  
Adjunct Professor, Assistant Professor, Central Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Minneapolis, MN  
Teaching ministries in India, Russia, and Romania



## **Thomas K. Dailey**

*Professor of New Testament, Director of Graduate Programs*

**Education:**

B.A., Pensacola Christian College, Pensacola, FL  
M.Div., Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI  
Th.M., Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, Va. Beach, VA  
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

**Ministry:**

Professor, Hungarian Baptist Theological Seminary, Cluj, Romania



## **Steven D. Brown**

*Adjunct Faculty*

**Education:**

B.A., M.A, M.Div., Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC  
M.R.E., Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL

**Ministry Experience:**

Active Duty US Navy Chaplain  
President/Endorser, Associated Gospel Churches, Greenville, SC (2013 to present)  
Associate Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Panama City, FL



## **Roger G. DePriest**

*Faculty Associate*

**Education:**

B.A., Cedarville College, Cedarville, OH  
M.A., Talbot Theological Seminary, La Mirada, CA  
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

**Ministry Experience:**

Executive Director, Grace Biblical Counseling Ministry, Va. Beach, VA  
Adjunct Faculty, Clarks Summit University, Clarks Summit, PA  
Regional Director, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry  
Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Annapolis, MD



## **Brent A. Belford**

*Faculty Associate*

**Education:**

B.A., Northland International University, Dunbar, WI  
M.A., Northland Graduate School, Dunbar, WI  
M.Div., Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, IA



D.Min., Northland Graduate School, Dunbar, WI  
Ph.D., Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

Ministry:

Senior Pastor, Colonial Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA  
Provost, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN  
Assistant Pastor, Norway Baptist Church, Norway, MI  
Director of Graduate School, Northland International University, Dunbar, WI  
Assistant Pastor, Cross Lanes Bible Church, Cross Lanes, WV

**Staff**

**Mr. Anthony Brazas**, Chief Financial Officer; Director of Operations

**Mr. Joel Dailey**, Assistant Office Manager

**Mrs. Susann DePriest**, Assistant to the Librarian

**Mr. Edward Estes**, Registrar; Director of Admissions

**Mrs. Gloria Schrader**, Administrative Assistant



## 4. Admissions Information

Acceptance into VBTS's graduate programs is based upon personal and academic qualifications. VBTS admits applicants who profess to have experienced biblical conversion by faith in Jesus Christ, who have consequently committed themselves to a life of obedience to the Scriptures, who understand the doctrinal position of the school, and who express a willingness to submit to its policies and procedures upon enrollment as a student.

Furthermore, applicants must be academically qualified to carry out the rigors of a graduate program. VBTS's graduate programs require a recognized bachelors degree for entrance. The Academic Dean and the admissions committee will evaluate all transcripts, references, interviews, and submitted essays to determine whether the applicant meets the standards and criteria for admission. VBTS reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant who does not fulfill these personal and academic qualifications.

VBTS offers three graduate degrees: the Master of Biblical Studies (39 hours), the Master of Theological Studies (60 hours), and the Master of Divinity (96 hours). VBTS also offers two post-graduate degrees: the Master of Theology (30 hours) and the Doctor of Ministry (34 hours). Those who have not completed a bachelors degree and desire to participate in the seminary classroom may make application to the Diploma of Biblical Studies program (39 hours). In addition to the general requirements for seminary admission, additional criteria for admission apply to each program. These additional criteria are explained in Section 5. Interested students are asked to review the criteria for the program of choice, complete the seminary application, and submit it at least one month prior to registration for classes. The application is available online, and it can be accessed at VBTS's website – [www.vbts.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.vbts.edu/admissions/apply).

In order to nurture a positive learning environment, applicants who take exception to the doctrinal position of the seminary must indicate in writing specific points of difference. VBTS encourages the exercise of academic freedom within the broader scope of the seminary's core doctrines, values, and mission. For this reason, applicants who identify points of difference must also indicate in writing a willingness to promote a positive learning experience both in and out of the classroom by a submissive and supportive manner of life. The Theology Seminar, which is taken prior to graduation, offers all students the opportunity to express in writing and to defend orally their theological convictions.

## 4.1 Application Procedure

The student must complete the current application online (available at [vbts.edu/apply](http://vbts.edu/apply)). Students are urged to begin the process at least one month prior to registration of the intended semester of enrollment.

## 4.2 General Application Requirements

- A. Completed seminary application.
- B. An endorsement from the church of which the applicant is a member.
- C. Three recommendations regarding the applicant's character.
- D. A written account (250+ words) documenting the applicant's conversion, description of involvement in ministry since conversion, and explanation of how seminary education will prepare him or her for future ministry.
- E. An interview with the Academic Dean.
- F. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school. Applicants who have not completed a bachelors degree at the time of application must submit a partial transcript for evaluation, including the most recent semester completed. These students may be provisionally accepted and allowed to take courses for two terms. Final transcripts, showing the awarding of a bachelors degree, will be required for continuation in the program. Transcripts must be mailed from the Registrar's Office of the school the applicant attended to the Registrar's Office at VBTS in order to be considered official.
- G. Agreement to student code of conduct.
- H. Applicants will read the VBTS doctrinal statement and note any areas of disagreement, if any.
- I. Applicants, who in the opinion of the academic committee lack adequate theological preparation on the undergraduate level, will be required to (1) read *The Moody Handbook of Theology* by Paul Enns and *Basic Bible Interpretation* by Roy Zuck, and (2) demonstrate basic proficiency by means of a written examination.
- J. Students applying for a non-degree program are required to complete all of the above components with the exception of the business reference, academic reference, and endorsement from the church of which the applicant is a member.

## 4.3 Admissions Status

Seminary applicants should apply at least one month prior to registration of the semester in which they intend to matriculate. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the seminary with complete and accurate information to review. Once the student's application is processed, the Academic Dean will inform the student of the seminary's decision. Students who are accepted will be granted an admissions status from among the following:

*Acceptance:* Students are admitted into a program.

*Delayed Admission:* The student, for whatever reason, may choose not to enroll immediately. In this case, VBTS will keep the student's application and acceptance status active for one year. After one year, if a student desires to matriculate in a forthcoming term, the student's file must be updated.

*Provisional Admission:* Students whose files are incomplete at the time of matriculation will be allowed to register for classes on a provisional basis. Provisionally admitted students may take classes for two terms.

*Special Student Status:* Students not making application to a program at VBTS may petition for special student status. Special student status is offered to the student who is enrolled in another graduate program or who desires to take an occasional class to further his or her knowledge of theology. The number of special students in a term is limited to 15% of the student population. Students under this status may be limited or deferred to a future term based on the number of students registered for classes. Students requesting special status must complete the special student application.

*Readmission:* Students who withdraw from the seminary (officially or unofficially) for four consecutive terms must contact the Office of the Registrar for details on the readmission process.

*Admission to Another Degree Program:* Students who complete one program and desire to enroll in another, or who choose to change programs, or who seek to enter two programs concurrently should contact the Office of the Registrar for the appropriate admission steps.

## 4.4 Campus Visit

VBTS strongly encourages students to visit the seminary campus, attend classes and chapel, and meet with faculty and students. If possible, it is very helpful for prospective students to attend a Sunday worship service at Colonial Baptist Church. Colonial's services highlight the theology and philosophy of ministry that permeate the seminary classroom. If you are interested in visiting VBTS and would like assistance in planning your visit, contact the Director of Admissions for more information.

## 4.5 Nondiscrimination Policy

VBTS does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Virginia Beach Theological Seminary admits qualified applicants who are personally committed to faith in Jesus Christ to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the institution.



## 5. Program Requirements

### 5.1 Diploma of Biblical Studies

The Diploma of Biblical Studies (D.B.S.) is a terminal diploma program open to qualified men and women who have not completed an undergraduate degree. VBTS offers this educational option to those who desire to prepare for a support role in the local church or in the work of missions, but whose life circumstances have not allowed the completion of an undergraduate degree. Eligible students must manifest spiritual and theological competency.

The graduating Diploma of Biblical Studies student will be able to:

- A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.
- B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.
- C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The Diploma of Biblical Studies curriculum is identical to the Master of Biblical Studies program. All courses are offered at the graduate level and continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Like the other degrees offered at VBTS, the Diploma of Biblical Studies is designed to develop within the student theological soundness, along with appropriate affections for God, His people, and those without Christ. Candidates for the D.B.S. must meet all the graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog.

#### D.B.S. Curriculum—39 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(6 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times DBS Theology Seminar



<b>Electives</b> <i>(3 credits)</i>	Student Choice
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## D.B.S. Scope &amp; Sequence

	Summer	Fall	Spring
<b>Year 1</b>	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Church & End Times Hermeneutical Systems
<b>Year 2</b>	Old Testament Intro Elective	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation DBS Theology Seminar

## Prerequisites for Admission into D.B.S. degree

- A. Applicants must not have earned a bachelors degree.
- B. Applicants must give proof of a high school graduation by submitting a high school diploma, General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or equivalency. In the event that the applicant is a home school graduate he or she should submit a list of courses taken, work completed and any SAT or ACT test scores.
- C. Applicants must be at least 30 years of age. Younger applicants are encouraged to complete an undergraduate degree program prior to seminary.
- D. Students entering the Diploma of Biblical Studies Program must carefully read The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns and Basic Biblical Interpretation by Roy Zuck.

## 5.2 Master of Biblical Studies

The Master of Biblical Studies (M.B.S.) is an academic graduate degree intended to train a student in biblical content, systematic and historical theology, missions, and evangelism. The M.B.S. is designed to develop within the student theological soundness along with appropriate affections for God, His people, and those without Christ. The goal of the M.B.S. is to prepare servant-leaders for an effective support role in the local church and in the work of missions.

The graduating Master of Biblical Studies student will be able to:

- A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.
- B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.
- C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The M.B.S. is open to qualified men and women with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university. The M.B.S. may be completed entirely

through either the resident or online delivery format. Continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Candidates for the M.B.S. degree must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog. Master of Biblical Studies classes transfer into the M.Div. program.

#### M.B.S. Curriculum—39 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(6 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MBS Theology Seminar
<b>Electives</b> <i>(3 credits)</i>	Student Choice

#### M.B.S. Scope & Sequence

	Summer	Fall	Spring
<b>Year 1</b>	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Church & End Times Hermeneutical Systems
<b>Year 2</b>	Old Testament Intro Elective	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation MBS Theology Seminar

Prerequisites for Admission into M.B.S. Degree & M.B.S.O Degree (*see below*)

- A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.

## 5.3 Master of Biblical Studies Online

The Master of Biblical Studies can be completed entirely online. VBTS offers a continuous rotation of select courses from the resident program through a variety of engaging and interactive formats.

The graduating Master of Biblical Studies Online student will be able to:

- A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.
- B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.
- C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The majority of the online classes are video live-streamed through VBTS's UStream Channel. The online student can watch the lectures live and participate via a chat forum, or the online student can also watch the recordings of the lectures at a later time. In the delivery of these courses, VBTS professors might also employ any of the following methods: discussion forums, peer critiques, directed reading/written assignments, papers, and quizzes. Students log on to Populi, a web-based learning management system, to access any needed resources, participate in the class, and upload any completed assignments.

### M.B.S. Online Curriculum Plan —39 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(6 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MBS Theology Seminar
<b>Electives</b> <i>(3 credits)</i>	Student Choice

### M.B.S. Online Scope & Sequence (2 Year Plan)

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation Church & End Times	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro

<b>Year 2</b>	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	MBS Theology Seminar Hermeneutical Systems	Old Testament Intro Elective
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## M.B.S. Online Scope &amp; Sequence (4 Year Plan)

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit	Christ & Salvation	Mission & Evangelism
<b>Year 2</b>	Hermeneutics	Hermeneutical Systems	Elective
<b>Year 3</b>	Intro to Biblical Counseling Exposition of Romans	Church & End Times	New Testament Intro
<b>Year 4</b>	Theological Method, God, & Scripture	MBS Theology Seminar	Old Testament Intro

## Academic Integrity

Integrity is a critical element in the seminary's delivery of online education. Since Scripture values the internal soundness of one's character, it is expected that every online student will be committed to the highest level of integrity in the process of ministry preparation. Honesty in all aspects of seminary life is expected whether or not a student is asked to give an account of his or her actions. Online students will pursue a path of academic honesty and moral purity in every aspect of study (reading, research, writing, test taking) and in all opportunities of accountability (i.e., reporting the completion of assignments). Plagiarism, falsified reports, and other violations of academic honesty will be subject to discipline in accordance with the disciplinary procedures outlined in this handbook.

## Verification of Identity

The seminary's LMS, Populi, handles course registration as well as course access. Access to Populi is obtained by means of secure login and password, ensuring that the same individual who registers for the course is the one participating as a student in the course. This procedure protects student privacy. In the event that the verification procedure is modified, the seminary will notify students at the time of registration of any additional associated costs.

## 5.4 Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) is a professional degree designed to prepare students for vocational ministry. The curriculum provides theological training suitable for roles such as undergraduate teaching and Biblical counseling.

The graduating Master of Theological Studies student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate competency in the use and application of either Biblical Greek or Biblical Hebrew.

- B. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.
- C. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.
- D. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The M.T.S. is open to qualified men and women with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university. Continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Candidates for the M.T.S. degree must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog. Master of Theological Studies classes transfer into the M.Div. program.

#### M.T.S. Standard Curriculum—60 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(6 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(24 credits)</i>	Early & Medieval Christianity Reformation & Modern Christianity Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MTS Theology Seminar
<b>Biblical Language</b> <i>(12 credits)</i>	(Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 2 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 2
<b>Electives</b> <i>(3 credits)</i>	Student Choice

#### M.T.S. Curriculum with Counseling Concentration—60 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling Marriage and Family Counseling Advanced Issues in Counseling Counseling Seminar
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(15 credits)</i>	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems

	Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(18 credits)</i>	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MTS Theology Seminar
<b>Biblical Language</b> <i>(12 credits)</i>	(Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 2 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 2

## M.T.S. Scope &amp; Sequence

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	Greek or Hebrew Grammar 1 Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Greek or Hebrew Grammar 2 Church & End Times	OT Introduction Mission & Evangelism
<b>Year 2</b>	Greek or Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Early & Medieval Christianity	Greek or Hebrew Exegetical Method 2 Christ & Salvation Reformation & Modern Christianity	Apologetics NT Introduction Elective
<b>Year 3</b>	Exposition of Romans Intro. to Biblical Counseling	Hermeneutical Systems MTS Theology Seminar	

## Prerequisites for Admission into M.T.S. Degree

- A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.

## 5.5 Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is the seminary's foundational degree designed for preparing the student for a ministry of the Word. The M.Div. curriculum is constructed and sequenced to develop within the student theological soundness along with appropriate affections for God, His people, and those without Christ. The Master of Divinity includes ninety-six hours of course work in the biblical languages, theology, biblical content, and pastoral ministry.

The graduating Master of Divinity student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate competency in the use and application of Biblical Greek and Hebrew.
- B. Exegete the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.
- C. Formulate and express theology in a manner that is exegetically sound, clearly expressed, historically informed, and methodologically coherent.
- D. Engage the scope of church history and comprehend its significance for theology and ministry.
- E. Communicate the Scriptures clearly and effectively in a variety of contexts.
- F. Provide leadership in a variety of ministry contexts, as appropriate to roles defined in Scripture.

Students with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university may enroll in the Master of Divinity degree program. A candidate for the M.Div. must complete all course work with a minimum grade point average of 2.3 (C+). In addition, the M.Div. candidate must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog.

### M.Div. Curriculum—96 Credit Hours

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(12 credits)</i>	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling Pastoral Practice (2 credit hours) Principles of Expository Preaching Preaching Internship (1 credit hours)
<b>Biblical Theology &amp; Exegesis</b> <i>(42 credits)</i>	Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction Greek Grammar 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Greek Exegetical Method 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Hebrew Grammar 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Exposition of Romans Exposition of Pastoral Epistles
<b>Historical &amp; Systematic Theology</b> <i>(24 credits)</i>	Early & Medieval Christianity Reformation & Modern Christianity Baptist History and Polity Theological Method, God, & Scripture

	Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times M.Div. Seminar
<b>Electives</b> <i>(18 credits)</i>	Student Choice

## M.Div. Scope &amp; Sequence

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	Greek Grammar 1 Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Greek Grammar 2 Christ & Salvation Reformation & Modern Christianity	NT Introduction Elective Elective
<b>Year 2</b>	Hebrew Grammar 1 Greek Exeg. Method 1 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit	Hebrew Grammar 2 Greek Exeg. Method 2 Church & End Times	Mission & Evangelism OT Introduction Elective
<b>Year 3</b>	Hebrew Exeg. Method 1 Intro to Biblical Counseling Elective	Hebrew Exeg. Method 2 Pastoral Practice Principles of Expository Preaching	Early & Medieval Christianity Elective Elective
<b>Year 4</b>	Hermeneutical Systems Exposition of Romans Baptist History & Polity	M.Div. Seminar Preaching Internship Exposition of Pastoral Epistles	

## Prerequisites for Admission into M.Div.

- A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.
- C. Since the M.Div. is considered the professional ministry degree, which may culminate in ordination, enrollment is limited to qualified men.

## 5.6 Master of Theology

The Master of Theology (Th.M.) is 30 credit-hour postgraduate degree which provides the student with advanced and specialized biblical study beyond the Master of Divinity. Intended as preparation for teaching and research, the program emphasizes skills designed to prepare students for an enhanced ministry of the Word or terminal degree studies.

Students graduating with the Master of Theology degree will be able to:



- A. Exhibit proficiency in a specialized area of biblical studies.
- B. Display advanced research and writing skills.
- C. Design and deliver an academic course in a select field of study.
- D. Demonstrate readiness for enrollment in a terminal degree program.

**Seminar Format**

The Th.M. is a postgraduate, research-oriented degree. Consequently, the program differs substantially from the M.Div. and other typical graduate programs. The program consists of four research seminars in which students develop a specialized proficiency in New Testament, Old Testament, or Theology.

In coordination with the research seminars, students complete six one-credit mentorships. Mentorships provide students with faculty guided learning in three distinct areas. *Postgraduate Mentorships* build advanced skills needed for postgraduate level research and instructional design. *Teaching Mentorships* guide students through the process of preparing and delivering theological instruction. *Research Mentorships* provide coaching and faculty interaction to assist students in progressing through the thesis sequence.

**Th.M. Curriculum—30 Credit Hours**

<b>Postgraduate Seminars</b>	Advanced Theological Research Methods (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 1 (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 2 (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 3 (4 credit hours)
<b>Postgraduate Mentorships</b>	Postgraduate Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Postgraduate Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour) Teaching Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Teaching Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour) Research Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Research Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour)
<b>Thesis</b>	Thesis 1 (4 credit hours) Thesis 2 (4 credit hours)

**Th.M. Scope and Sequence**

The curriculum is intended as uninterrupted sequence of six academic terms, to be completed within 2 years. Candidates for graduation must hold a minimum 3.0 GPA in the program.

	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	Advanced Theological Research Methods Postgraduate Mentorship 1	Disciplinary Seminar 1 Postgraduate Mentorship 2	Disciplinary Seminar 2 Teaching Mentorship 1

<b>Year 2</b>	Disciplinary Seminar 3 Teaching Mentorship 2	Thesis Part 1 Research Mentorship 1	Thesis Part 2 Research Mentorship 2
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#### Prerequisites for Admission into Th.M. Degree

- A. Applicants must have completed a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited seminary. Applicants from non-accredited seminaries will be considered on an individual basis.
- B. Applicants must have an M.Div. cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B-) on a 4.0 grading scale.
- C. The Th.M. program is predicated on the seminary's philosophy and policies regarding the M.Div. and its intention to prepare graduates for ordained ministry. For this reason, only men may enroll in the Th.M. program.

## 5.7 Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching is a professional terminal degree program designed to provide the graduate with enhanced exegetical, theological, and communication skills for the purpose of serving the church most effectively through the means of expository preaching. The 34 credit-hour curriculum consists of seven 4 credit-hour courses delivered in module format and culminates in a 6 credit-hour final project. Intended for experienced pastors, missionaries, and others whose primary calling is the ministry of preaching God's Word, the Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching is available only to men who meet the qualifications for pastoral ministry as articulated in 1 Timothy chapter 3.

The graduating Doctor of Ministry student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate exegetical skills in various genres of the biblical text.
- B. Articulate theological expressions that are clear, coherent, historically informed, and readily applicable.
- C. Correlate the results of exegetical and theological studies in expository sermons which are relevant to ministry and global mission.

#### D.Min. Curriculum—34 Credit Hours

The Doctor of Ministry program develops specialized skills for expository preaching in the disciplines of communication, Old and New Testament exegesis, theology, and history. Program learning outcomes are achieved through seven courses and verified through a capstone research project.

<b>Christian Ministry &amp; Communication</b> <i>(4 credits)</i>	Leadership and Communication in Expository Preaching
<b>Biblical Exegesis &amp; Exposition</b> <i>(16 credits)</i>	Expositional Preaching of Old Testament Wisdom & Poetry Expositional Preaching of Old & New Testament Prophecy

	Expositional Preaching of Old & New Testament Narrative Expositional Preaching of New Testament Epistolary Literature
<b>Theology &amp; History</b> <i>(8 credits)</i>	Expositional Preaching of Doctrine History of Expository Preaching
<b>Final Project</b> <i>(6 credits)</i>	Final Project 1 Final Project 2

## D.Min. Scope &amp; Sequence

	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	Expository Preaching of NT Epistolary Literature	History of Expository Preaching	
<b>Year 2</b>	Expository Preaching of OT & NT Narrative	Expository Preaching of OT & NT Prophecy	
<b>Year 3</b>	Expository Preaching of OT Wisdom & Poetry	Expository Preaching of Doctrine	
<b>Year 4</b>	Leadership & Communication in Expository Preaching	Final Project Launch	

## Prerequisites for Admission into D.Min. Degree

In addition to the general admission requirements for all applicants to VBTS, individuals seeking acceptance to the D.Min. program must:

- A. Articulate intent to serve in a vocational teaching or preaching ministry.
- B. Commit to finish the program within 6 years.
- C. Fulfill the qualifications for ministry as described in 1 Timothy 3.
- D. Have at least three years of teaching or preaching ministry experience.
- E. Hold an MDiv or its equivalent (at least 80 graduate credit hours, of which at least 6 credit hours reflect Greek language study, 6 credit hours reflect Hebrew language study, and 9 credit hours reflect the study of Systematic Theology.)

For a complete explanation of D.Min. admissions requirements, please refer to the Doctor of Ministry handbook.



## 6. Financial Information

### 6.1 Tuition and Fees

VBTS's goal is to keep tuition and fees affordable so that students will graduate debt-free and have the freedom of multiple ministry opportunities. Students who make prompt payments establish a reputation of financial integrity essential for a ministry of the Word. Therefore, all academic expenses must be paid within the parameters of a given semester. Students with unpaid balances will not be permitted to register for subsequent terms. In the event that a student is unable to satisfy his or her financial obligations prior to registration, he or she may make an appeal to the Business Office for special consideration and registration approval.

#### Tuition

<b>Graduate - Full-Time*</b> MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	<b>Graduate – Part-Time</b> MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	<b>Post-Graduate</b> ThM	<b>Doctoral</b> DMin
<b>\$333</b> per credit hour	<b>\$358</b> per credit hour	<b>\$380</b> per credit hour	<b>\$400</b> per credit hour

\*A full-time load is 9+ credits during the Fall/Spring and 6+ credits during the Summer.

#### Student Fees

<b>Graduate &amp; Post-Graduate</b> ThM, MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Doctoral</b> DMin
<b>\$265</b> per semester	<b>\$120</b> per semester	<b>\$175</b> per module

#### Miscellaneous Fees: Master Programs

<b>Graduation/ Diploma</b>	<b>Cost to Audit</b>	<b>Late Registration</b>	<b>UStream Access*</b>	<b>Duel Delivery**</b>
<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$135</b> per class	<b>\$50</b> added to balance	<b>\$125</b> per class	<b>\$175</b> per semester

\*For resident students who desire access to class lectures recorded for online sections.

\*\*For students taking both resident & online classes in a given semester.

## Miscellaneous Fees: Doctoral Program

Graduation/ Diploma	Final Project Fee	Continuation Fee*	Late Registration
\$250	\$1,500	\$200 per semester	\$50 added to balance

\*For continuation in program without course enrollment.

## 6.2 Payment

A student who completes the registration process is obligated to the semester tuition and fees. Payment can be made in full at registration or in four equal installments during the fall and spring semesters. Summer semesters can be paid in full or divided into three payments. Late payments are subject to a 1.5% interest added to the balance. Further details can be obtained from the Business Office.

Any student seeking to enroll using Ch. 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill or Ch. 31 VocRehab benefits will be allowed to enroll and commence classes without penalty, even if the Veterans Administration has not yet paid tuition and fees. No student enrolled under these programs will be required to secure alternative or additional funding or be denied access to any school resources that are available to other students that have paid.

## 6.3 Registration Changes

### Adding a Course

A student may add a class within the first five days of the fall or spring term or the first day of the summer term. Class additions must be initiated in writing by the student with the Registrar and approved by the course professor and finalized by the Academic Dean.

### Course Withdrawal

Students may drop a class by completing a Course Withdrawal form (available in Populi). The following course withdrawal policies apply:

- A. A student may drop a course without penalty by the end of the first week of a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 100% refund of tuition and fees, and no mark will appear on the student's transcript. A student changing registration status from credit to audit during this period will receive a 100% refund of tuition and fees minus the audit fee. A student may also add a course during this period.
  1. Full-term course: Drop with no penalty by end of the first week.
  2. Two-week module: Drop with no penalty by end of the third class day.
  3. One-week module: Drop with no penalty by end of the first class day.
- B. A student may withdraw from a course by the end of the second week of a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees, and the student's transcript will be marked with a "W" (withdrawn) for

the course. A student changing registration status from credit to audit during this period will receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees minus the audit fee.

1. Full-term course: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the second week.
  2. Two-week module: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the fifth class day.
  3. One-week module: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the second class day.
- C. A student may withdraw from a course after the end of the second week only until the end of the fifth week of a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 0% refund of tuition and fees. The student's transcript will be marked with a "WP" (withdrawn passing) or "WF" (withdrawn failing) for the course. A student may not change registration status from credit to audit during this period.
1. Full-term course: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the fifth week.
  2. Two-week module: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the fifth class day.
  3. One-week module: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the third class day.
- D. A student may not withdraw from a course after the end of the fifth week a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). If the student does not fulfill course obligations, the student will receive a grade in accordance with the class syllabus and the VBTS grading policy. He or she will not be eligible to receive any refund for tuition and fees. A student may not change registration status from credit to audit during this period.
1. Full-term course: No withdrawal after end of the fifth week.
  2. Two-week module: No withdrawal after end of the fifth class day.
  3. One-week module: No withdrawal after end of the third class day.

## 6.4 Refunds

In the event that a student drops from a course, tuition will be refunded in the following manner for the fall and spring terms:

<i>1st Week</i>	100%
<i>2nd Week</i>	50%
<i>3rd Week</i>	No Refund

Refunds for all modular courses:

<i>1st Day of class</i>	100%
<i>2nd Day of class</i>	50%
<i>3rd Day of class</i>	No Refund

Students who received federal aid from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or agencies within the Department of Defense shall be reimbursed in accordance with the policies articulated within VA 21.4255. Accordingly, refunds to such student shall be administered as follows:

- A. Definition. Enrollment consists of a registration of one or more courses within an academic term which has been initiated by an individual who has been accepted as a student in the institution.
- B. Calculation of Enrollment Period. Enrollment is calculated from the first day of the academic term until the day the student initiates a withdrawal from the course, or the last day of the academic term, whichever occurs first. A partial week of enrollment shall be accounted as a full week.
- C. Schedule of Charges. All courses at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary are delivered within a 14-week academic term. Consequently, all charges assessed by the seminary (tuition and fees) shall be assessed on the following pro-rata schedule:
  - 1) 1 week of enrollment—7%
  - 2) 2 weeks of enrollment—14%
  - 3) 3 weeks of enrollment—21%
  - 4) 4 weeks of enrollment—29%
  - 5) 5 weeks of enrollment—36%
  - 6) 6 weeks of enrollment—43%
  - 7) 7 weeks of enrollment—50%
  - 8) 8 weeks of enrollment—57%
  - 9) 9 weeks of enrollment—64%
  - 10) 10 weeks of enrollment—71%
  - 11) 11 weeks of enrollment—79%
  - 12) 12 weeks of enrollment—86%
  - 13) 13 weeks of enrollment—93%
  - 14) 14 weeks of enrollment—100%
- D. Prompt Refund. Unused portions of tuition, fees, and other charges associated with the period of enrollment shall be refunded in a timely manner. The Office of the Registrar shall process all course withdrawal requests, including notification of completed course withdrawals to the Business Office, within 3 business days of the date the student submits the Course Withdrawal Form. The Business Office shall process all refunds within 30 days of such notification from the Office of the Registrar.

## 6.5 Military Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement

Pursuant to 23-9.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, and corresponding SCHEV Guidelines, VBTS provides for the tuition relief, refund, and reinstatement of students whose service in the uniformed services has required their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from their

enrollment. Service in the uniformed services is defined as service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve, for a period of more than 30 days under call or order to active duty of more than 30 days.

Students need to submit documentation of the official military orders to the Admissions Office before the end of the semester of withdrawal or prolonged absence.

#### Tuition, Required Fees, and Deposit Options

Should a student be ordered to active duty (for reservists) or be mobilized (active military) as described in the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2, and he/she requests to be withdrawn from VBTS after the drop/add date, tuition and required fees will be refunded to the student or to the appropriate governmental agency that provided the payment. VBTS offers the option for such refunds to be retained and to be applicable to tuition and fees charged in the semester or term in which the student returns to study.

#### Room and Board

As a commuter school, VBTS does not have Room and Board options or expenses.

#### Academic Credits and Grades

Students who are subject to conditions described in Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2 and do not wish to withdraw have the opportunity to receive an incomplete grade ("I") until released from active duty (for reservists) or mobilization (for active military personnel). All course requirements shall be completed within one year from the date of release from active duty or mobilization. Students may be given the option of taking their examinations prior to regularly scheduled times in accordance with the SCHEV Guidelines on Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement.

#### Reinstatement

Students who withdrew from VBTS as a result of military deployment, mobilizations or duty changes are entitled to return without having to requalify for admission so long as the student (a) returns after a cumulative absence of no more than five years and (b) notifies the appropriate admissions office of the intent to return to the university not later than three years after the completion of military service obligation. Advance notice is not required if the giving of such notice is precluded by military necessity such as: an active or pending mission, operation, exercise, or requirement that is classified or may be compromised or otherwise adversely affected by public knowledge.

The student may return to the seminary in the same program of study. With the consultation of an adviser, a comparable program of study may be chosen for discontinued programs. In the event the student was admitted to a specific program of study but took no coursework in said program, VBTS will make every effort to ensure that a returning student covered under this policy is allowed to complete the program of study. The academic department housing the program of study shall make any determinations regarding any readmission requirements.



### Documentation

Students who are members of the active and reserve U.S. Armed Forces or the Virginia National Guard who are called to active duty necessitating his or her sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from VBTS must provide the following documents to the Registrar upon submission of the Withdrawal Form in order to initiate withdrawal without academic or financial penalties:

- A. A copy of active duty orders (activation/deployment) – If orders are unobtainable (Emergency Call-ups), the Registrar will serve as a facilitator in the process of verifying the student's military status by receiving written confirmation by e-mail, fax, etc. from the student's command.
- B. Student's active duty military ID card - (present to Registrar's Office for verification purposes only – do not copy).



## 7. Student Life

### 7.1 Code of Conduct

In view of the high calling of the ministry and the great responsibility of example which must be assumed by Christian leaders and by those aspiring to such leadership, it is expected that students at VBTS will maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and biblical conviction. The seminary does not presume to be a monitoring or censoring agency for all activities but does expect personal testimony and outward evidence of maturing Christian convictions, concern for the consciences of others, and a willingness to submit to the authority of mature Christian leaders. Accordingly, as examples of the numerous ways to enhance the testimony of the individual and of the institution, the seminary requires conformity to the following Code of Conduct:

- A. Each student is expected to be faithful, committed, and involved in the ministry of a local church.
- B. The seminary standards for appearance and dress, as outlined in the student handbook, are to be fully respected.
- C. Personal discipline in the discerning use of radio, television, internet, and the printed page is expected. This includes total avoidance of pornographic programming, films, and literature.
- D. Students are required to abstain from such practices as gambling, the use of alcohol for non-medicinal purposes, the misuse of prescription drugs, the use of illegal drugs, and the use of tobacco.
- E. Students must avoid all forms of dishonesty, including lying, plagiarism, cheating on exams or assignments, failure to meet financial obligations, and negligence in the performance of educational, employment, or ministry responsibilities.
- F. Family relationships and responsibilities are to be given a place of highest priority. Students are required to maintain a biblical pattern in family relationships, and to abstain from unbiblical sexual activities or relationships.

VBTS reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who does not conform to this Code of Conduct or any other of the seminary's principles, policies, or required procedures. By virtue of his or her enrollment, and while enrolled in a degree program, a student agrees to live within the framework of these standards and principles.

## 7.2 Student Development Goals

The seminary's mission involves the two-fold focus on scholarship and piety in whole-student development. This two-fold focus is detailed in the following goals and objectives.

### Intellectual

To challenge students to accurately interpret the Scripture; to coherently correlate biblical texts; and to express conclusions in a manner that is articulate, self-consistent, and in keeping with the biblical imperative to maintain theological integrity (2 Timothy 2:15).

### Spiritual

To challenge students to nurture genuine affections for the living God in fulfillment of Christ's command to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

### Social

To challenge students to nurture genuine affections for people in fulfillment of Christ's command to love one's neighbor as one's self (Matthew 22:38). Accordingly, students are encouraged to pursue ministry opportunities that would allow them to serve the body of Christ.

### Moral

To regularly exhort the students to be men and women of integrity who manifest a godly character (Ephesians 4:30; 5:18-21).

## 7.3 Church Attendance

Since involvement in a local church is an important part of seminary life, those preparing for ministry should be members in good standing of a Bible-believing church. Students are welcome but not required to become members of Colonial Baptist Church. It is our desire that VBTS students will be a blessing and encouragement to churches of like faith and practice in the greater Hampton Roads area.

## 7.4 Chapel

The highlight of the seminary class schedule is the weekly chapel. This hour every Thursday morning is dedicated to the passionate communication of the Word of God and the promotion of a collegial spirit through prayer and fellowship. Since this is a critical part of the week, all M.Div. students, and resident students taking six or more hours per semester are required to attend.

## 7.5 Distinguished Guest Lectures

Each year, VBTS presents Distinguished Guest Lectures, a forum in which accomplished scholars are invited to present on relevant ministerial and theological subjects.

## 7.6 Women of VBTS

The Women of VBTS is a ladies' fellowship which meets regularly during the academic year to provide encouragement to student spouses and female students. In addition to special speakers addressing the varied aspects of seminary life and ministry preparedness, these events provide frequent times of fellowship.

## 7.7 Filing Complaints

### Complaints Against Institution

To file a complaint with TRACS, go to [www.tracs.org](http://www.tracs.org). Select "Publications & Forms." Under "Complaint Packet" are three downloadable PDFs: (1) Complaint Information Sheet; (2) Complaint Policy and Procedures; and (3) TRACS Complaint Form.

To file a complaint with the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, go to <http://www.schev.edu/students/studentcomplaint.asp>.

### The Policy of TRACS Regarding Fielding Inquiries From the Media

TRACS believes that it is in the best interest of TRACS, complainants, member institutions and those offering third-party comments to deal with members of the news media in a consistent and timely manner. TRACS has the responsibility to protect the integrity of both the complainant (commenter) and the institution. All telephone calls or e-mails from members of the media shall be forwarded to the President of TRACS. Neither the TRACS President nor any staff member shall comment on specific situations involving member institutions or offer responses to hypothetical situations.

Media shall be directed by the TRACS President to the appropriate location on the TRACS' website ([www.tracs.org](http://www.tracs.org)) for information regarding the Complaint Policy and Procedures and Accreditation Standards.

### Means of Communication

After the receipt of the initial hard-copy complaint or third-party comment; correspondence may be in writing, through e-mail, or by any reasonable means which helps to facilitate a solution to the issues at the lowest possible level.

### Retention of Records

Individual complaints will be retained in the TRACS Office. Should a number of individual complaints suggest a pattern of concern which may evidence a significant lack of compliance with TRACS' Standards that was not evident from any individual complaint, TRACS may renew its consideration of the matter for whatever action may be appropriate. All records regarding complaints shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years.

## 7.8 Student Grievance Policy

The purpose of the grievance policy is to resolve any charge brought by a student against a seminary employee.

Any student has the opportunity to use the grievance procedure without jeopardizing his or her status with the seminary. All records introduced or reviewed during the grievance process will be held in strictest confidence.

The seminary will recognize no grievance unless it has been presented to the Academic Dean or President within thirty days after the individual(s) knew or should have known of the act or occurrence on which the grievance is based.

The grievance procedure will be followed using biblical principles of conflict resolution. In addition, a spirit of Christian grace is expected to rule all aspects of the process. The grievance procedure shall consist of the following stages:

**Step 1: Private Resolution**

- A. The grievant(s) should verbally communicate with the individual(s) responsible for the grievance in an effort to arrive at a solution mutually satisfying to the parties involved.
- B. In the event that this initial verbal communication does not resolve the situation, the student should proceed directly to Step 2.
- C. If a student with a complaint against a faculty or staff member is unwilling to directly confront the faculty or staff member in question, the student may proceed directly to Step 2.

**Step 2: Administrative Review**

- A. The student will inform the Academic Dean of the grievance in writing by means of the confidential electronic Grievance Form located in the student's home page in Populi. (In the event the Academic Dean is object of the grievance, the student may submit the complaint in writing to the President. In this circumstance, the President will oversee the remaining portions of the process which normally are the responsibility of the Academic Dean.)
- B. The Academic Dean will form a committee consisting of seminary personnel. The committee will meet with the grievant, hear the complaint and endeavor to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the grievant. The Academic Dean will appoint a committee secretary who will document all proceedings. If the committee is not able to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the grievant within a period of 7 days, the aggrieved party may proceed to Step 3.

**Step 3: Appeal to Chairman's Committee**

- A. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant in steps 1 or 2, the grievant may present a written grievance to the Chairman of the Board, who will form a committee consisting members of the board. The committee shall be regarded as authorized to act on behalf of the board. The purpose of the committee is to provide a final response to the grievance.
- B. The Chairman will initiate the response by (1) obtaining all documentation of the grievance process from the Academic Dean; (2) forming a committee consisting of board members who are impartial and who are committed to achieving a resolution, (3) appointing a

member of the committee to take minutes to document all proceedings; (4) informing the Board's Executive Committee of the grievance and the formation of the committee. Said committee shall inform the full board members at its discretion.

- C. The duties of the committee are to: (1) determine whether the written grievance is a complete and factual representation of the circumstances and actions attributed to the employee; (2) determine an appropriate response to the grievance; (3) advance recommendations to the Executive Committee for the implementation of appropriate actions; (4) ensure proper documentation of the entire process, including a concise and accurate description of the grievance, records of all inquiries and deliberations, and efforts to achieve a resolution. Said committee shall meet with the grievant at its discretion.
- D. The duties of the chairman are to: (1) provide the committee with direction leading to the progress and resolution of the grievance; (2) ensure every reasonable effort is made to resolve the matter within thirty days of its formal initiation; (3) prepare and deliver a written copy of the decision to all involved parties and the Executive Committee.

The decision of the Chairman's Committee by majority vote is final. No further formal appeal process is available following the decision of the Chairman's Committee. If the process has not been followed in keeping with the procedures outlined in this policy, the grievant may direct a complaint to the accrediting agency:

Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)  
P.O. Box 328  
Forest, Virginia 24551  
Phone (434) 525-9539 ~ Fax (434) 525-9538 ~ Email: [info@tracs.org](mailto:info@tracs.org)

## 7.9 GI Bill Grievance Policy

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA), is the approving authority of education and training programs for Virginia. This office investigates complaints of GI Bill beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy (see VBTS Catalog section 7.8), if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact the SAA office via email [saa@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:saa@dvs.virginia.gov).



## 8. Academic Policies

### 8.1 Academic Integrity

Integrity is a critical element in VBTS's goal to "Sharpen Servants for Global Ministry." Since Scripture values the internal soundness of one's character, it is expected that every student will be committed to the highest level of integrity in the process of ministry preparation. Honesty in all aspects of seminary life is expected whether or not a student is asked to give an account of his or her actions.

Students will pursue a path of academic honesty and moral purity in every aspect of study (reading, research, writing, test taking) and in all opportunities of accountability (i.e., reporting the completion of assignments). Plagiarism, falsified reports, and other violations of academic honesty will be subject to discipline in accordance with the disciplinary procedures outlined in the student handbook.

### 8.2 Academic Preparation

Since the rigors of academic work at the graduate level are both challenging and rewarding, students coming to VBTS are encouraged to consider the following:

First, theological study is a spiritual discipline that requires absolute dependence upon the Lord. Investigation of Bible content, theological concepts, church history, and training in the biblical languages should result in a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the eternal God.

Second, all students should obtain a powerful notebook computer. Class assignments and materials are normally delivered in electronic format; similarly, assignments are required to be submitted to professors in electronic format. The faculty facilitates the online exchange of materials through Populi, the seminary's learning management system.

Finally, all students will need to obtain the most recent (7th) edition of Kate Turabian's, *A Manual for Writers*. Exceptions to and preferences within Turabian are documented in VBTS's Guidelines to Papers and Theses, which can be accessed in every student's Populi account. In addition, the student will benefit from a comprehensive English dictionary, an English grammar book, and bibliographic software, such as Citation, Endnote, or Zotero. Academic preparation will be reviewed in orientation sessions.

### 8.3 Student Classification

*Master of Biblical Studies students* are classified according to the following criteria:

- A. First year graduate student – 1-12 credits
- B. Second year graduate student – 13-24 credits
- C. Third year graduate student – 25-39 credits

*Master of Theological Studies students* are classified according to the following criteria:

- A. First year graduate student – 1-20 credits
- B. Second year graduate student – 21-40 credits
- C. Third year graduate student – 41-60 credits

*Master of Divinity students* are classified according to the following criteria:

- A. First year graduate student – 1-36 credits
- B. Second year graduate student – 37-72 credits
- C. Third year graduate student – 73-96 credits

### 8.4 Full-Time Status

Full-time status is nine credits or more in a fall or spring semester and six credits or more in a summer semester. Part-time status is eight credits or fewer in a fall or spring semester or five credits or fewer in a summer semester. A student taking six or more hours in the fall or spring term is considered a full-time student within the Th.M. program.

### 8.5 Course Workload

Requirements for all academic programs are based on the expectation that the student will invest at least two hours of out-of-class work for every hour in class. Course requirements for the Th.M. program are based on the expectation that the student will invest at least three hours of out-of-class work for every hour in class.

Students should carefully evaluate all their commitments (work, family, church, and studies) and consult with their faculty advisor when registering for classes. Students who desire to take more than eighteen hours must make an appeal in writing to the Academic Dean. Approval may be granted to students who have at least a 3.40 grade point average, maintain an acceptable level of ministry involvement, have faculty approval, and have the support of their family.

### 8.6 Student Spouses

The spouse of any full-time student may take classes tuition free. The spouse of any part-time student may take classes 50% off of the regular tuition rate. The student's spouse must make application to the desired program, maintain the academic requirements prescribed for each program, and pay all related semester fees.



## 8.7 Attendance Policy

A fellowship of learning is most beneficial when students are committed to the course and to their fellow students. Thus, attendance at all courses is deemed critical by the administration and the faculty.

Three hours of course attendance may be missed without penalty (2 hours for a two-credit course). Additional absences may be excused, at the discretion of the professor, for circumstances that are unforeseen and unpreventable. Absence from class beyond this allowance will result in a deduction of 1% per hour from the final grade. Extended and/or recurring tardiness will be accounted as additional absence from class, unless previously approved by the professor. Failure to attend 70% of course sessions will result in failure of the course.

## 8.8 Auditors

Students auditing courses are expected to complete the application process, to conform to guidelines for dress and conduct, and to attend at least 70% of all classroom sessions. Professors do not grade the work of auditors. Auditors are required to complete course readings as specified by the instructor.

Degree-seeking students who demonstrate adherence to the graduation plan may elect to audit courses. Certain courses may not be open to auditors. Audit registration openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 20% of a residential course may consist of auditors. Exceptions to this limit are at the discretion of the professor of the course.

The following individuals may audit a course free of charge: (1) students carrying a full load of 9 or more hours, (2) students in the last two semesters of course work, and (3) spouses of full-time students.

## 8.9 Transfer of Credit

In addition to the regular application process, students transferring to VBTS from another seminary must submit a letter of honorable dismissal from the dean of that seminary, including documentation that financial obligations to the former seminary are satisfied or that a payment plan has been established. Transfer students should arrange for transcripts to be sent to the Registrar for evaluation. Additionally, the student should be prepared to make course syllabi available for evaluation upon request.

The Registrar will either meet personally with the prospective transfer student or correspond with the student via phone or email to discuss the transfer of credit process. Courses will be evaluated in light of the following criteria:

- A. The course grade must be C+ (86) or above.
- B. Courses transferred to satisfy program requirements at VBTS must be comparable with corresponding courses as described in the seminary catalog.

- C. Courses transferred for elective hours must fit within VBTS's mission and educational philosophy.
- D. Course syllabi may be requested and evaluated to ensure that graduate level work was completed.
- E. Professors must have taught courses with terminal degrees in the field of biblical studies.
- F. Reciprocity agreements made with other seminaries will be considered.
- G. The accreditation status of the school where the credits were earned will be considered but will not be the sole factor in the decision.
- H. Courses transferred must equip a student to interact in the current theological landscape, so except in case of special circumstances, acceptable transfer courses must have been completed within ten years of the transfer credit request.
- I. The total number of transfer credits will be evaluated in light of VBTS's educational objectives to prepare a student academically and to impart to the student a philosophy of ministry. Normally, this will require a minimum of 64 hours of class work at VBTS for the Master of Divinity program and 24 hours of class work at VBTS for the Master of Biblical Studies program.
- J. The Registrar is available to provide counseling and assistance (electronic or print as appropriate) for students who desire to transfer credits from VBTS to another institution.

The Registrar will prepare a transfer of credit proposal to inform students in writing what course credits transferred and what, if any, prerequisites or conditions are associated with the final decision. Students will be asked to acknowledge their acceptance of the transfer of credit decision by signing and dating the transfer of credit proposal.

The Academic Dean and the Registrar will work with VBTS students who desire to transfer to another educational institution. The Registrar will prepare and send an academic transcript upon receiving a written and signed request from the student to the designated school. In addition, the Registrar will make available unofficial student copies of transcripts as needed in acceptable formats (print or electronic). The Academic Dean will prepare any additional documentation requested by the school to which the student desires to transfer. Acceptance of transferred credit earned at VBTS is ultimately a decision of the school that the student desires to attend.

VBTS is committed to applying the transfer of credit policy to all students without discrimination.

## 8.10 Advanced Standing and Course Waivers

VBTS recognizes that college graduates frequently achieve basic proficiency in disciplines that overlap with course content in the M.B.S., and M.Div. programs. In an effort to avoid redundancy in the student's educational experience, VBTS offers two options: advanced standing and course waivers.

### Advanced Standing

Advanced standing is achieved by a proficiency exam and is reflected as course credit on the student transcript. Advanced standing may be obtained for the following courses: Greek Grammar I and II, Hebrew Grammar I and II. Proficiency for these courses will be demonstrated by VBTS's proficiency exam. To schedule a proficiency exam, please contact the Registrar.

### Course Waivers

A course waiver is achieved by approved transcript records and permits the student to substitute an elective from within the department for a required course. The purpose of the course waiver is to enable the student to advance in a particular discipline. In no case does a course waiver grant credit or reduce graduation requirements. Course waivers may be obtained for the following courses: Early & Medieval Christianity, Reformation & Modern Christianity, and Baptist History & Polity. Proficiency for these courses will be demonstrated by the submission of the undergraduate course syllabus and the transcript for the course indicating a grade no lower than B. An application for a course waiver can be filled out in Populi.

## 8.11 Credit Hours and Modes of Delivery

VBTS defines a credit hour as 50 minutes of classroom session per week for fifteen weeks. Traditional three-credit courses meet three hours (180 minutes) each week for a fourteen-week semester period for a total of 42 classroom hours. Course workload is determined on a two-to-one ratio—two hours of coursework for every hour in class. Therefore, a student should expect to invest approximately 126 hours (42 hours of class + 84 hours of coursework) in a three-credit course. Graduate course lectures and course assignments (reading, tests, papers, and projects) are determined in light of this two-to-one ratio. Select courses are delivered in other formats:

### Module Format

Select courses are delivered in one-week and two-week modules. Instructors design these courses to ensure that the amount of work required is, per credit hour, equivalent to the federal definition.

### Seminar Format

Select courses are modeled to emphasize scholarly research, writing, and presentation. Requirements for these courses are measured in order to ensure equivalency to the federal definition.

### Online Format

With the exception of the capstone course (which employs a discussion board delivery), all online courses deliver the complete content of the traditional classroom through synchronous and asynchronous video and include out-of-class workloads identical or equal to the traditional classroom. All distance education courses require regular and substantive interaction between the instructor and students.

### Distance Education: Verification of Student Identity

The seminary's learning management system, Populi, handles course registration as well as course access. Access to Populi is obtained by means of secure login and password, ensuring that the same individual who registers for the course is the one participating as a student in the course. This procedure protects student privacy. In the event that the verification procedure is modified, the seminary will notify students at the time of registration of any additional associated costs.

## 8.12 Grading

### Institutional Grading Scale for all Diploma and Masters Programs

Grade	Percentage	Explanation	Grade Points
A	96-100	Outstanding Course Work: superior	4.0
A-	94-95	achievement of course objectives	3.7
B+	92-93	Good work: commendable	3.3
B	89-91	achievement of course objectives	3.0
B-	87-88		2.7
C+	77-78	Acceptable work: satisfactory	2.3
C	72-76	achievement of course objectives	2.0
C-	70-71		1.7
D+	77-78	Minimal work: marginal achievement	1.3
D	72-76	of course objectives	1.0
D-	70-71		0.7
F	0-69	Failure: unacceptable work	0.0

### Institutional Grading Scale for the Doctor of Ministry Program

Grade	Percentage	Explanation	Grade Points
A	96-100	Outstanding work: superior	4.0
A-	94-95	achievement of course objectives	3.7
B+	92-93	Good work: commendable	3.3
B	89-91	achievement of course objectives	3.0
B-	87-88	Substandard work: below standard	2.7
C+	85-86		2.3
C	81-84		2.0
F	0-80	Failure: unacceptable work	0.0

### Institutional Grading Policy

The Seminary employs a standardized frame of reference for the grading of all courses. Course work which attains to the completion of the minimum specified standard, as articulated in the course syllabus, if accomplished with average competency, will receive an average target grade of 85%. Higher grades will be given to students that produce qualitatively better work (e.g., appropriate creativity, cogent analysis, thoughtful critique, excellent documentation, adequate thoroughness, etc.).

### 8.13 Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, the student must (1) maintain a minimum 2.3 cumulative grade point average and, (2) have earned a minimum 2.3 semester grade point average for the most recently completed academic term. Th.M. students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and have earned a minimum 3.0 semester grade point average for the most recently completed academic term, in order to maintain good academic standing.

### 8.14 Paper Policies and Guidelines

All papers submitted for course requirements must conform to the format of the current edition of *A Manual for Writers* by Kate L. Turabian and VBTS's supplement to Turabian, unless otherwise directed by the course professor.

All written work submitted for the satisfaction of course requirements must be submitted to the professor in an electronic format (Word or PDF). The professor may require a physical copy in addition to the electronic copy. The physical copy becomes the property of the professor, though in most cases it is returned to the student. The electronic copy shall be retained by the administration for the purposes of administrative assessment. The content and/or ideas of such documents, however, remain the intellectual property of the author.

### 8.15 Graduation Requirements

#### Requirements

- A. Give evidence of a saving faith relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that manifests itself in godly character and conduct.
- B. Successfully complete all academic and resident study requirements. Potential M.Div., M.T.S., and M.B.S. graduates must have at least a 2.3 cumulative grade point average. Potential Th.M. and D.Min. graduates must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. In addition, potential graduates must have completed the prescribed program resident requirements.
- C. Meet all financial obligations before the time of graduation.
- D. Complete all program requirements within the time limitations, unless the faculty has granted an extension.
- E. Maintain satisfactory participation in ministry.
- F. All graduates must have faculty recommendation and be approved for degree conferral by the Board of Trustees.

#### Procedure

- A. Complete the Intent to Graduate form (provided in Populi)
- B. Complete the Graduation Questionnaire sent via email from the VBTS administration office.

- C. Complete the Graduating Student Survey sent via email from the VBTS administration office.
- D. Be present at all graduation activities (graduates of resident programs only).

## 8.16 Degree Completion Time Frames

Diploma and Degree programs must be completed within the following time frames:

- A. Diploma of Biblical Studies (DBS) – 5 years
- B. Master of Biblical Studies (MBS) – 5 years
- C. Master of Theological Studies (MTS) – 6 years
- D. Master of Divinity (MDiv) – 7 years
- E. Master of Theology (ThM) – 5 years

The timeframe for the completion of a degree program begins with the date of the first course taken at the VBTS that is applied to requirements of the degree program.

The timeframe ends at the expiration of the years specified for the completion of the program. The timeframe may not be suspended in the event that courses are not taken during one or more academic terms within the timeframe.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, a student may appeal in writing to the Academic Dean, who in turn will present the appeal to the faculty. The faculty will determine the outcome of all appeals regarding degree completion time.

## 8.17 Early Degree Conferral

In the event a student has fulfilled all graduation requirements and requires possession of the degree before the scheduled graduation in order to serve a position or function for which the degree provided preparation, the student may petition the Academic Dean for an early degree conferral.

The Academic Dean will review the fulfillment of the Graduation Requirements stipulated in the seminary catalog, and if duly met, will submit a formal recommendation for an early degree conferral to the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman will present the recommendation to the Board for a vote for conferral of the degree. The Academic Dean will inform the student of the decision of the board.

## 8.18 Student Privacy

VBTS is committed to protecting the privacy of all students, including those enrolled in all distance education programs. To protect the privacy of all students, including distance education students, VBTS complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. Access to the seminary's learning management system (LMS) is obtained by means of a secure login and password unique to the individual student. The privacy of individual students' assignments and grades is maintained within the learning management system.

## 8.19 FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

The student may contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@vbts.edu for the complete policy regarding student records access. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights are:

- A. *The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the seminary receives a request for access.* The student should submit to the registrar written requests that identify the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. The Office of the Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- B. *The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading.* The student may ask the seminary to amend a record that he or she believes is inaccurate or misleading. He or she should write the Office of the Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record he or she wants changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the seminary decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the seminary will notify the student of the decision in writing and advise the student of his or her rights for further appeal.
- C. *The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.* One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is defined as a person employed by the seminary in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit and health staff); a person or company with whom the seminary has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a person assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- D. *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the seminary to comply with the requirements of FERPA.*

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
 U.S. Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Ave SW  
 Washington, DC 20202-4605

## 8.20 Student Achievement

Various methods of evaluation will be employed in order to provide the best possible body of evidence to determine the extent of student learning. These methods will include analysis of retention rates, completion rates, graduation rates, job placement rates, and student success rates for licensing exams (if applicable). The methods will be both qualitative and quantitative. Additionally, the evaluation of student learning will utilize both direct and indirect measures.



## 9. Course Descriptions

### 9.1 Christian Ministry and Communication

#### 5101 Missions and Evangelism<sup>1</sup>

The goal of this course is two-fold: (1) to introduce the student to a biblical philosophy of missions and (2) to provide each student with the theological and practical foundations for communicating the gospel with clarity, biblical fidelity, and cultural relevance.

#### 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling<sup>1</sup>

This course will serve as the gateway for each student who desires an emphasis in biblical counseling. The reading will be in the seminal works of the movement, both in textbooks as well as journal articles. In addition to progressive sanctification and the key elements of counseling, the topics covered will be those that are seen most often in the local church setting (pastoral and lay), such as depression, suicide, grief, trials, God's will, salvation doubts, private sin habits, marital infidelity, forgiveness, and church discipline.

#### 5175 Issues in Youth Ministry<sup>3</sup>

This course is designed to enable students to develop and implement a Word-centered philosophy of youth ministry.

#### 5180 Leadership Seminar<sup>3</sup>

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to administrative functions and skills. The course develops an awareness of pertinent issues, such as biblical principles of leadership, techniques of effective communication, management skills, staff evaluation, team building, public relations, and financial management.

#### 5185 Introduction to the Military Chaplaincy<sup>3</sup>

Recognizing the Military Chaplaincy is an outreach of the local church, this course highlights the history, culture, challenges, and opportunities of the Military Chaplaincy.

#### 5186 Military Chaplain Ministry<sup>3</sup>

Recognizing that a Chaplain Officer is essentially a Pastor-in-Uniform, this course explores the tactical, operational, and strategic contexts in which Military Chaplain Ministry is delivered.

#### 5187 The Military Chaplain as a Staff Officer<sup>3</sup>

Recognizing that the Military Chaplain is also a commissioned officer, this course describes the breadth of and need for good Staff Officer skill in the delivery of Military Chaplain Ministry.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically



5190 Methods of Research and Writing<sup>3</sup>

This three-part course considers the following: (1) the development of effective research and writing skills along with efficient use of the VBTS library; (2) an introduction to computer technology, an evaluation of various Bible and bibliographic software programs, and web research; and (3) the use of Turabian's Manual for Writers for effective paper writing and formatting.

6104 Principles of Preaching<sup>2</sup>

This course will examine the basic principles of communication and acquaint the student with the art of public speaking. It will also focus on the science of sermon structure and how to properly organize and outline messages from the Word of God. Principles of Preaching is also designed to facilitate the application of exegetical skills developed in the biblical language courses.

6120 Biblical Counseling for the Home<sup>2</sup>

This course will address the major issues for the Christian home with regard to premarital, marital, and parental counseling. Some of the issues that will be covered include the four purposes of marriage, marital roles, premarital counseling, living with an unbelieving or disobedient spouse, rescuing a marriage in the wake of infidelity, rebuilding communication, and parental training in the local church. Prerequisite: 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

6123 Starting a Local Church Counseling Ministry<sup>3</sup>

This course will equip the student to lay the ground work for a local church counseling ministry from start to finish. Special attention will be given to developing a curriculum that would pass NANC certification for a training site. Prerequisite: 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

6160 Grace Theology Seminar<sup>3</sup>

This course introduces philosophy of ministry and its theological basis. The Pauline letters of Romans, Ephesians, and Titus are thoroughly examined in order to apply Paul's principles of grace to the ministry of a New Testament local church.

7103 Pastoral Practice<sup>2</sup>

A biblical office of the pastor will be evaluated as to his personal qualifications, ministry duties, and family responsibilities. Many practical areas of the ministry will be examined such as, ordination, visitation, weddings, funerals, the ordinances, finances, and world missions. Also, an in-depth study of the grace philosophy of ministry will be addressed. Prerequisite: enrollment in the M.Div. program.

7104 Preaching Practicum<sup>2</sup>

This course is designed to cultivate skills for effective sermon delivery. Attention is given to cultural communication norms, diction, verbal and non-verbal devices, and other issues relevant to effective ministerial public speaking. Instruction is coordinated with supervised practical elements. Prerequisite: enrollment in the M.Div. program; 6104 Principles of Preaching.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

**7105 Pastoral Internship<sup>3</sup>**

This course provides students with practical pastoral skills by means of a structured mentorship in the context of a local church. Students learn ministerial skills through the experience of assisting pastors and assuming practical pastoral responsibilities.

**7121 Issues in Biblical Counseling<sup>2</sup>**

This course will build upon the introductory course(s) and focus on current/pertinent issues in biblical counseling. The subjects that will be studied include the biblical counselor, current opponents to biblical counseling, interaction with the DSM-IV, psychological labels, anxiety and worry, eating disorders, and self-esteem. **Prerequisite:** 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

**7122 Medical and Legal Issues in Counseling<sup>3</sup>**

This course will cover the major medical issues (psychotropic medications, diseases, death, chemical imbalances, etc.) as well as legal issues pertinent to the local church with regard to counseling. **Prerequisite:** 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling.

**7123 Counseling Observations<sup>3</sup>**

Counseling Observations provides intermediate-level training in counseling through observation and case study, enabling the student to draw relationships between counseling theory and practice. **Prerequisites:** 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling, one specialized counseling theory course (i.e. 6120, 6123, 7121, 7122, 7123, 7124, 7139).

**7124 Counseling Internship<sup>3</sup>**

Counseling Internship provides advanced training in counseling through supervised participation in counseling cases and/or other supervised counseling exercises. **Prerequisites:** 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling, two counseling theory courses, 7123 Counseling Observations

**7139 Studies in Biblical Counseling<sup>3</sup>**

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of biblical counseling.

**7159 Studies in Missions<sup>3</sup>**

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of missions.

**7179 Studies in Pastoral Ministry<sup>3</sup>**

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of pastoral ministry.

## 9.2 Biblical Theology and Exegesis

**5200 Introduction to Biblical Theology<sup>3</sup>**

This course will investigate the history and development of biblical theology, methodological issues, special considerations related to Old and New Testament biblical theology, and make suggestions for doing Old and New Testament biblical theology. On occasion, this course will be team-taught by professors from the Old and New Testament departments.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

5201 Hermeneutics<sup>1</sup>

This course introduces the student to the theory and practice of biblical interpretation. Critical issues are explored, including among other things, the history of biblical interpretation, the qualifications of the biblical interpreter, the role of presuppositions, and literary genre. The course also introduces the student to some of the indispensable tools of Bible study. Students are then given the opportunity to sharpen hermeneutical skills through careful analysis of selected biblical passages through the discipline of observation, interpretation, and application.

5202 Old Testament Introduction<sup>1</sup>

Old Testament Introduction is an examination of the critical problems of the Old Testament canon and text (General Introduction), a survey of the critical methodologies of Old Testament analysis, along with an investigation of the major historical and chronological issues of the Old Testament.

5203-5204 Hebrew Grammar 1 & 2<sup>2</sup>

These two courses serve as an introductory study to biblical Hebrew, emphasizing the foundational elements of the language including morphology, basic grammar, and vocabulary.

5215 Theology of Genesis<sup>3</sup>

This English Bible course investigates the literary, historical, grammatical, and theological issues of Genesis. The study begins with a synthetic overview of the book's content, structure, and literary character as a preliminary to addressing the questions of authorship, date, and historical occasion. Select portions of Genesis are then more thoroughly examined with a view toward establishing the theological message of the book. Special attention is given to the place of Genesis in the canon and the appropriateness of its message for the body of Christ. **Prerequisites:** 5203 Hebrew Grammar 1 and 5204 Hebrew Grammar 2.

5216 Theology of the Pentateuch<sup>3</sup>

This course will begin with a consideration of the genre and the poetics of this literary corpus. Select portions of the Pentateuch will be scrutinized from a historical, grammatical, and literary perspective. The various themes, motifs, and theological concepts of larger blocks of material will be investigated and correlated.

5217 History of Israel<sup>3</sup>

The Hebrew Bible groups Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings in the canonical division of Former Prophets. Since the books of this division are historical in nature, the initial goal of the course is to understand the genre of historical narrative for the purpose of a more informed reading of this canonical corpus. The analytical section of the course will balance synthetic analysis with more detailed exploration of select portions from the corpus. Attention will be given to the literary qualities, the theological emphasis, and the critical issues of the historical narrative.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

5251 New Testament Introduction<sup>1</sup>

This course introduces the student to the disciplines of NT study and the issues pertaining to it. The main focus of the course examines the historical, literary, and linguistic backgrounds of the NT in their various dimensions. In addition, the course addresses such important matters as translation, textual criticism, history and theology of the NT canon, the Jesus Seminar and quests, the synoptic problem, critical methodologies, and the history of NT research.

5252-5253 Greek Grammar 1 & 2<sup>2</sup>

These courses, taught over the span of two semesters, are intended for those who have had no previous Greek study or who need substantial review to regain mastery. The fundamentals of New Testament Greek grammar, including morphology and vocabulary, are thoroughly examined. These fundamentals are developed through exercises and readings from selected portions of the Greek New Testament.

526X Bible Exposition<sup>1</sup>

Bible Exposition courses deal primarily with an interpretation of the English text and have three general foci: (1) introductory—attention to matters of special introduction, i.e., authorship, historical background, occasion for writing, date, purpose, theme, theological distinctives, etc., (2) exegetical-theological—an in-depth examination of key texts, together with their biblical-theological implications, (3) practical—an exploration of important issues raised by the text for the Christian life.

Bible Exposition courses offered include:

- 5261 Exposition of Haggai & Malachi
- 5262 Exposition of Genesis
- 5263 Exposition of Job
- 5264 Exposition of Proverbs
- 5265 Exposition of Romans
- 5266 Exposition of Acts
- 5267 Exposition of Revelation
- 5268 Exposition of Pastoral Epistles
- 5269 Exposition of Matthew

6205-6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 & 2<sup>2</sup>

The goal of these two courses is the development of sound exegetical skills for an accurate exposition of the Old Testament text. In these courses, attention will be given to syntax, textual critical matters, and the development of an exegetical method appropriate for historical narrative and poetry. The exegetical principles and methods are then applied in a detailed analysis of select Old Testament passages.

6218 Old Testament Theology<sup>3</sup>

Old Testament Theology has two primary objectives. The first objective is devoted to the development of a method for doing biblical theology that is canonical, historical, theological,

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

thematic, and inductive. The second objective includes the application of the method of biblical theology to select portions of the Old Testament revelation. Special attention will be given to the themes of creation and redemption.

#### 6219 Theology of Joshua<sup>3</sup>

In this course the principles and methods of literary analysis are applied to the Old Testament book of Joshua. By means of a descriptive genre analysis, Joshua is investigated as covenant history. Once the macro genre of covenant history is established, the micro genres related to conquest and settlement are investigated. The goal of this course is to accurately identify Joshua's literary type for the purposes of a more informed reading of the book's message.

#### 6254-6255 Greek Exegetical Method 1 & 2<sup>2</sup>

The goal of these courses is the development of sound exegetical skills for the purpose of facilitating an accurate exposition of the New Testament Greek text. In these courses attention will be given to the development of an exegetical method, using skills such as textual criticism, grammatical diagramming, and discourse analysis. **Prerequisites:** 5252 Greek Grammar 1 and 5253 Greek Grammar 2.

#### 723X Hebrew Exegesis<sup>1</sup>

Hebrew Exegesis courses explore in detail the Hebrew text of a particular Old Testament book or series of books. In addition to detailed attention to grammatical and syntactical features, special consideration is given to literary structures and devices, historical backgrounds, exegetical problems, and interpretive issues. **Prerequisites:** 5201 Hermeneutics, 5203 Hebrew Grammar 1, 5204 Hebrew Grammar 2, 6205 Hebrew Exegetical Method 1, and 6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 2.

Hebrew Exegesis courses offered include:

- 7230 Exegesis of Abrahamic Narrative
- 7231 Exegesis of Genesis
- 7232 Exegesis of Daniel
- 7233 Exegesis of Job

#### 7249 Studies in Old Testament Theology<sup>3</sup>

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of Old Testament theology.

#### 728X Greek Exegesis<sup>1</sup>

Greek Exegesis courses explore in detail the Greek text of a particular New Testament book or series of books. In addition to detailed attention to grammatical and syntactical features, special consideration is given to literary structures and devices, historical backgrounds, exegetical problems, and interpretive issues. **Prerequisites:** 5201 Hermeneutics, 5252 Greek Grammar 1, 5253 Greek Grammar 2, 6254 Greek Exegetical Method 1, and 6255 Greek Exegetical Method 2.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

Greek Exegesis courses offered include:

- 7280 Exegesis of Thessalonians
- 7281 Exegesis of Philippians
- 7282 Exegesis of 1 Peter
- 7283 Exegesis of Ephesians

7299 Studies in New Testament Theology<sup>3</sup>

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of New Testament theology.

### 9.3 Historical and Systematic Theology

5301 Early & Medieval Christianity<sup>2</sup>

This course is a survey of Christianity from the 2nd century to the 15th century.

5302 Reformation & Modern Christianity<sup>2</sup>

This course is a survey of Christianity from the 16th century to the 19th century.

5351 Theological Method, God, and Scripture<sup>1</sup>

This course is a study of theological method, the doctrine of God (Theology Proper), and the doctrine of Scripture (Bibliology).

5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit<sup>1</sup>

This class is a study of the biblical teachings about the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), about man (Biblical Anthropology), and about sin (Hamartiology).

5353 Christ & Salvation<sup>1</sup>

This course studies the Biblical teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ (Christology) and about salvation (Soteriology).

5354 Church & End Times<sup>1</sup>

This class is a study of the Biblical teaching about the church (Ecclesiology) and about the end times (Eschatology).

6303 Baptist History and Polity<sup>2</sup>

This course is a survey of Baptist origins and history and an investigation of the polity of Baptists.

6304 Fundamentalism & Evangelicalism<sup>3</sup>

This course is a survey of Christianity in the 20th century, with special attention given to the rise of Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism, and to the various tensions which helped to define those movements.

6317 History of the Charismatic Movement<sup>3</sup>

This course is a survey of the history of the holiness movement and the subsequent Charismatic movement.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

6318 Jonathan Edwards: Readings and Analysis<sup>3</sup>

This course of study is dedicated to a concentrated reading of the works of Jonathan Edwards. This course is delivered in a seminar format, in which classroom sessions employ a combination of lectures, research discussion groups, and student presentations.

6319 Readings in Luther<sup>3</sup>

This course of study is an introduction to the life, ministry, and writings of Martin Luther.

6355 Hermeneutical Systems<sup>2</sup>

This advanced course addresses issues such as the history of dispensational interpretation, unique elements of dispensational theology, the concept of “literal interpretation,” progressive revelation, and the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. Prerequisites: 5201 Hermeneutics

6390 Apologetics<sup>2</sup>

This elective is an introduction to the theological discipline of defending the Christian faith. The course will address the theological justification for apologetics, the necessity of engaging the discipline on the epistemological level, and the utility of the discipline for the gospel ministry.

7315 Puritan Theology Seminar<sup>3</sup>

A study of selected English and American Puritan theologians, their ministries, and their thought.

7316 Reformation Theology Seminar<sup>3</sup>

A study of the ministries and theology of Martin Luther, John Calvin, and other selected Reformers.

7349 Studies in Historical Theology<sup>3</sup>

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of historical theology.

7356 M.Div. Seminar<sup>1</sup>

MDiv Seminar is the capstone course of the Master of Divinity degree. The purpose of this course is to (1) review and consolidate skills across the spectrum of disciplines within the MDiv program, (2) assess student competencies on the programmatic level, and (3) position the student to articulate and defend a comprehensive statement of the major doctrines of Scripture. **Prerequisites:** 5351 Theological Method, Scripture, & God; 5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit; 5353 Christ & Salvation; 5354 Church & End Times; 6355 Hermeneutical Systems.

7357 M.B.S. Theology Seminar<sup>1</sup>

This course is designed to help each graduating senior in the Master of Biblical Studies and Diploma of Biblical Studies programs to correlate his or her theological studies in a comprehensive manner. Students will be required to produce a written defense of their theological views and interpretations. **Prerequisites:** Completion of the systematic theology component.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically

7358 M.T.S. Theology Seminar<sup>1</sup>

This course is the capstone course of the Master of Theological Studies degree. The purpose of this course is the (1) review and consolidate skills across the spectrum of disciplines within the M.T.S. program, (2) assess student competencies on the programmatic level, and (3) position the student to articulate and defend a comprehensive statement of the major doctrines of Scripture. **Prerequisites:** All courses in the M.T.S. core must be either complete or in process (taken during the same semester as M.T.S. Seminar).

7392 Studies in Contemporary Theology<sup>3</sup>

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of contemporary theology.

7399 Studies in Systematic Theology<sup>3</sup>

This elective consists of structured independent research on a select subject in the field of systematic theology.

<sup>1</sup> Offered annually

<sup>2</sup> Offered bi-annually

<sup>3</sup> Offered periodically





## 10. Academic Calendar

Fall 2020 Semester	
August 21	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Fall Term
September 21-25	DMIN Module: <i>Expository Preaching of OT &amp; NT Narrative</i>
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Spring Registration Open
December 4	Last Day of Fall Term
December 10	Student Council
December 11	Spring Registration Deadline

Spring 2021 Semester	
January 4	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Spring Semester
February 8-12	DMIN Module: <i>History of Expository Preaching</i>
February 15-19	Spring Reading Week
April 5-9	Spring Break
April 12	Summer Registration Open
April 22	Student Council
April 23	Summer Registration Deadline
April 23	Last Day of Spring Semester

<b>April 30</b>	President's Reception
<b>May 2</b>	Graduation

<b>Summer 2021 Semester</b>	
<b>May 10</b>	First Day of Summer Term
<b>TBA</b>	Refer to the VBTS website for updated information on Summer 2021 modules



# 11 Appendix

## 11.1 Accreditation Statement

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to provide theological education.

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [PO Box 328, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434.525.9539; email [info@tracs.org](mailto:info@tracs.org)] having been awarded Reaffirmation I of its Accredited Status as a Category III institution by TRACS' Accreditation Commission on April 3, 2012. This status is effective for a period of ten years. More information about TRACS may be found on their website at [www.tracs.org](http://www.tracs.org). TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

## 11.2 SCHEV Statement

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a religious institution exempt from state regulation and oversight in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## 11.3 Distance Education Authorizations

The Department of Education requires all institutions which provide distance education to obtain appropriate authorization to do so from those states and foreign countries in which enrolled distance education students reside, or to obtain exemptions from such authorizations. VBTS is authorized to provide distance education, or exempt from this requirement, in the following states:

### North Carolina

Degree programs of study offered by Virginia Beach Theological Seminary have been declared exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116-15 (d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education. Exemption from licensure is not based upon assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

If students are unable to resolve a complaint through the institution's grievance procedures, they may review the Student Complaint Policy, complete the Student Complaint Form (PDF) located on the State Authorization webpage at <https://www.northcarolina.edu/stateauthorization>, and submit the complaint to [studentcomplaint@northcarolina.edu](mailto:studentcomplaint@northcarolina.edu) or to the following mailing address:

North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Complaints  
c/o Student Complaints  
University of North Carolina General Administration  
910 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2688