

Accreditation History

The following is the ATS record of accreditation actions relating to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from reaccreditation in 2006 to the present.

June 2006 VOTED:

1. To reaffirm accreditation of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for a period of 10 years (spring 2016).
2. To approve the following degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity (MDiv)
 - Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE)
 - Master of Arts in Worship Ministries (MA in Worship Ministries)
 - Master of Arts in Missiology (MA in Missiology)
 - Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling (MA in Marriage and Family Counseling)
 - Master of Music in Church Music (MMCM) (*change of nomenclature from previous MCM*)
 - Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA [Biblical Studies])
 - Master of Arts (Theology) (MA [Theology])
 - Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
 - Doctor of Educational Ministry (DEdMin)
 - Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
 - Master of Theology (ThM)
 - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
3. To grant approval to offer ongoing courses at the following extension sites:
 - Central Louisiana Center, Pineville, LA (MDiv/MACE)
 - North Louisiana Center, Shreveport, LA (MDiv)
 - Clinton Center, Clinton, MS (MDiv/MACE)
 - Birmingham Center, Birmingham, AL (MDiv/MACE)
 - North Georgia Campus, Atlanta, GA (MDiv/MACE)
 - South Georgia Center, Albany, GA (MDiv)
 - Pensacola Center, Pensacola, FL (MDiv)
 - Graceville Center, Graceville, FL (MDiv/MACE)
 - Jacksonville Center, Jacksonville, FL (MDiv)
 - Orlando Center, Orlando, FL (MDiv/MACE)
 - Center for the Americas, Miami, FL (MDiv)
4. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing the following distinctive strengths:
 - a. Resilience of the whole seminary community in the face of adversity
 - b. Solidarity of the school with its parent denomination and hundreds of Christian congregations

- c. Clarity in mission
 - d. Dedicated, competent staff; forward-thinking administration; mission-driven faculty; and vocationally committed students
 - d. Effective and efficient extension programs
5. To require the following reports:
- a. By November 1, 2006, providing the seminary's 2005-2006 external audit (Commission Standard 9.2.2.2)
 - b. By April 1, 2007, on the following:
 - (1) The clarification of the campus facilities (Commission Standard 9.3)
 - (2) The John T. Christian Library negotiations regarding formal written agreements with local libraries to ensure that all NOBTS extension students have adequate library services, including borrowing privileges, at the college or seminary libraries that are in close geographic proximity to the extension site (Commission Standard 10.2.4.3)
 - (3) The administrative oversight of the selection and supervision of faculty members at the graduate extension sites (Commission Standard 10.2.6.3)
 - c. By April 1, 2008, on the implementation of a comprehensive assessment plan that focuses on the comparability of the graduate extensions to the main campus in such areas as student learning and formation, faculty performance, and student services (Commission Standards 10.2.2.2 and 10.2.2.3)

January 2007 VOTED:

- 1. To authorize focused visits to the extension sites in North Georgia (Atlanta, GA) and Orlando, FL, to determine the suitability of these sites to offer complete degree programs leading to the Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE)
- 2. To receive the notification of the address changes
- 3. To receive the report required at the June 2006 meeting providing the fiscal year 2006 audit

June 2007 VOTED:

- 1. To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee that the Board of Commissioners authorized at its January 2007 meeting
- 2. To grant approval to offer the full Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree program and the full Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE) degree program at the North Georgia (Atlanta, GA) and Orlando, FL, extension sites
- 3. To grant approval to offer the full Master of Arts in Worship Studies (MA in Worship Studies) degree program at the North Georgia (Atlanta, GA) extension site

4. To receive the report on library practices and the appointment and supervision of adjunct faculty (applicable to the North Georgia [Atlanta, GA] and Orlando, FL, extension sites) that was required at the January 2007 meeting of the Board of Commissioners

[NOTE: The committee notes that the nomenclature MA in Worship Studies is at variance with the practice of the Board of Commissioners to restrict the use of the term *studies* to nomenclature descriptive of academic degree programs and that the approved degree program falls under Degree Program Standard C.]

5. To approve, based on the seminary's demonstrated capacity in other programs, a "research project" to assist the Board of Commissioners to develop interpretive guidelines for modified residency in the PhD program as permitted in Commission Degree program Standard L, section L.3.2.0: "Courses, seminars, and colloquia for research doctoral degrees shall normally be completed on the main campus of the institution offering the degree." The research project will evaluate the effectiveness of offering technologically mediated seminars in the PhD program in Christian Education. The project will extend through spring 2011.
6. To require annual assessment reports to the Board of Commissioners through spring 2011. The first report is due by April 1, 2008. Subsequent reports are due April 1, 2009; April 1, 2010; and April 1, 2011.
7. To receive the report required at the June 2006 meeting regarding campus facilities, library services for extension sites, and the selection and supervision of faculty members at the extension sites
8. To require a report by April 1, 2008, demonstrating the adequacy and effectiveness of providing library services and resources to extension students and faculty.

June 2008 VOTED to receive the reports required at the June 2007 meeting regarding (1) assessment of the modified residency PhD program; (2) library resources to extension students and faculty; and (3) implementation of a comprehensive assessment plan, and to commend the seminary for its careful and thoughtful responses that effectively address the Board's concerns.

June 2010 VOTED to accept the report on the PhD modified residency research project. The board is expecting a complete and comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the modified PhD residency program in the report due May 1, 2011.

February 2011 VOTED to authorize a focused visit to an extension site at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, MS, to determine the suitability and capacity of the site to offer two-thirds of the MDiv degree.

June 2011 VOTED:

1. To grant approval to offer two-thirds of the MDiv degree at an ongoing course extension site located on the campus of Blue Mountain College (PO Box 160, Blue Mountain, MS 38610)
2. To require a report by September 1, 2012, regarding the seminary's efforts to train faculty in alternative pedagogy for use in distance education using CIV and affiliated technologies (ATS Commission Standard 3, section 3.2.2.2; Standard 6, section 6.2.3; and Standard 10, sections 10.3.3.4, 10.3.6.1, and 10.3.6.3)
3. To authorize a focused visit to determine the suitability of the proposed extension site at Heritage Baptist Church, 1849 Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36106, to offer as much as two-thirds of the Master of Divinity degree

The seminary is reminded that it will need to demonstrate that it has the necessary approvals to operate in the State of Alabama.

4. To receive the report regarding the pilot modified residency PhD program in Christian education
5. To authorize the continuation of the modified residency PhD program in Christian education as an experimental program with a report to the Commission by September 1, 2013, on the identified issues in the April 2011 report and how these are being addressed by the seminary
6. To require the seminary to give particular attention to the assessment of the modified residency PhD program in its next self-study and comprehensive review

February 2012 VOTED:

1. To approve the Montgomery, AL, extension located at Heritage Baptist Church, 1849 Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36106, as an ongoing course offering site that provides up to two-thirds of the Master of Divinity degree
2. To require a report by May 1, 2014, on the ongoing viability of the Montgomery extension site in terms of the following:
 - a. Library resources with regard to (1) the development of library resources located at the extension site, and (2) the orientation to and use of a full range of library resources by students and faculty, including electronic resources (ATS Commission Standard 10, section 10.2.4.3)
 - b. The implementation of a full assessment process for the extension in terms of (1) achieving degree program objectives and (2) the adequacy of educational delivery systems. This assessment should involve an evaluation of the educational program at the Montgomery extension (ATS Commission Standard 10, section 10.2.2.2).
 - c. Enrollment trends and prospects for growth (ATS Commission Standard 10, section 10.2.7.2)

October 2012 OFFICERS COMMITTEE VOTED to receive notification from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (a) of the change of address of its Central Louisiana ongoing course offering site from the campus of Louisiana College to Calvary Baptist Church, 5011 Jackson St., Alexandria, LA 71303; and (b) of the closing of the South Georgia ongoing course offering site, noting the appropriate accommodation for the final two students registered at the site to complete their studies.

January 2013 READER PANEL VOTED to accept the report required at the June 2011 meeting regarding faculty training for using distance education technologies.

February 2013 VOTED:

1. To grant approval to change the location of an approved extension site for offering at least 50 percent of the MDiv degree from 2201 Whispering Pines Road, Albany, GA 31707 to Central Baptist Church, 1120 Lake Joy Road, Warner Robins, GA 31088
2. To grant an exemption for a required focused visit in light of Board *Policy Manual*, Section III.A.1.f.
3. To grant approval to offer a new Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degree program at its main campus and all approved extension sites within the approval parameters set for each site

August 2013 VOTED to grant approval to offer up to two-thirds of the MDiv degree at North Monroe Baptist Church, 210 Finks Highway Rd., Monroe, LA 71203. The school must notify

Commission staff of the exact date when this new extension site is to begin so that a focused visit can be scheduled within six months. **[exempted from FV by board's *Policy Manual* (III.A.1.e) per TT – SB 9/3/13]**

October 2013 School has requested a delay of one semester (to fall 2016) for CV—approved TT —SB 10/31/13.

January 2014 READER PANEL VOTED to accept the report required in June 2011 regarding the experimental, modified residency PhD program in Christian Education.

February 2014 VOTED:

1. To grant approval to offer the following new degree programs: (1) Master of Arts (Biblical Archeology), (2) Master of Arts (Cross-Cultural Studies), (3) Doctor of Education, and (4) moving the Master of Arts (Apologetics) from a Standard B to a Standard D degree. The board is also excusing the school from a focused visit for the new EdD degree program, since it has already been approved to offer a doctoral program in that degree category (per Commission Procedures V.C).
2. To approve the following new extension sites: (a) Huntsville Extension Center, 6806 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802 (to offer two-thirds of the MDiv); (b) MidSouth Extension Center, 4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654 (to offer two-thirds of the MDiv); (c) NOBTS Northeast Alabama Extension Center, 2233 Church Street, PO Box 585, Rainsville, AL 35986 (to offer two-thirds of the MDiv); (d) Thomasville Road Baptist Church, 3131 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308 (to offer two-thirds of the MDiv) (this includes the relocation of the Graceville, Florida center to this Tallahassee center); and (e) Tuscaloosa Extension Center, 107 18th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401(to offer two-thirds of the MDiv)
3. To exempt these five new sites from evaluation visits in light of the school meeting the four exemption criteria (see *Policy Manual* III.A.1.e-f)
4. To authorize the seminary to offer the entire Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Education, and the Master of Arts in Missiology degree programs through distance education as an exception to Educational Standard ES.2; Degree Program Standard A, section A.3.1.3; and Degree Program Standard B, section B.3.1.3
5. To require a report by November 1, 2018, documenting how the first groups of students graduating under this exception have met the expectations associated with each of the degree program standards to which this exception applies. The report should also summarize key lessons learned from implementing this exception over the last few years.

April 2014 REPORT TO STAFF: Staff received and accepted the May 1, 2014 report required in February 2012. No further action required. **[per TT – LAN 4/30/14]**

June 2014 VOTED:

1. To grant approval to offer more than half of the MDiv and any other basic degree programs oriented toward ministerial leadership professional (including the MACE specified in this petition) at a new extension site at First Baptist Church Jonesboro (147 Church Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236)
2. To grant an exemption to the required site visit since this school meets the four exemption criteria in the board's *Policy Manual* (III.a.1.e)
3. To grant approval to offer more than half of the MDiv and any other basic degree programs oriented toward ministerial leadership at a new extension site at Savannah Baptist Association (704 Wheaton Street, Savannah, GA, 31401)
4. To grant an exemption to the required site visit since this school meets the four exemption criteria in the board's *Policy Manual* (III.a.1.e)
5. To grant approval to offer the complete MDiv and MA in Christian Education degree programs at a new extension site at First Baptist Church Duluth (2908 Georgia Highway 120, Duluth, GA, 30096)
6. To grant an exception to the required site visit since this school meets the four exemption criteria in the board's *Policy Manual* (III.a.1.e)

Aug 2015 STAFF ACTION to approve the school's request to change the nomenclature of the Master of Arts in Worship Studies (MA in Worship Studies) degree to Master of Arts in Worship Ministries (MA in Worship Ministries). **Note: this is a return to earlier nomenclature for the degree—see June 2007 action.**

September 2015 READER PANEL VOTED:

1. To grant approval to offer more than half of the MDiv (and any basic degree programs oriented towards professional ministerial leadership) at a new extension site at Abilene Baptist Church, 3917 Washington Road, Augusta, GA 30907
2. To grant an exception to the required site visit since this school meets the four exemption criteria in the Board's *Policy Manual* (III.a.1.e)

NOTE: Such approval expects the requested substantive change will be implemented within a year of the September 24, 2015, approval date.

February 2016 VOTED:

1. To approve the Master of Arts in Discipleship (Standard B, professional MA) degree program
2. To grant an exception to the residency requirements for the Master of Arts in Discipleship degree, allowing all of that degree program to be taken online, as an exception to Standard B, section B.3.1.3. In all references to this online program, electronic and in print, the seminary must stipulate that it is offered as an approved exception to Degree Program Standard B, section B.3.1.3
3. To require a report by November 1, 2019, documenting how the first group of students graduating under this exception has met the expectations associated with the degree program standard to which this exception applies. The report also should summarize key lessons learned from implementing this exception over the last few years.
4. To approve the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM) (Standard B, professional MA) degree program
5. To grant an exception to the residency requirements for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree, allowing that degree program to be completed entirely online, as an exception to Standard B, section B.3.1.3. In all references to this online program, electronic and in print, the seminary must stipulate that it is offered as an approved exception to Degree Program Standard B, section B.3.1.3.
6. To require a report by November 1, 2019, documenting how the first group of students graduating under this exception has met the expectations associated with the degree program standard to which this exception applies. The report also should summarize key lessons learned from implementing this exception over the last few years.
7. To approve the Master of Arts in in Church and Community Ministries (Standard B, professional MA) degree program
8. To approve the Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics (Standard B, professional MA) degree program
9. To grant approval to open a new extension site at SW Louisiana Extension Center (2234 Kaliste Saloom Rd., Lafayette, LA 70508), at which more than half of the MDiv degree could be earned
10. To exempt the site from a focused evaluation visit since it meets the exemption criteria described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual* (section III.A.1.e).
11. To grant approval to open a new, complete-degree extension site at Wynnbrook Baptist Church (500 River Knoll Way, Columbus, GA 31094), at which the MDiv degree could be earned

12. To exempt the site from a focused evaluation visit since it meets the exemption criteria described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual* (section III.A.1.e)

June 2016 VOTED:

1. To grant a 3-year experiment (fall 2016 - spring 2019) to provide students with an option to participate in PhD seminars and colloquia with on-site students via synchronous internet video.

END OF RECORD

LAST UPDATE OCTOBER 2016