GRACE BIBLE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2026–2027 Academic Catalog

Grace Bible Theological Seminary
1076 Harkrider St.
Conway, AR 72032

Admissions Office: info@gbtseminary.org
Website: gbtseminary.org

Grace Bible Theological Seminary reserves the right to make emendations and corrections to this catalog as needed without further notice in order to maintain conformity with the policies and procedures of the institution and for the educational advancement of its students.

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PROFILE

Core Values

Grace Bible Theological Seminary (GBTS) esteems the following core values in its policies, procedures, programs, principles, and practices:

1) Glorifying God
2) Proclaiming the Sufficiency of Scripture
3) Prioritizing the Church
4) Investing in Students
5) Equipping Pastors
6) Embodying Experiential Christlike Character
7) Promoting Confessional Reformed Baptist Theology

History

Grace Bible Church (GBC) of Conway, Arkansas, was founded by Jeff Johnson in 2000, when a few families met in the living room of his apartment to start a church that would be established upon faithful exposition of Scripture and Christ-centered worship. In 2011, Johnson began an informal theology and ministry class on Wednesday evenings to train men within the church for various leadership roles. This class would be a small seed that the Lord would eventually grow into a seminary.

In 2016, Grace Bible Church hosted two courses in partnership with Reformed Baptist Seminary (RBS). In 2017 Grace Bible Institute (GBI) was established. Classes were offered on a more regular basis and the variety of courses increased each year. In 2019 GBI's first three students graduated. Later in the year, the institute became an official seminary and was renamed Grace Bible Theological Seminary (GBTS). The school moved into a new, on-campus facility that was provided by a generous donor.

In 2020 GBTS formally began a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program, which serves as the flagship degree program of the institution. The seminary now offers four (4) degree programs (M.Div., MTS, MAPS, and Cert.) and has a teaching faculty comprised of six (6) instructors/professors, along with six (6) part-time staff members.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of Grace Bible Theological Seminary (GBTS) is to glorify God in the church by educating and equipping the next generation of pastors, church planters, and missionaries to see churches established and strengthened across the globe.

Mission Statement

The mission of Grace Bible Theological Seminary is to facilitate biblically faithful theological training that prepares students in both sound doctrine and practice in the context of the local church and under the guidance of pastoral mentorship for the service of Christ and his church.

Distinctives

Sufficiency of Scripture: GBTS adheres to and teaches the sufficiency of Scripture in all things, not only in matters of salvation (2 Tim 3:15) but in all Christian theology and ethics (2 Tim 3:16–17). Accordingly, as an institution, Grace Bible Theological Seminary affirms:

- Christ-centered, biblically rooted theology
- Presuppositional apologetics
- Biblical counseling
- Strong complementarianism
- Biblical sexuality

Seminary distinctives include the following:

a.) Confessional: While maintaining a primary commitment to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, GBTS is a confessional seminary that holds to a historical summary of doctrine in accordance with what Scripture teaches. All faculty must affirm substantial subscription to the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith* (1689) as an accurate representation of biblical doctrine. An electronic version of the 2LBCF (1689) can be found at: https://www.the1689confession.com/. Other doctrinal and ethical standards of the seminary are explained in Section 1.4 below.

Being a confessional seminary has many benefits. First, GBTS teaches a unified theology. The faculty and lecturers complement one another as they provide instruction from the same theological foundations and commitments. Second, being a confessional institution allows GBTS to benefit from the fellowship and cooperation of others within the broader Reformed tradition.

b.) Church-Based: Grace Bible Theological Seminary is a ministry of Grace Bible Church (GBC) of Conway, Arkansas, and is governed by the Pastors/Elders of GBC. GBTS was founded as a local church ministry of Grace Bible Church as an informal pastoral mentoring class. Although the Lord has developed and matured the ministry significantly, GBTS has not forgotten its roots. The seminary is founded upon a church-based seminary model, and its continual development will be thoroughly grounded in the local church. In addition to the seminary being in a church context, all current faculty and instructors are either actively involved in pastoral ministry (or eldership) or have had extensive experience in it.

c.) Pastorally Focused: GBTS delivers seminary instruction from the front lines of pastoral ministry. Teaching serves as an extension of our instructors' calling as pastors and elders. Our aim is to prepare men with eyes and hearts toward pastoral ministry, church planting, and missions. Our instructors are expected to exhibit a passion and love for the local church.

Doctrinal and Ethical Standards

Grace Bible Theological Seminary requires: (a) Student Doctrinal and Ethical Affirmations for all incoming students as part of the admissions process; and (b) Faculty Doctrinal and Ethical Affirmations for all teaching faculty and course instructors.

a.) Student Doctrinal Affirmations

Students must affirm the following statement of evangelical essentials for admission to GBTS:

1. I believe in the authority and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.

2. I believe that the God of the Bible is the only true and living God.

3. I believe that God is one in essence and three in persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

4. I believe that Christ was born of the virgin Mary.

5. I believe that Christ became a man in his incarnation while remaining at the same time fully God.

6. I believe that Christ lived a sinless and perfect life.

7. I believe that Christ died innocently on the cross to pay for the sins of guilty sinners.

8. I believe that Christ rose bodily from the dead.

9. I believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

10. I believe that Christ will physically appear again at the last day.

11. I believe that there will be a bodily, general resurrection of the dead.

12. I believe that those who are in Christ will enter into eternal joy, and those who are lost shall enter into eternal punishment.

b.) Student Ethical Affirmations

Students must also affirm the following statements:

- *The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* (1988) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement/
- *The Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality* (2017) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/The-Nashville-Statement.pdf
- *The Dallas Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel* (2018) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://statementonsocialjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SSJG-FINAL.pdf

c.) Faculty Doctrinal Affirmations

Faculty must affirm the following doctrinal distinctives:

> **Sufficiency of Scripture:** We affirm that Holy Scripture is the written revelation of God, verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit and penned through the instrumentation of men. The Bible is self-testifying, infallible, inerrant, and authoritative in all that it says. The complete canon of the Old and New Testaments is necessary and sufficient for a proper knowledge of God, self, and salvation.
>
> **Protestant:** We affirm the five *solas* of the Reformation as essential doctrines of the faith: Scripture Alone (*Sola Scriptura*), Grace Alone (*Sola Gratia*), Faith Alone (*Sola Fide*), Christ Alone (*Solus Christus*), and Glory to God Alone (*Soli Deo Gloria*).
>
> **Reformed:** We affirm the doctrines of grace, covenant theology, the importance of a confessional legacy, and the regulative principle of worship.
>
> **Baptist:** We substantially affirm the distinctives of the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith* (1689), Reformed Baptist covenantalism, believer's baptism, regenerate church membership, liberty of conscience, and separation between church and state.
>
> **Humility and Charity:** We recognize the diversity of thought among Reformed Baptists and other Reformed traditions, as well as non-Reformed traditions. For this reason, we wish to show humility and charity toward those of other theological persuasions, while still maintaining our doctrinal commitments.

d.) Faculty Ethical Affirmations

Faculty must also affirm the following statements:

- *The Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* (1988) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement/
- *The Nashville Statement on Biblical Sexuality* (2017) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/The-Nashville-Statement.pdf
- *The Dallas Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel* (2018) —The full text for this statement may be found at: https://statementonsocialjustice.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SSJG-FINAL.pdf

Accreditation

Accreditation is the confirmation, credentialing, and endorsement of a particular school in its *internal* effectiveness to offer and deliver quality education by an *external* accrediting body. An accrediting organization (e.g., the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries, or ARTS) provides quality assurance (QA) that its member institutions are providing legitimate educational services and granting substantive degrees. This external credentialing body analyzes the organizational health and educational content provided by an individual school.

a.) GBTS's Current Status: Grace Bible Theological Seminary is an accredited member of the Association of Reformed Theological Seminaries (ARTS) as of October 2023. GBTS is in a collegial association of like-minded seminaries who aim to connect the academy to the church for the glory of Christ. Member seminaries affirm Scripture as the inerrant Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice along with commitment to confessional standards in the Protestant Reformed tradition. Member schools include Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (GPTS) and Toronto Baptist Seminary (TBS), whose graduates have gone on to pursue doctoral work at Cambridge University, Westminster Theological Seminary, and Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, among other notable institutions. In a day and age in which many accrediting bodies, once conservative, now sanction doctrinal drift and a worldly ethic in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), ARTS schools actively subscribe to biblically rigorous confessions of faith, most of which stem from the Reformation and Post-Reformation eras.

In May 2024 ARTS gained official recognition from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), marking a prestigious milestone for its member seminaries. CHEA is a higher accreditation body that provides oversight and validation of accreditation bodies themselves, overseeing accountability for theological associations. CHEA's recognition of ARTS represents a substantial validation of ARTS's commitment to

ensuring academic excellence and the highest standards in theological education for its member institutions.

b.) Rationale for Accreditation: Accreditation is a voluntary process for a seminary. Such status is not mandated, and at GTBS we are under no obligation to be under such status. However, accreditation for a seminary is similar to the ordination process for a man called to vocational ministry. Christian ordination is the public validation by qualified leaders of a man's giftedness and fittedness for preaching God's Word and shepherding his people (Acts 13:1–3). In a similar way, accreditation for a seminary is the public validation by a qualified accrediting body of a school's fittedness to provide theological education and to train ministers. At Grace Bible Theological Seminary, we want to be held accountable and to share a partnership with other like-minded, Bible-believing, and educationally rigorous seminaries.

Accreditation ensures transparency and accountability in everything from fiscal management to student learning outcomes and placement on the ministry field. GBTS students should anticipate increased recognition of an accredited degree for postgraduate studies and vocational opportunities. Accreditation with ARTS places GBTS among peer schools with rich histories and a commitment to theological education in the Reformed tradition.

Accreditation provides accountability for an institution from top to bottom—for administration, faculty, staff, the board of trustees, and students. It seeks to help us address the question: Are we fulfilling our stated purpose and mission? To break things down further, putting our institution through the accreditation process enables us to answer four significant questions:

1. Are we teaching content consistent with our doctrinal values and distinctives?

2. Do we have adequate resources to deliver an effective learning experience for our students?

3. Are we producing student outcomes commensurate with our goals?

4. Do we have a solid financial plan to sustain our mission and to enable future growth?

In sum, the accreditation process is meant to ensure a high quality of content delivery, institutional checks and balances, and student success. Significantly, it also allows credits from our institution to be transferable to other graduate schools and seminaries.

c.) Danger of Non-Accreditation: Some unaccredited institutions may provide quality instruction, rigorous academic coursework, and legitimate degrees. Nevertheless, many institutions that do not possess formal accreditation status often become "diploma

mills." A "diploma mill" is a school that does not require substantiated academic work commensurate with the degree(s) that it purports to offer. Student fees are charged by the school and paid by the student, but either: (a) student work is not required; or (b) the amount of work completed by a student is falsified; or (c) student work is not properly vetted and evaluated (i.e., the "everyone gets an 'A'" approach). Programs that err in any of these areas fall woefully short of the rigorous test required for those aspiring to pastoral ministry (1 Tim 3:1–7).

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Requirements for Admission

Paul commanded Timothy to equip faithful men who would, in turn, be able to train others (2 Tim 2:2). GBTS seeks to fulfill this biblical mandate by equipping faithful pastor-theologians. Scripture and our doctrine of the church shape our standards for admission requirements. We believe that it is the church's role and responsibility to identify and equip God-called men for the ministry. Our seminary's role is to partner in cultivating, equipping, and evaluating men's giftedness and aptitude for the ministry. Therefore, any man who seeks enrollment must first have the approval of and encouragement from the pastor(s) of the church in which he is a faithful member. Further, a student's enrollment in GBTS should be understood as a privilege, not a right—and it may be revoked at any time at the sole discretion of the school's administration.

a.) Admission Requirements for Master's Degree-Seeking Students:

1. Because all GBTS curriculum is designed for pastoral ministry students, in keeping with the biblical and confessional convictions of Grace Bible Church (GBC) and Grace Bible Theological Seminary (GBTS), only biologically *male* students may apply to these degree programs.

2. All master's degree applicants must submit a pastoral letter of recommendation confirming the student's good standing in the local church and potential for future pastoral and church ministry.

3. A completed Bachelor's degree is required for admission to the M.Div., MTS, and MAPS programs. An official academic transcript must be sent from the Registrar's Office of the applicant's previous educational institution(s).

b.) Admission Requirements for Certificate-Seeking (and Diploma) Students:

1. Because all GBTS curriculum is designed for pastoral ministry students, only biologically *male* students may apply to the certificate (and diploma) programs.

2. Certificate-seeking (and diploma-seeking) students must have a letter of recommendation from their pastor confirming their good standing in the local church.

3. No undergraduate degree is required.

c.) Admissions Process:

1. **Application:** An application must be completed and submitted online via Populi. Applications will be good for one (1) year from the date of creation.

2. **Pastoral Recommendation:** A pastoral recommendation letter must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant or a designated GBTS staff member.

3. **Academic Transcript(s):** Academic transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate studies must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant or a designated GBTS staff member.

4. **Interview:** Pending the approval of all submitted materials, the Admissions Assistant will schedule an interview with the applicant.

During the GBTS admissions process, special care will be taken to ensure that applicants are members in good standing of a Bible-believing evangelical church that supports the doctrinal standards of the seminary's Student Doctrinal Affirmation. If a student has been formally disciplined (i.e., excommunicated) from any previous church of which he was once a member, Grace Bible Theological Seminary expects that such information will be disclosed by the student with honesty and clarity in a forthright manner in the student's application for admission.

Classifications of Admission

Applicants will be assigned to one of the following categories upon completion of evaluation of their application to GBTS:

a.) Unconditional Admission: Unconditional admission is granted when the applicant meets all requirements set forth in the catalog.

b.) Provisional Admission: At the discretion of the Director of Admissions and Enrollment or the Academic Dean, a student who lacks one or more requirements needed for unconditional admission may be admitted with provisional status. However, a student who is admitted on provisional status will normally be required to satisfy any deficiencies within the first year of study and will be evaluated for satisfactory academic progress by the Director of Admissions and Enrollment or the Academic Dean.

c.) Denial of Admission: Applicants who are denied admission, and who desire to reapply, must wait at least one (1) year before resubmitting an application for admission. All requirements not previously met must be satisfied before admission is possible. The decision to deny an applicant is made by the GBTS Admissions office on a confidential basis. It is not the policy of the Admissions office to discuss the exact reasons why any applicant has been denied or accepted. This procedure is followed in

order to protect the members of the Admissions office from uninvited duress by a denied applicant.

All admitted students must start classes at GBTS within six (6) months of their acceptance date unless given a deferred date by the Admissions office.

Transfer of Credits

The following parameters will apply for students seeking a transfer of credits from other educational institutions:

- **Time Limit and Expiration:** The time limit on an applicant seeking to transfer credits from another institution is ten (10) years. For example, a student who took three courses from Agape International Seminary back in 1999 would not be eligible for possible credit transfer.
- **Audit:** Students may petition the seminary to conduct an *unofficial* transfer credit audit of course credits completed at another institution. The student must submit the name of the course(s) for which credit is sought and a transcript showing completion at another institution. (The course syllabus and course description from the other institution may be required as well.) This request should be submitted to the Admissions Assistant during the admissions process. Due to time constraints of our staff, a student must have started an application in Populi in order to be granted an unofficial transfer credit audit by the seminary. An *official* transfer credit audit will be conducted upon request after the student has been accepted to GBTS and once an official transcript has been sent from the Registrar's Office of the previous institution.
- **Grades:** Master's-level courses completed with a "C" or higher grade may be approved for credit by the Registrar on a case-by-case basis. Bachelor's-level courses will generally not be approved for transfer credit except for language courses upon passing a comprehensive examination.
- **Percentage:** Transfer credits may constitute no more than 45% of the student's degree program.

No transfer credits are accepted for Certificate of Ministry candidates.

Residential vs. Distance Education

Grace Bible Theological Seminary was founded on the conviction that residential education in a committed community of scholars and learners is the most profitable course of study whenever possible. We realize, however, that due to present life, ministry, and familial circumstances that some students may not be able to relocate to Conway, Arkansas. During the admissions process, students will be classified as "Residential" or "Distance" according to their proximity to the physical campus of Grace Bible Theological Seminary, 1076 Harkrider Street, Conway, AR 72032.

a.) Classification of Students

Students will be classified according to the following parameters:

1. Residential: Students who live at a distance of ninety (90) minutes or less from the physical campus of GBTS are considered residential students and are expected to attend classes in-person in all circumstances.

2. Distance-Eligible: Students who live at a distance of ninety (90) minutes or more from the physical campus of GBTS are eligible to take classes via Zoom, our hosted video conferencing platform. Students who are slightly over this threshold are encouraged to participate residentially when able. During their academic career at GBTS, distance students will need to attend multiple on-campus intensive courses to complete their degree program, usually one (1) intensive per year, as an approximation. Our desire is to facilitate opportunities for all of our students to have personal, face-to-face interaction with professors and fellow students during their studies. We require all students, whether in the M.Div., MTS, MAPS, or Certificate programs, to make a trip to our seminary campus in Conway, Arkansas, at least once per academic year.

b.) Course Delivery

Grace Bible Theological Seminary is committed to providing students with access to robust theological education, while maintaining the personal interaction between students and professors needed to thrive in learning. With this commitment in mind, GBTS offers courses in the following formats:

1. Traditional Classroom Instruction (in-person and via Zoom): Traditional classroom instruction takes place at our Conway, Arkansas campus. These classes are available to distance students in real-time through Zoom, a hosted video conferencing platform, so that non-residential students also may participate in the classroom experience. Distance learning via our virtual classroom allows GBTS to involve both students and faculty who cannot attend courses at our Conway campus.

2. On-Campus Intensives: Intensive courses are typically 3 to 5 days in duration, requiring students to travel to our seminary campus for lectures and interaction with faculty and students.

Populi Learning Management System (LMS)

Upon acceptance to Grace Bible Theological Seminary, the admitted student will receive credentials to log in to Populi, our seminary's Learning Management System (LMS). The student will use Populi to facilitate communication with the course instructor and fellow students, to

access course content, to submit assignments, and to take assessments (quizzes and tests). Student records (grades, degree program information, academic history, etc.) are available via Populi, and students have access to their unofficial student transcripts through this medium.

Microsoft Outlook Student Email Address

Upon acceptance to Grace Bible Theological Seminary, the admitted student also will be assigned a unique student email address on the Microsoft Outlook platform. ***This official GBTS student email address should be used for all subsequent correspondence with the institution, its staff, faculty, and affiliates.*** Communication from a personal email address cannot be verified by the recipient, and thus, it will not be considered "official" institutional communication and the seminary's representatives are not obligated to respond to it.

Library & Electronic Research Resources

The Stevens Library at GBTS offers a collection of resources primarily but not exclusively from the Reformed, Puritan, and Baptistic tradition. The goal of the library is to provide our students and local pastors a breadth of biblical, theological, historical, and pastoral resources. The library consists of roughly 5,000 physical volumes and continues to expand.

Upon acceptance to Grace Bible Theological Seminary, GBTS students are able to access an electronic catalog of available resources in the Stevens Library through Populi. Students also currently have access to two electronic resource databases. The EBSCO eBooks Religion Collection contains approximately 9,300 volumes covering a wide range of religious and philosophical topics. The ATLA Theological eBook Lending Program gives students additional access to a large collection of full-text theological volumes. These e-book databases may be accessed from the "Library" tab in Populi, under "Links." (Single sign-on has been set up so that students may access these databases using their Populi credentials.) GBTS is actively pursuing opportunities to expand student access to theological journals, monographs, and other collections in order to make the highest-quality resources available.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

Grace Bible Theological Seminary confers four (4) academic degrees:

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
- Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS)
- Certificate of Ministry (Cert.)

The following information contains a program description and admissions requirements for each of the aforementioned degrees:

a.) <u>Master of Divinity (M.Div.)</u>

Total Credits: 98

Program Description:
The Master of Divinity, our flagship degree program at Grace Bible Theological Seminary, is an academically rigorous, pastorally focused degree program to equip men who are currently involved in or preparing for vocational ministry in the local church. Students are challenged to heighten their exegetical skills, engage in a robust program of systematic theological study, and to prepare for the pastoral duties of preaching, teaching, and serving in the local church. The Master of Divinity program is designed to integrate the Reformed Baptist distinctives of Grace Bible Church and Grace Bible Theological Seminary into the traditional graduate curriculum.

Admission Requirements:
Acceptance into the M.Div. program requires meeting the stipulations outlined in the requirements for admission.

Program Objectives:

1. To develop the student's skill in exegesis of the biblical text, incorporating sound hermeneutical principles
2. To heighten the student's awareness of the theological controversies and developments that have emerged through the church's rich and complex history
3. To help the student articulate biblically sound theology in a systematic fashion with confessional fidelity
4. To equip the student for faithful pastoral service in the local church in a challenging ministry environment
5. To foster a growing knowledge of and commitment to God, His church, and His people through an academically rigorous education in a pastoral, church-based environment

Petitionary Provision:
For students who entered GBTS prior to Fall 2026, an M.Div. student may petition to be transferred to the legacy MAPS program or the MTS program if life hardships would make the M.Div. degree program unfeasible (e.g., challenges in family and work responsibilities, a health setback, etc.). The student must make a formal request to the Academic Dean in a letter (Word document) with a thorough explanation and substantive reasoning provided. The petition will be read and assessed by the GBTS Enrollment Committee to determine the favorability of the request.

Program Requirements:
To fulfill these objectives, the courses below are required for completion of the M.Div. program.

GBTS Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Curriculum

Exegetical Theology *(45 Credits)*

☐ ET 533 Covenant Theology (3 credits)

Old Testament
☐ OT 513 Pentateuch (3)
☐ OT 523 Historical Books (3)
☐ OT 533 Prophets and Poetic Books (3)

Hebrew Language
☐ HEB 513 Hebrew Grammar I (3)
☐ HEB 523 Hebrew Grammar II (3)
☐ HEB 613 Intermediate Hebrew (3)
☐ HEB 623 Hebrew Exegesis (3)

New Testament
☐ NT 513 Gospels (3)
☐ NT 523 Acts and Pauline Epistles (3)
☐ NT 533 General Epistles and Revelation (3)

Greek Language
☐ GRK 513 Greek Grammar I (3)
☐ GRK 523 Greek Grammar II (3)
☐ GRK 613 Intermediate Greek (3)
☐ GRK 623 Greek Exegesis (3)

Systematic Theology *(15 Credits)*

☐ ST 513 Doctrine of God and Scripture (3 credits)
☐ ST 533 Doctrine of Man and Sin (3)
☐ ST 543 Christology and Soteriology (3)
☐ ST 563 Ecclesiology (3)
☐ ST 583 Apologetics (3)

Historical Theology *(6 Credits)*

☐ HT 513 Early Church History (3 credits) -or-
☐ HT 543 Baptist History (3) -or-
☐ HT 553 Reformation and Post-Reformation Church (3)

Pastoral Theology *(18 Credits)*

☐ PT 513 Expository Preaching (3 credits)
☐ PT 523 Pastoral Ministry (3)
☐ PT 533 Introduction to Biblical Counseling (3)
☐ PT 553 Church Ministry and Mission (3)
☐ PT 573 Christian Missions (3)
☐ PT 643 Expository Preaching Practicum (3)

Electives *(12 Credits)*

☐ Elective 1_____ (3 credits)
☐ Elective 2_____ (3)
☐ Elective 3_____ (3)
☐ Elective 4_____ (3)

General Requirements *(2 Credits)*

☐ TRW 512 Introduction to Seminary Studies (2 credits)

Total Credits: 98

Year	**Credits Completed**	**4-Year M.Div.**	**5-Year M.Div.**
Year 1		25	20
Year 2		49	39
Year 3		74	59
Year 4		98	78
Year 5		—	98

b.) Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

Total Credits: 74

Program Description:
The Master of Theological Studies is an academically rigorous degree program to equip men who are currently involved in or preparing for vocational ministry in the local church. Like the M.Div. degree, students are challenged to heighten their exegetical skills, engage in a robust program of systematic theological study, and to prepare for the pastoral duties of preaching, teaching, and serving in the local church. At the same time, however, the MTS degree requires only two (2) Hebrew courses and two (2) Greek courses—four (4) total—instead of the eight (8) biblical language courses required in the M.Div. program. There is also more built-in flexibility for course requirements in the categories of Exegetical Theology and Pastoral Theology.

Admission Requirements:
Acceptance into the MTS program requires meeting the stipulations outlined in the requirements for admission.

Program Objectives:
1. To develop the student's skill in exegesis of the biblical text, incorporating sound hermeneutical principles and equipping him with a basic competence in the biblical languages
2. To heighten the student's awareness of the theological controversies and developments that have emerged through the church's rich and complex history
3. To help the student articulate biblically sound theology
4. To equip the student for faithful pastoral service in the local church in a challenging ministry environment
5. To foster a growing knowledge of and commitment to God, His church, and His people by intertwining doctrine and devotion

Program Requirements:
To fulfill these objectives, the courses below are required for completion of the MTS program.

GBTS Master of Theological Studies (MTS) Curriculum

Exegetical Theology *(27 Credits)*

☐ ET 533 Covenant Theology (3 credits)

Old Testament (must have 2 courses below)
☐ OT 513 Pentateuch (3) -or-
☐ OT 523 Historical Books (3) -or-

☐ OT 533 Prophets and Poetic Books (3) -or-
☐ OT Elective _____ (3)

Hebrew Language
☐ HEB 513 Hebrew Grammar I (3)
☐ HEB 523 Hebrew Grammar II (3)

New Testament (must have 2 courses below)
☐ NT 513 Gospels (3) -or-
☐ NT 523 Acts and Pauline Epistles (3) -or-
☐ NT 533 General Epistles and Revelation (3) -or-
☐ NT Elective _____ (3)

Greek Language
☐ GRK 513 Greek Grammar I (3)
☐ GRK 523 Greek Grammar II (3)

Systematic Theology *(15 Credits)*

☐ ST 513 Doctrine of God and Scripture (3 credits)
☐ ST 533 Doctrine of Man and Sin (3)
☐ ST 543 Christology and Soteriology (3)
☐ ST 563 Ecclesiology (3)
☐ ST 583 Apologetics (3)

Historical Theology *(6 Credits)*

☐ HT 513 Early Church History (3 credits) -or-
☐ HT 543 Baptist History (3) -or-
☐ HT 553 Reformation and Post-Reformation Church (3)

Pastoral Theology *(12 Credits)*

☐ PT 513 Expository Preaching (3 credits)
☐ PT 523 Pastoral Ministry (3)
☐ PT 643 Expository Preaching Practicum (3)
☐ PT Elective _____ (3)

Electives *(12 Credits)*

☐ Elective 1_____ (3)
☐ Elective 2_____ (3)
☐ Elective 3_____ (3)
☐ Elective 4_____ (3)

General Requirements *(2 Credits)*

☐ TRW 512 Introduction to Seminary Studies (2 credits)

Total Credits: 74

Year	**Credits Completed**	**3-Year MTS**	**4-Year MTS**
Year 1		25	19
Year 2		50	37
Year 3		74	56
Year 4		—	74

c.) <u>Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS)</u>

Total Credits: 56

Program Description:
This program is intended for men who are seeking to:

- Sharpen their exegetical competence
- Better understand the theology of the Bible in a systematic and cohesive way that appreciates the key periods of history in which it was developed
- Understand the role of pastor/teacher better in order to carry out their calling more faithfully

To achieve these goals, the MAPS program offers students important courses for developing a higher degree of exegetical competence, theological acumen, and pastoral commitment for service in the local church.

Admission Requirements:
The MAPS degree is for men whose employment (if bi-vocational), ministerial, family, or other commitments make it difficult to carry out the rigorous requirements of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program or the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) program.

Acceptance into the MAPS program requires meeting the stipulations outlined in the requirements for admission.

Program Objectives:

1. To sharpen the student's exegetical competency
2. To enhance the student's acumen in key areas of systematic theology, in a historic and confessional context
3. To prepare the student to express their theological convictions more clearly in light of rigorous exegetical work and confessional commitment
4. To help the student better understand and fulfill the office of pastor/elder and its associated duties in the local church
5. To contribute to the student's growth in Christian character and spiritual maturity

Program Requirements:
To fulfill these objectives, the courses below are required for completion of the MAPS program.

GBTS Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) Curriculum

Exegetical Theology *(15 Credits)*

☐ ET 533 Covenant Theology (3 credits)

Old Testament (must have 2 courses below)
☐ OT 513 Pentateuch (3) -or-
☐ OT 523 Historical Books (3) -or-
☐ OT 533 Prophets and Poetic Books (3) -or-
☐ OT Elective _____ (3)

New Testament (must have 2 courses below)
☐ NT 513 Gospels (3) -or-
☐ NT 523 Acts and Pauline Epistles (3) -or-
☐ NT 533 General Epistles and Revelation (3) -or-
☐ NT Elective _____ (3)

Systematic Theology *(15 Credits)*

☐ ST 513 Doctrine of God and Scripture (3 credits)
☐ ST 533 Doctrine of Man and Sin (3)
☐ ST 543 Christology and Soteriology (3)
☐ ST 563 Ecclesiology (3)
☐ ST 583 Apologetics (3)

Historical Theology *(3 Credits)*

☐ HT 553 Reformation and Post-Reformation Church (3 credits)

Pastoral Theology *(9 Credits)*

☐ PT 513 Expository Preaching (3 credits)
☐ PT 523 Pastoral Ministry (3)
☐ PT Elective _____ (3)

Electives *(12 Credits)*

☐ Elective 1 _____ (3 credits)
☐ Elective 2 _____ (3)
☐ Elective 3 _____ (3)
☐ Elective 4 _____ (3)

General Requirements *(2 credits)*

☐ TRW 512 Introduction to Seminary Studies (2 credits)

Total Credits: 56

Year	Credits Completed	3-Year MAPS	4-Year MAPS
Year 1		19	14
Year 2		37	28
Year 3		56	42
Year 4		—	56

d.) <u>Certificate of Ministry (Cert.)</u>

Total Courses: TRW 512 (Introduction to Seminary Studies) + 10 Courses

Program Description:
The Certificate of Ministry is designed for students who currently are, or are planning to, serve in a local church in a non-vocational ministry capacity. This certificate program offers biblical and theological training in a flexible format that serves the needs of students and their local churches.

All applicants without a Bachelor's degree are encouraged to apply to the Certificate of Ministry program. There will be an opportunity for students who are admitted to GBTS and excel in the Certificate program (i.e., ultimately finishing it to completion) to go further in their studies and take Diploma-level courses if approved by GBTS administration. All credits earned in the Certificate program may be transferred to the Diploma program (Diploma of Pastoral Studies; Diploma of Divinity). Our courses are quite challenging, though, requiring: (a) high-level research and writing; and (b) about 800 pages of reading per course. We want students without a Bachelor's degree to achieve success, and starting them in the Certificate program is the best way to ensure that goal.

Admission Requirements:
1. A written recommendation letter from the leadership of their local church confirming their good standing and ministry potential.
2. No Bachelor's Degree is required.
3. No transfer credits are accepted for Certificate of Ministry candidates.

Program Objectives:
1. To develop the student's skill in exegesis of the biblical text incorporating sound hermeneutical principles
2. To help the student articulate biblically sound theology in a systematic fashion with confessional fidelity
3. To equip the student for faithful ministry service in the local church in a challenging ministry environment
4. To foster a growing knowledge of and commitment to God, His church, and His people through an academically rigorous education in a pastoral, church-based environment

Program Requirements:
To fulfill the specific objectives of the Certificate of Ministry program, GBTS will work with the student to develop a course of studies that is best suited to his contextual ministry needs. In order to receive the Certificate of Ministry, the student must:

1. Complete TRW 512 (Introduction to Seminary Studies) and 10 courses of their choosing.
2. Students will be held to the same course requirements as master's level, degree-seeking students in the course.
3. Students will be responsible for the regular tuition and semester fees of each course.

Scenarios of Granting Multiple Degrees to the Same Student:
In the event of a Certificate of Ministry student completing the certificate but desiring to pursue further studies in the Diploma of Divinity program, the student will be granted the Certificate of Ministry, and he will be allowed to walk in the graduation ceremony since the degrees in view are in separate academic classifications.

In the event of a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) student or a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) student completing a degree but desiring to pursue further studies and enroll in the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) program, the student will *not* be granted a MAPS or MTS degree and will not be allowed to walk in the graduation ceremony since the degrees in view are in the same academic classification of "master's." GBTS will not issue multiple master's degrees to the same student in the current configuration of its degree programs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Grace Bible Church and Grace Bible Theological Seminary are committed to an affordable model for pastoral training and education. Tuition and fees are kept at a reduced cost through the generous support of partner churches and individual donors. Our seminary does not want prospective students to take on debt in order to embark on seminary studies.

Tuition & Fees

2026–2027 Academic Year Costs:

Semester Fee: $220
Tuition: $200 per credit

Fees and tuition are subject to change in ensuing academic years.

Registration, Course Withdrawal ("Drop"), and Course Addition ("Add") Policies

1. **Registration Policies:**
   The following registration policies apply to all GBTS students:
   - Students will only be able to enroll in courses once they pay a non-refundable semester fee of $220.
   - Once enrolled, the student's remaining balance must be paid by the end of the semester. Payment in full or a payment plan (i.e., installments) can be arranged.
   - Students will not be able to enroll in any future terms if they have an outstanding balance.

2. **Course Withdrawal ("Drop") Policies:**
   - There will be no refund of the semester fee of $220 for any student under any circumstances. The semester fee is a non-refundable payment that must be made at the time of registration.
   - ***Course Withdrawal 0–7 Days:*** Students who wish to withdraw from a course within 7 days of the semester start date must make a written petition to the Academic Dean. If the Academic Dean grants approval, the student will receive a 100% refund of the tuition charged. Courses dropped within this period will not appear on the student's transcript.
   - ***Course Withdrawal 8–21 Days:*** Students who wish to withdraw from a course between 8 and 21 days from the semester start date must make a written petition to the Academic Dean. If the Academic Dean grants approval, the student may receive a 20% refund of tuition. The remaining 80% is still due and payable. The student will receive a "W" (Withdrawal) on his transcript for the course.
   - ***Course Withdrawal after 21 Days:*** Students who wish to withdraw from a course 21 or more days after the semester start date must make a written petition to the

Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will determine whether the student will receive a "W" (Withdrawal) or an "F" (failing letter grade) on his transcript. No refund will be given for such withdrawals.

3. **Course Addition ("Add") Policies:**
   - After the semester starts, if a student wishes to add a course, such action will require the approval of (a) the course instructor; and (b) the Academic Dean, in that order.
   - A student can only add a course if he is already enrolled in 1 or more courses for the semester.
   - Course additions may only be made within 7 days of the semester start date.

Financial Accountability

In order to provide financial management accountability to students and to help them pay off their tuition in timely fashion unto the Lord (Prov 3:27-28), GBTS has adopted the following policies that will apply to all students:

1. **Semester Fee:** A non-refundable semester fee of $220 is due at the time of registration. After initial registration, a student will only be able to remain registered for courses in Populi (with continued visibility and access to courses) *after* he pays a non-refundable semester fee of $220.

2. **Tuition:** Once the student is registered for courses, the student's remaining balance for tuition must be addressed by one of the following two options: (a) payment in full; or (b) via a payment plan. This policy will be implemented by a corresponding financial accountability mechanism in Populi. Upon registration, the student will be invoiced for tuition, and a course lock will be placed on the student's courses until he completes one of the following actions:
   - Pays the tuition invoice in full; or
   - Sets up a recurring payment plan (i.e., installments) with payments being drafted on or around: Sept. 14, Oct. 14, Nov. 14, and Dec. 14.

3. **Future Registration:** Students will not be able to enroll in future terms if they have an outstanding balance from a previous term.

Scholarships

Spare No Arrows Scholarship: Grace Bible Theological Seminary automatically applies the Spare No Arrows Scholarship for all admitted students. Through the giving and support of generous donors and churches, all donations for scholarships are placed into one lump sum in the seminary's budget each academic year to reduce the cost of tuition and fees for *all* students, making student costs as low as possible. The Spare No Arrows Scholarship is directly reflected in the affordability of a GBTS education.

One of our values at GBTS is to keep our education and training cost-effective. We do not believe that men should hinder their future ministries by burdening themselves with debt. This scholarship allows us to offer pastoral education in sound doctrine at an incredibly affordable tuition rate, and it enables students to prepare to lead the next generation of faithful churches without incurring student loan debt.

The approach of the Spare No Arrows Scholarship also allows Grace Bible Theological Seminary to avoid entanglement with government regulations that may work against our convictions. GBTS has made the deliberate decision to receive no funds at all from the U.S. Department of Education, Federal Pell Grants, Student Loan Programs, IRS Code Title 26 §529, College Savings Plans, or the State of Arkansas.

Grace Bible Church of Conway Scholarship: Grace Bible Church of Conway provides a 2/3 tuition discount for residential students who are active members of GBC who remain in good standing during the duration of their studies. Upon registration for classes each term, students who fall into this category should wait to pay their tuition and fees until *after* the GBC scholarship is applied to their accounts. Students are expected to maintain steady enrollment in GBTS courses in each major term (i.e., Fall and Spring) and attend classes regularly. GBC members should strive *not* to bounce back and forth between for-credit status and auditing status.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Advising, Academic Calendar, & Academic Catalog

Upon admittance as a student at Grace Bible Theological Seminary, incoming M.Div., MTS, or MAPS students will be assigned to an academic advisor who will guide and steer the student's future course registration decisions on a term-by-term basis. In addition, the assigned advisor will also seek to have a Christ-centered relationship with the student and disciple him in managing academic, ministerial (ecclesiastical), and familial duties alongside his schoolwork. The GBTS Admissions Committee will assign an advisor upon acceptance of the student into a degree program.

Formal meetings between the academic advisor and student will take place in July (ahead of the Fall term) and November (ahead of the Spring term) of each year, either in person, by phone, or by videoconferencing. Meetings will last for approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour. The meeting will be documented by the academic advisor. The advisor also will make himself available to the student throughout his studies at GBTS on an as-needed basis.

The goal of GBTS Academic Advising is to:

- Provide guidance in course selection and feedback on the student's progress in the degree program.
- Foster and guide the student in his spiritual and intellectual development as well as in his ministry aspirations.
- Assess needs, experiences, and levels of student satisfaction in order to improve services.
- Evaluate the student's personal, academic, spiritual, ministerial, and familial well-being.
- Encourage the student's involvement in local church ministry.

The Grace Bible Theological Seminary Academic Calendar will be published annually with a precise timeline for each academic term, including dates associated with admissions, institutional events, and other academic and financial deadlines for students. In addition, the Grace Bible Theological Seminary Academic Catalog will be updated annually to reflect current tuition fees and expanded course offerings.

Grace Style Guide

The *Grace Style Guide* provides the student with information on writing tips, formatting, citing sources, punctuation, and using abbreviations in assignments at GBTS. All research papers and book reviews assigned in GBTS courses are expected to conform to the parameters of the *Grace Style Guide*, whether or not that expectation is formally stated in the course syllabus. Please note that the formatting of a source is different if it is cited in a footnote versus if it is cited in a bibliography. The style guide also provides sample pages of a perfectly formatted research paper and book review in its appendices.

Student Status

It is the student's responsibility to communicate life changes or interruptions in his degree program to the Director of Admissions and Enrollment in a punctual manner. **Students are expected to enroll and take classes in successive terms each academic year, both Fall and Spring (notwithstanding the Summer term), so that they can make adequate progress in their respective degree programs.** If an active student does not enroll in classes in a given term (other than the Summer term) and the student fails to submit a Change in Status form to the seminary, the Director of Admissions and Enrollment will fill out a Change in Status form on the student's behalf and classify the student as "inactive" on (or following) the end date of the term in which formal communication ceased.

Once admitted to GBTS, from that point onward a student will be in one of the following categories with regard to his student status:

- Active status
- Interrupted status
- Inactive status
- Withdrawn status

a.) Active Status: The student is in good standing, both academically and financially, with the seminary. (For probationary status or dismissal, see Section 3.13.)

b.) Interrupted Status: Due to unexpected life circumstances, a student may wish to be placed on interrupted status for reasons related to medical issues, job transfers, geographical relocation, and/or military service. The maximum time allowed for interrupted status is one (1) year. Requests for interrupted status must be made by the student to the Director of Admissions and Enrollment by submitting a Change in Status Form in advance of each term and must be approved, accordingly. The deadlines to request interrupted status during any term are May 1 (for Summer term), August 1 (for Fall term), and November 1 (for Spring term). Requests for interrupted status that are submitted after these deadlines will not be approved. Once a student is granted interrupted status, it is assumed that the student will return to classes within the calendar year. Failure to maintain enrollment in seminary courses without approval from the Director of Admissions and Enrollment or failure to contact the Director of Admissions and Enrollment with a formal request for interrupted status will be assumed as *de facto* withdrawal from one's degree program at GBTS.

c.) Inactive Status: Due to prolonged and unexpected life circumstances such as those listed above, a student may wish to be placed on inactive status. Inactive status may be granted for a student who will not be in a course of study for an anticipated period of time greater than one (1) year to a maximum of three (3) years. Requests for inactive status must be made by the student to the Director of Admissions and Enrollment by submitting a Change in Status Form in advance of the anticipated extended absence and

must be approved, accordingly. Once a student is granted inactive status, it is assumed that the student will return to classes within the anticipated time specified. Failure to maintain enrollment in seminary courses without approval from the Director of Admissions and Enrollment or failure to contact the Director of Admissions and Enrollment with a formal request for inactive status will be interpreted as *de facto* withdrawal from one's degree program at GBTS.

d.) Withdrawn Status: A student may request to withdraw entirely from GBTS as an academic institution. This category is comprehensive and differs from merely withdrawing from an individual course at GBTS. Requests for institutional withdrawal must be made by the student to the Director of Admissions and Enrollment by submitting a Change in Status Form in advance of an upcoming academic term, whenever possible, and must be approved, accordingly. The deadlines to request withdrawn status during any term are May 1 (for Summer term), August 1 (for Fall term), and November 1 (for Spring term). It is not the normal practice for students who request a withdrawal from the institution as a whole to be readmitted at any time in the future.

Reactivation Process: After being granted interrupted status or inactive status by the Director of Admissions and Enrollment, a student must communicate his desire to return to regular studies and be granted permission to register for classes in an upcoming academic term. At all times, the student should maintain current records and update his personal contact information with the seminary, including a working email address, phone number, and physical mailing address. Failure to contact the Director of Admissions and Enrollment with a formal request for reactivation will be interpreted as *de facto* withdrawal from one's degree program at GBTS.

Church Membership Policy

Since GBTS seeks to produce godly men who love Christ and his church, students are expected to maintain active membership and remain in good standing in their local churches during the duration of their time of study at GBTS. A student facing difficult issues in his local church which might necessitate a possible transfer of membership is expected to contact his GBTS academic advisor as soon as possible. If a student moves his membership to another church at any time while pursuing his degree program, he must contact the Director of Admissions and Enrollment and provide the name of his new church and pastor(s)/elder(s). The seminary strives to maintain accurate record keeping for students and their church affiliations at all times.

Pastoral Mentor Annual Progress Report: This form will be sent to pastoral mentors of our students on an annual basis. (The "pastoral mentor" is a pastor/elder in the student's local church, preferably the pastor who completed the pastoral recommendation letter as part of the student's entrance into GBTS.) In April or May of each year, shortly after the conclusion of the Spring academic term, pastoral mentors will be sent an email by the GBTS Director of Admissions and Enrollment, encouraging them to complete a survey with questions about the

progress of the student's service to his local church. The pastoral mentor will fill out a survey, charting the student's progress, which will be collected by the Director of Admissions and Enrollment, analyzed, and kept on file.

If there are major shortcomings in any of the listed areas, the pastoral mentor will be urged to work with the student in devising a plan for improvement and further accountability. Any students showing significant lack of improvement in year-to-year comparison will be contacted and exhorted, and the student could lose his active student status at GBTS due to subpar service in his local church.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions for their courses at GBTS. Any unexcused absences will result in a 5% reduction of the student's final grade in the course. Absences will not be excused except at the course instructor's discretion and only in truly extraordinary circumstances. Ministry services, pastoral labor, counseling sessions, mission trips, out-of-town conferences, work obligations, family vacations, having a sizeable amount of other seminary schoolwork, and the like do not constitute extraordinary circumstances. ***Examples of truly extraordinary circumstances include:***

(i) the student himself being hospitalized shortly before or during the time in which class meets;
(ii) a student's wife going into labor shortly before or during the time in which class meets;
(iii) a tornado warning (not a watch) going into effect shortly before or during the time in which class meets.

Simply put, we expect our students to act like men (1 Cor 16:13) by honoring their commitments and tackling life's challenges in a forthright manner.

a.) Possible Penalties: The penalties for unexcused absences may include a reduction of the student's final grade and/or expulsion from the course. Any disputes about excused and unexcused absences may be appealed to the Academic Dean for final determination.

b.) Communication of Requested Absences: If there is an exceptional circumstance that providentially hinders a student's attendance in class (for specific examples, see above), it is incumbent upon the student to make a ***request*** to his instructor for an excused absence via email as soon as he becomes aware of dire extenuating circumstances. It is essential to note that the student should not simply "tell" the instructor that "he's not going to make it to class." ***Rather, the student must request permission from the instructor, and whenever possible, the student should wait to hear back for an official response before proceeding.***

c.) Rationale: GBTS has a stringent attendance policy because students' presence and participation are critical to their success in their seminary studies. Our triune God has created us to function in community with an embodied presence as human beings consisting of an inner man and outer man, both body and soul (2 Cor 4:16–17). Students are expected to participate in their classes through real interaction and proactive engagement with the course instructor and other students.

Auditing Policy

Courses are available to audit for: (a) men currently serving in pastoral ministry (i.e., pastors/elders of local churches that are inerrancy-affirming and Protestant evangelical in conviction); (b) retired pastors of like-minded churches; (c) GBTS alumni; and (d) faithful men (2 Tim 2:2) of Grace Bible Church, Conway, with the formal approval of GBTS. An auditor's application must be completed. A flat fee of $200 per course will be charged to auditors. (Approved GBC auditors will have a church-provided stipend to cover the auditing fee.) International students or students living in different time zones will need to make sure that they can attend course lectures live via Zoom before enrolling. Auditors are expected to be present at all class meetings within a given course unless advanced permission is granted by the course instructor. Individuals who do not qualify as auditors are encouraged to apply for the Certificate of Ministry program.

Degree-seeking (i.e., for-credit) students may audit one (1) course for free per academic term upon the approval of the course instructor. The degree-seeking student must obtain permission from the course instructor in order to register for the course as an auditor. Students are strongly encouraged not to bounce back and forth between degree-seeking status and auditing status. Repeated behavior of such nature may be subject to an indefinite hold being placed on the student's account by GBTS administration.

Late Work Policy

Late Assignments: It is important to make sure that students submit all coursework in a timely fashion. Because we are covering a lot of material in a roughly 14-week semester, it will be difficult to catch up if students fall behind on their assignments. ***No late work will be accepted, except at the instructor's sole discretion, in truly extraordinary circumstances. Any work submitted late will receive an automatic ZERO (0).*** Character formation in seminary is even more important than the intellectual aspect of it. We want our students to act like men (1 Cor 16:13) as they prepare for the most challenging profession on earth. We want them to manage their time well to the glory of God, to meet important deadlines, and to establish healthy habits that they can take into ministry.

The instructor will determine what constitutes an "extraordinary circumstance," not the student. Students are expected NOT to ask instructors for extensions or special arrangements when they submit an assignment late. If the instructor deems it wise to follow up, he will do so. The student is encouraged to submit every assignment on time in Populi, even if it is only

partially completed. Ministry services, pastoral labor, counseling sessions, mission trips, out-of-town conferences, work obligations, family events, vacations, and the like do not constitute extraordinary circumstances.

Grading

All GBTS courses follow the grading policy outlined in the Grace Bible Theological Seminary Academic Catalog as listed below:

Letter	Minimum Points	Grade Points
A	92.0	4.00
A-	90.0	3.70
B+	88.0	3.30
B	82.0	3.00
B-	80.0	2.70
C+	78.0	2.30
C	72.0	2.00
C-	70.0	1.70
D+	68.0	1.30
D	62.0	1.00
D-	60.0	0.70
F	0.0	0.00

A final grade of a C- (70.0) or better must be achieved in any course in order to pass the course successfully. A final grade below a 70.0 in any course falls into the "D" or "F" range and represents a failing mark.

Extension & Course Retake Policies

Extension Policy: Students who are unable to complete course assignments in accordance with the dates set forth in the course syllabus may appeal for an extension to complete these assignments. An extension will only be granted in truly exceptional circumstances. A student who desires an extension shall make a written request to the Academic Dean detailing the circumstances that prohibit the completion of the course according to the schedule set forth in the syllabus. The Academic Dean, upon consultation with the course instructor and/or administration, will make a final determination to approve or disallow an extension. The terms of the extension will be determined by the course instructor and communicated to the student within seven days of the extension request.

Course Retake Policy: A student may retake a course whether a failing or passing grade was achieved the first time the class was taken. For courses in which the student initially received a failing grade, both courses will be shown on the transcript, and both grades will be calculated into the cumulative GPA. For courses in which the student initially received a passing grade,

both courses will be shown on the transcript, but only the grade received in the first course will be calculated into the cumulative GPA.

Grade Reports & Appeals Process

a.) Grade Reports: All students may check grades at any time through Populi, the learning management system utilized by GBTS. Likewise, all students have access to their unofficial student transcripts through Populi.

b.) Appeals Process (and Conflict Resolution): Any questions or appeals of a grade on the student's transcript should be directed to the Academic Dean within six months of the completion of the course. The Academic Dean, in consultation with the course instructor and/or administration, will make the final determination of the grade awarded on the transcript.

Academic Probation & Dismissal

a.) Academic Probation: Any student who fails to maintain a minimum acceptable GPA will be contacted by the Academic Dean to discuss probationary status within their program of study. The acceptable minimum GPA for all degree programs is a cumulative 2.5. Upon contact from the Academic Dean, the student will be expected to raise their cumulative GPA to the acceptable minimum standard within the next two semesters of study.

b.) Dismissal: If the student fails to raise his cumulative GPA to the acceptable standard, he may be terminated from the program. The goal of probationary status is to encourage and assist the student to maintain an elevated level of learning and engagement in his seminary studies.

Independent Study Courses, Directed Study Courses, & Course Substitutions

a.) **Independent Study Courses:** Students, upon consultation with the appropriate department faculty member, may take an Independent Study course. Such arrangements consist of the grading professor providing a previous syllabus *for a course that falls within the regular GBTS course offerings*. The student will complete the required work for the course within the specified timeframe of a given academic term. Such requests should be made sparingly and only in unique circumstances, such as when a student is in his last year of study and a required course in his degree program will not be offered again for a significant period of time. In normal circumstances, a maximum of two (2) courses may be taken as independent studies in a student's degree program.

b.) **Directed Study Courses:** Students, upon consultation with the appropriate department faculty member, may take a Directed Study course. These courses are

designed to provide guided inquiry into issues not explored in depth in regular GBTS course offerings. The student first will propose a topic (e.g., Ancient Near Eastern Basket Weaving Using Aramaic Inscriptions) to the Academic Dean. Upon the Academic Dean's approval, the student will be given permission to contact an appropriate GBTS faculty member. Directed Study courses may be substituted for a regular course only upon approval by the Academic Dean. Individual GBTS faculty members have full discretion in whether such a course may be offered. Courses may be offered on an individual or group basis. Such requests should be made sparingly.

c.) **Course Substitutions:** Students may substitute courses in their degree program with approval from the Academic Dean. Such a request should be made in writing to the Academic Dean, and such an inquiry should be made sparingly and only in unique circumstances.

Graduation

Requirements: In order to graduate from GBTS, the student must demonstrate:

(a) Completion of all course requirements for his degree program;
(b) Proven character in loving God and loving others (Matt 22:37–40) in conformity to the GBTS Code of Conduct (having moved off of probation of any kind, if applicable);
(c) Faithful service to his local church evidenced by his successful completion of all requirements in ST 563 Ecclesiology, including the Church Service assignment.

Closing Pastoral Recommendation Letter: In the student's last semester of enrollment at GBTS, if he has successfully fulfilled the preceding marks, he must contact a pastor/elder in his local church to compose a closing pastoral recommendation letter (similar to the one submitted upon his admission to GBTS) and to submit it to the Administrative Assistant. The letter should affirm that the student remains in good standing in his local church and attest that the student has demonstrated growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Pet 3:18) fitting for an aspiring candidate of gospel ministry.

Exit Interview: In the student's last semester of enrollment at GBTS, upon his pastor/elder's submission of a closing pastoral recommendation letter, the student must contact the Director of Admissions and Enrollment to set up a joint exit interview with at least two (2) of the following: (a) the Director of Admissions and Enrollment; (b) the Academic Dean; (c) the Dean of Students; and/or (d) the President.

Public Ceremony: Upon successful completion of all credits and required courses in a student's degree program (M.Div., MTS, MAPS, or Cert.) at Grace Bible Theological Seminary, certificates and diplomas will be conferred in a public ceremony for graduates conducted by the seminary. Teaching faculty will participate in the ceremony, and administrators will confer degrees. Certificates and diplomas will be withheld until a student's financial account is clear with all library books having been returned and corresponding fees paid. Graduating students will

receive more information about ordering regalia, rehearsing for graduation, and the graduation ceremony from the Director of Admissions and Enrollment or designated personnel as the event approaches.

If the Spring term concludes and a student has nine (9) or fewer credit hours remaining, and he intends to complete all unfinished coursework in the immediately ensuing Summer term, GBTS administrators will allow the student to walk in the public graduation ceremony. The student's diploma will be retained after the ceremony, however, until all course credits are completed. Students are highly encouraged to attend the in-person graduation ceremony; however, if a student is unable to attend, his diploma may be mailed to him at the physical address he has listed with his personal information in Populi.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Non-Discrimination Policy

GBTS shall not discriminate against members, employees, applicants for enrollment or employment, students, or others on the basis of race, color, nationality, age, or ethnic origin; however, as a religious institution, the seminary reserves the right to deny or terminate enrollment/employment and to deny or terminate any other status of persons whose lifestyle, words, actions, or otherwise do not align with GBTS's statements of faith, standards of conduct, or other policies. Furthermore, this policy statement is not intended to waive the ministerial exception or any other exception or exemption to federal, state, or local anti-discrimination laws or regulations.

Statement of Church-State Relations

Grace Bible Theological Seminary exists as a religious institution for ecclesiastical purposes only and, as a non-public institution, is exempt from certain obligations and requirements from the Arkansas Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education. For example, as a religious institution, GBTS is exempt from certain provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Section 106.12 of the Title IX regulation exempts an educational institution from mandated compliance with any provision of the regulation which conflicts with the religious beliefs and values of the church (or denomination) controlling the institution. Thus, Grace Bible Theological Seminary, as a ministry affiliate of Grace Bible Church (Conway, AR), is exempt from various stipulations of Title IX, including those referring to "sex" and "discrimination" associated therein. Exemptions from Title IX would include but not be limited to: Sections 106.9; 106.21; 106.23(a); 106.31; 106.36; 106.37(a)&(b); 106.38(a); 106.51; 106.53; 106.55; 106.59; and 106.60.

Intellectual Property Policy

The instructor of each course at GBTS (whether faculty or adjunct) is considered by the seminary to be the "author" of all original material in the course—including syllabi, lecture content, slides, files, class notes, handouts, exams, videos, audio clips, online content (including personal websites), and all content contained within the course's platform on the institution's learning management system. All the aforementioned original material is considered by Grace Bible Theological Seminary to be the intellectual property and the copyrightable content of the course instructor or "author." Copyrightable content is considered by U.S. law to be content that is creative, fixed, and original in nature (U.S. Code Title 17 § 1–8, 10–12, 14–15).

Student Records

In personal and electronic communications with students through Populi, Microsoft Outlook, or other platforms, GBTS faculty and staff have access to student records and information that is

to be kept private. Faculty and staff are accountable at all times not to disclose the personal information that they access—including admissions qualifications, biographical background, grades, and financial records—*to any party other than the individual student*, unless extraordinary circumstances arise, including: (a) circumstances that affect the welfare or well-being of the student; or (2) the seminary being contacted by law enforcement personnel or leadership of a local church (for ecclesiastical or spiritual disciplinary matters) or a church denominational entity (or a similar organization of affiliation) or a seminary/academic institution or a member of the broader body of Christ who has some sort of personal stake.

Exceptions to this policy include GBTS having the right to disclose matters of public record such as: (a) an individual's first and last name and state of residence; (b) an individual's enrollment status in the institution (active, inactive, withdrawn, or dismissed); and (c) graduate information, such as the individual's degree earned and month/year of graduation. This privacy policy encompasses the student's spouse, parents, siblings, children, etc., unless the individual student has provided express written consent in a document addressed to the Academic Dean accompanied by a physical signature. GBTS is not bound by FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974) since the institution does not receive government funding, but GBTS administration deems FERPA to contain generally reliable policies and beneficial common grace insights (in various places), serving as a helpful guide in our approach to this subject.

International Students

Distance Students at GBTS are required to attend live Zoom classes and to participate in a select number of on-campus intensives as part of their degree program. Accordingly, we are only able to accommodate international students at the current time if the prospective student lives in North America or South America, in order to ensure that the individual is able to commit to faithful videoconferencing attendance (amid time zone differences). International students in North America or South America are exempt from our normal requirement of traveling to Conway once a year to take an on-campus intensive course, since such students are granted a travel hardship exemption.

Since GBTS is not certified by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) overseen by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), we cannot legally require international students to travel to Arkansas each year. Once a school is SEVP-certified, the school can issue a Form I-20 to admitted international students, which is a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status. Students can then use the I-20 form to apply for a visa to travel to the United States. A student F-1 visa would be required for academic studies. An international student who enters the United States on a B-1 visitor visa, coming as a tourist, or through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), could only take a course for recreational study (i.e., not-for-credit).

Students with Learning Disabilities

GBTS does not discriminate against students with disabilities in its admissions process or in its subsequent delivery of services to students. As a private educational institution that exists only for ecclesiastical purposes and as a school that does not receive public funding, GBTS does not have unlimited resources to provide special academic services or accommodations to students with disabilities. Nevertheless, GBTS aims to provide reasonable measures to aid individual students in the learning process as such services are operationally and financially feasible for the institution. Students with special needs will be addressed on an individual basis by the administration.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The GBTS curriculum is divided into five (5) branches of study:

- General Courses
- Exegetical Theology
- Systematic Theology
- Historical Theology
- Pastoral Theology

General Courses

TRW 512 Introduction to Seminary Studies

An orientation to the life of a seminarian, including instruction on time management, research tools, and writing skills. Includes a discussion of research theory and methodology. The skills acquired in this course are multidisciplinary, applying to exegetical, theological, historical, and pastoral studies.

Exegetical Theology

The Exegetical Theology curriculum equips students to skillfully study and interpret the text of the Bible. An emphasis is placed upon exegesis, contextual study, and principles of interpretation that emphasize the reliability, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture, as students are trained to be faithful expositors of God's Word. The courses offered in the Exegetical Theology curriculum include:

ET 311 Introduction to Biblical Studies

An introductory study of the composition, chronology, geography, and major themes and movements of the Old and New Testaments.

ET 513 Hermeneutics

A survey of the history and methods of biblical interpretation. Principles of interpretation are studied and applied to the diverse genres of Scripture, with emphasis given to the grammatical-historical-theological-literary method. Includes an examination of the presuppositions of allegorical, typological, and higher-critical methods of interpretation.

ET 523 Introduction to Biblical Theology

This course investigates the unifying theological themes developed in both the Old and New Testaments. Specific attention is given to sound principles of hermeneutics, interpreting the Old Testament as Christian Scripture, and evaluating the major theological overtures of the synoptic Gospels, Pauline literature, and Johannine literature.

ET 533 Covenant Theology
An analysis of the biblical narrative and the progressive outworking of redemptive history. Students will see the gospel as the unifying theme of all of Scripture. In addition, the student will learn the nature of the relationship between the Old and New Testament and how the various covenants of the Bible come together in the gospel message. Baptist Covenant Theology is contrasted with Presbyterian Covenant Theology, New Covenant Theology, and Dispensationalism.

ET 543 History of the Bible
An overview of the history and development of the Bible from its divine origin and inscripturation to its transmission and translation.

OT 513 Pentateuch
An introduction to the structure, content, and major theological themes of Genesis through Deuteronomy. The student will be introduced to interpreting the Pentateuch in its ancient Near Eastern background, including interaction with other Near Eastern literature. Canonical, textual-critical, and higher-critical issues are discussed.

OT 523 Historical Books
This course introduces the history of Israel presented in Joshua through Esther. Major theological themes are traced through Israel's history as recorded in the Old Testament. Questions about the nature of history and historiography are explored and applied to the study of the Old Testament.

OT 533 Prophets and Poetic Books
A study of the Prophetic and Poetic books of the Old Testament. Studies include the nature of prophecy and wisdom literature, features of Hebrew poetry, the use and importance of this genre of literature for Israelite and Christian worship, and the theological themes developed in these books.

OT 613 Genesis
A critical and exegetical study of the structure, theology, and key historical events in Genesis, including creation, Fall, flood, Babel, and Abrahamic covenant passages.

OT 623 Isaiah
A critical and exegetical study of the structure and theology of Isaiah. Includes discussions of authorship, composition, and key passages.

OT 633 Psalms
A critical and exegetical study of the structure, composition, and major theological developments of the Psalter. Attention is given to features of individual psalms as well as their context within the Psalter.

OT 543 Directed Study and Readings in Old Testament
This directed study course provides an opportunity for extensive research and writing under the guidance of a faculty member on an approved topic (or issue) relevant to Old Testament studies.

HEB 513/523 Hebrew Grammar I and II
An introduction to the basic orthography, morphology, and syntax of biblical Hebrew. The student will develop skill in reading and translating small portions of the Hebrew Old Testament.

HEB 613 Intermediate Hebrew
This course involves extended translation of portions of the Hebrew Old Testament, along with an emphasis on syntax and additional grammatical concepts gained through inductive study of the Hebrew text and exposure to the major genres of the Old Testament. Vocabulary is expanded and reinforced throughout the course.

HEB 623 Hebrew Exegesis
This course features advanced study of the Hebrew Old Testament applied to a selected book. Students will be engaged in textual-critical, syntactical, semantic, and lexical analysis. Attention will be given to an exegetical research project as well as expositional development of a selected passage.

NT 513 Gospels
An introduction to the four canonical Gospels and the unique contributions of each of the Gospel writers. Major theological themes and critical issues, including synoptic studies, are covered.

NT 523 Acts and Pauline Epistles
Students will interact with the narrative of Acts, including the geographical and chronological development of the early church, with an eye to synthesis with Pauline literature. The Pauline epistles are evaluated for their canonicity, authenticity, and major theological contributions.

NT 533 General Epistles and Revelation
A study of the General Epistles and Revelation. Attention is given to issues of authorship and canonicity, the particular theological contributions of each book, and hermeneutical issues related to the interpretation of apocalyptic literature.

NT 613 Gospel of John
An exegetical study of John's Gospel with emphasis on the book's structure, the author's key theological developments, and the distinct features of John's presentation of the person and work of Jesus.

NT 623 Romans
An exegetical study of Romans with particular attention given to the structure, theological arguments, and historical interpretation of the epistle.

NT 543 Directed Study and Readings in New Testament

This directed study course provides an opportunity for extensive research and writing under the guidance of a faculty member on an approved topic (or issue) relevant to New Testament studies.

NT 633 New Testament Ethics

An introduction to the development of Christian ethics in the context of the New Testament. Special attention will be given to topics such as abortion, human sexuality, assisted suicide, and more.

GRK 513/523 Greek Grammar I and II

An introduction to koine Greek, primarily for reading the New Testament. Includes an introduction to basic Greek orthography, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. Equips the student to read and translate short passages from the New Testament and extra-biblical Christian literature.

GRK 613 Intermediate Greek

This course involves extended translation of portions of the New Testament, along with an emphasis on syntax and additional grammatical concepts gained through inductive study of the Greek text and exposure to the major genres of the New Testament. Vocabulary is expanded and reinforced throughout the course.

GRK 623 Greek Exegesis

This course features advanced study of the Greek New Testament applied to a selected book. Students will be engaged in textual-critical, syntactical, semantic, and lexical analysis. Attention will be given to an exegetical research project as well as expositional development of a selected passage.

LAT 613 Theological Latin

This course uses an innovative reading method and equips the student to acquire basic proficiency in reading theological Latin in just fifteen weeks. Attention will be given to vocabulary acquisition, recognition of grammatical forms, and identification of some of the most common syntactical constructions. Most of the course focuses on readings from the Vulgate (Latin Bible).

Systematic Theology

The Systematic Theology curriculum provides instruction in the major divisions of systematic theology. These courses prepare the student to engage thoughtfully in understanding and evaluating various theological viewpoints, with particular emphasis on reformed Baptist theology as expressed in the Second London Baptist Confession of 1689. Systematic Theology courses include:

ST 311 Introduction to Theological Studies
An introduction to the disciplines, history, and essential elements of the study of Systematic Theology.

ST 513 Doctrine of God and Scripture
This course features an in-depth analysis of the nature, attributes, and decrees of God. Attention is given to the development and expression of trinitarian doctrine, the attributes of God disclosed in general and special revelation, and his works of creation. This course will also feature a study of the Christian canon and the inspiration, inerrancy, sufficiency, and authority of Scripture.

ST 533 Doctrine of Man and Sin
This course explores the original nature of man as he was created and lived before the Fall, the consequences of man's fall into sin for all his posterity, the relationship of man's transgression to the covenant of works, and the doctrines of original sin and human moral responsibility.

ST 543 Christology and Soteriology
This course presents a biblical and theological study of the person and work of Christ, including the relationship between Christ's human and divine natures, his work in redemption, and his threefold office-bearing. This course will also analyze the distinctives of Reformed soteriology and the work of the Holy Spirit, including the order of salvation (*ordo salutis*).

ST 563 Ecclesiology
An introductory study of the doctrine of the church, including discussions about the relationship between the local and universal church, and the nature, purpose, and functions of the local church. Particular attention is given to the role of the local church in guarding and proclaiming diving truth, administering the ordinances as a means of grace, and church discipline.

ST 573 Eschatology
A study of the major eschatological systems, including Dispensational Premillennialism, Historic Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, and Amillennialism. Reformed Baptist Covenant Theology is examined and related to each of these systems. Individual eschatology is discussed as well.

ST 583 Apologetics
This course equips students in how to articulate and defend orthodox Christian doctrine from a presuppositional position. Topics covered include the difference between classical apologetics and presuppositionalism, the classical proofs for Christianity, the importance and role of presuppositions, why non-Christian worldviews are self-referentially illogical, and why the Trinity is vital for a cohesive and trustworthy worldview that can be consistently implemented in everyday life.

ST 613 Puritan Theology and Ministry
An introduction to the distinctives of Puritan theology, with extensive reading and critique from primary sources. Emphasis is placed upon the enduring legacy of Puritan theologians and movements, and their impact upon contemporary Christianity is evaluated.

ST 593 Directed Study and Readings in Systematic Theology

This directed study course provides an opportunity for extensive research and writing under the guidance of a faculty member on an approved topic (or issue) relevant to Systematic Theology.

Historical Theology

The Historical Theology Curriculum provides a robust survey of the history of the Christian church from the earliest generations to the present day. Students study the major figures, movements, and documents of the church's history to understand how it has refined, articulated, and confessed its theology. The Historical Theology curriculum includes the following courses:

HT 513 Early Church

This course covers the early church fathers and the most important documents of the early church. Attention is given to a study of the growth and spread of the church, the Apostolic Fathers, the Ante-Nicene, Nicene, and Post-Nicene Fathers, and the rise of the Roman Papacy.

HT 523 Medieval Church

A study of the theological developments and major movements and figures of the church from roughly AD 500 to AD 1500. Includes an analysis of the split between the Western and Eastern Church and a review of the theology of the pre-reformers.

HT 543 Baptist History

An introduction to the history, doctrinal development, and distinctives of Baptist churches. Emphasis is placed on how the major figures, movements, theological convictions, and matters of practice in Baptist history have impacted contemporary Baptist identity.

HT 553 Reformation and Post-Reformation Church

This course studies the prevailing theologians and theological movements of the Protestant Reformation. Includes a study of the post-Reformation to the present, surveying contemporary models and issues in the church.

HT 563 Directed Study and Readings in Church History

This directed study course provides an opportunity for extensive research and writing, under the guidance of a faculty member on an approved topic (or issue) relevant to Church History.

Pastoral Theology

The Pastoral Theology curriculum prepares students to be pastor-theologians who exercise their academic abilities in the context of the local church. These courses apply sound principles of

exegesis and interpretation to the tasks of pastoral ministry. These practical ministry-oriented courses include:

PT 513 Expository Preaching

This course equips the pastoral student with the tools necessary to do exposition of the Scriptures from the pulpit. Emphasis is given to sound principles of interpretation, exposition, and application as well as the work of the Holy Spirit in preaching.

PT 523 Pastoral Ministry

Students receive instruction in the theological as well as practical aspects of pastoral ministry. Guidance is provided for the student to develop and maintain a life of personal devotion and discipline in managing time, family life, and pastoral commitments. Procedural aspects of pastoral ministry and church leadership and administration are covered as well.

PT 533 Introduction to Biblical Counseling

This course offers an introduction to Bible-based counseling in pastoral ministry. Students develop a methodology for counseling that honors the sufficiency of Scripture and critically evaluates integrated models of counseling. This course includes interaction with the nature of sanctification, the process of change, and how to apply the Scriptures in a counseling setting.

PT 553 Church Ministry and Mission

An introduction to the identification and application of healthy practice and mission in the local church. Explores the theological relationship between church and culture and examines how to conduct Christ-honoring ministry. Includes the development of a theology of worship, identifying the difference between the regulative and normative principles.

PT 563 Piety and Spiritual Formation

This course promotes the development of personal piety through a survey of Christian devotional literature, an examination of Reformation and Post-reformation spirituality and piety movements, and the development of a biblical and historical model for practicing the spiritual disciplines.

PT 543 Directed Study and Readings in Pastoral Ministry

This directed study course provides an opportunity for extensive research and writing under the guidance of a faculty member on an approved topic (or issue) relevant to Pastoral Theology.

PT 573 Christian Missions

An introductory study of the theory and practice of Christian missions including biblical, theological, historical, philosophical, and strategic principles and methods.

PT 613 Theology of Worship

This course equips students to develop a biblical theology of worship with emphasis on the regulative principle as the standard for worship in the local church. Includes a survey of the historical development of corporate worship across Christian traditions.

PT 623 Calvinism and Evangelism

Explores the theological relationship between a Calvinistic soteriology and personal evangelism. Attention is given to evangelistic ministry and missions in Reformed and Calvinistic churches, preaching, and ministries.

PT 633 Missionaries and Methods

A survey of the advancement of the gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth with a special emphasis on key individuals and the missional methodologies they employed.

PT 643 Expository Preaching Practicum

Prerequisite: PT 513 Expository Preaching. Students will preach sermons demonstrating their practical understanding of the principles learned in Expository Preaching and participate in constructive evaluation of and feedback on all sermons preached. Emphasis will also be given to a deeper study of specific aspects of sermon preparation and delivery.

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, & BOARD

Administration (& Faculty)

Jeffrey D. Johnson
President
Professor of Systematic Theology
B.A., Central Baptist College
M.Div., Veritas Theological Seminary
D.Min., Veritas Theological Seminary

Preston Kelso
Academic Dean
Instructor of Old Testament
B.A., Central Baptist College
M.Div., BMA Theological Seminary
Postgraduate Student, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Rob Davis
Dean of Students
Instructor of Pastoral Studies
B.A., Eastern Illinois University
M.Div., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jeff Moore
Director of Admissions & Enrollment
Assistant Professor of New Testament
B.A., Southern Methodist University
M.Div., Westminster Theological Seminary
D.Min., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Th.M., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Ph.D., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Faculty

Ryan Bush
Professor of Missions
B.S., Ouachita Baptist University
M.Div., Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary
Ph.D., Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

James White
Professor of Apologetics and Church History
B.A., Grand Canyon University
M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary
D.Min., Columbia Evangelical Seminary
Th.M., Columbia Evangelical Seminary
Th.D., Columbia Evangelical Seminary

Staff

Kayla Irons
Special Events Coordinator; Custodial Technician

Teddy James
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