2020-21 Catalog
Quality Theological Education for a Lifetime of Ministry

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IT IS AN HONOR AND DELIGHT FOR ME TO SERVE AS ONLY THE SECOND DEAN OF BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL. IN THIS OUR 33RD YEAR, WE ARE BUILDING ON A LEGACY CRAFTED FOR US BY FAITHFUL FOUNDERS LIKE RALPH WALDO BEESON AND TIMOTHY GEORGE. THIS HERITAGE INSPIRES US WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT IS A HERITAGE OF LOYALTY TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.

THE MISSION OF BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL IS TO PROVIDE GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, PREPARE GOD-CALLED PERSONS TO SERVE AS MINISTERS IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, WORSHIP The triune God and encourage the practices of Christian spirituality.

Our faculty and staff equip servants of the Lord for kingdom work around the world, especially in and through local churches. We facilitate and resource the church’s endeavors to make and grow Christian disciples in response to Jesus’ command (Matthew 28). In the words of the apostle Paul, inspired by the Spirit, we encourage and prepare the Lord’s people “for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4). We do this mainly by educating preachers and teachers of the canon of Holy Scripture and secondarily by training faithful, thoughtful Christian laity. In every case, we want students to be men and women of God.

Hodges Chapel, where the Beeson community meets for worship, stands at the center of Divinity Hall. It is redolent with symbols of the faith and decorated with beautiful Christian art. Its cross-shaped form reminds us of the centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Its prominence and location at the heart of our building bears witness to the fact that Beeson is not merely a graduate school for the study of theology but rather a living community of faith and learning whose highest purpose is to know God and enjoy him forever.

What a blessing it is to serve the church of Christ day by day. What a wonderful place Beeson is to serve the living God. These are exciting days to love God and neighbor here in Birmingham. Let’s get on our knees and ask the Lord to guide us into the future.

Douglas A. Sweeney
Dean
Beeson Divinity School
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Beeson Divinity School is:
1. To provide graduate theological education
2. To prepare God-called persons to serve as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ
3. To worship the Triune God as we encourage the practices of Christian spirituality

We seek to accomplish our mission through
the regular practice of worship,
a well-designed curriculum,
guided practical ministry experience,
and nurturing relationships
in an evangelical community of faith and hope and love,
so that
every student may grow toward full maturity in Christ,
practicing the disciplines of personal and communal spirituality,
developing biblical and theological depth,
being committed to evangelism and missions,
developing global awareness,
enhancing competencies for ministry,
respecting denominational identity,
and embracing the vision of being a servant leader;
and to improve continuously the overall quality of Beeson Divinity School
through
enhancing its resources, relationships, and reputation
so that
the experience of graduate theological study at Beeson Divinity School is
held dear by its students,
and the ministries of its graduates respected by churches and denominational leaders,
to the end that the worldwide body of Christ is built up
and God is glorified in ever-increasing measure.
CONFESSION OF FAITH

At the founding of Beeson Divinity School in 1988, “The Baptist Faith and Message” (1963) was adopted by the Samford University Board of Trustees as the confessional standard for the school. We affirm without reservation the total truthfulness of Holy Scripture and the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy embodied in this statement of faith. At the same time, in accordance with the desires of Ralph Waldo Beeson, the school was established as a “Christian, Protestant, evangelical and interdenominational” theological community. We all agree to teach in accordance with and not contrary to those evangelical essentials of the Christian faith, such as the Holy Trinity, the person and work of Jesus Christ, salvation by grace alone, and a life of discipleship and faithful obedience to God’s word. Members of the divinity school faculty who are not Baptist by denomination submit in writing their own convictions concerning those articles in the statement of faith that touch on denominational distinctions. In this way, we seek to preserve both the theological integrity and the interdenominational variety of our faculty as set forth in the founding documents of the school.

The Apostles’ Creed, which is etched in stone in Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel, is recited at the beginning of each academic year as an expression of our common commitment to the historic faith of the church. In addition, students who apply for admission to Beeson Divinity School are asked to submit an essay based on the Apostles’ Creed.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.
INTRODUCTION

History of Samford University
Samford University is a Christian University and the largest privately supported and fully accredited coeducational institution of higher learning in Alabama. The university was founded by Baptists of Alabama and today maintains a close relationship with the Alabama Baptist State Convention (Southern Baptist Convention). While the university cherishes this relationship and sees its role centered on Christian belief, Samford is open to students of all denominations and faith traditions.

Founded by a group of educational, economic, and religious leaders, the school was chartered in 1841 and opened its doors on January 3, 1842, in Marion, Alabama, as Howard College. In 1887, it was relocated in Birmingham, and in 1957, the institution was moved to its present campus.

In 1965, the master’s degree program was reinstated. This development, coupled with the existing diversity of degree programs, resulted in Howard College’s official elevation to university status on November 9, 1965. In the same year, the new university was named for Frank Park Samford, member of one of Alabama’s most respected families, chairman of the Howard College Board of Trustees, and one of the institution’s most generous individual benefactors.

The university now consists of School of the Arts, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Brock School of Business, Beeson Divinity School, Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education, School of Health Professions, Cumberland School of Law, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, McWhorter School of Pharmacy and School of Public Health.

History of Beeson Divinity School
On Feb. 9, 1988, the Board of Trustees of Samford University authorized the establishment of a divinity school beginning in the 1988-89 academic year. In one sense this action fulfilled the founding purpose of the University adopted in 1841, which provided for "the establishment of a Theological Institution, connected with the college hereinafter established." In Dec. 1988, the Samford Board of Trustees voted to name the school the Beeson Divinity School in honor of Ralph Waldo Beeson and his late father, John Wesley Beeson. Ralph Beeson provided the largest gift from a living individual in Samford history to establish the only divinity school at that time at a Baptist college or university in the nation.

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

Beeson Divinity School has offered the Master of Divinity degree from its beginning. Within the first decade, the Master of Theological Studies and the Doctor of Ministry degrees were added. Today, Beeson offers the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies and the Doctor of Ministry degrees.

In 2019, Timothy George stepped down as dean of Beeson Divinity School. He was succeeded by Dr. Douglas A. Sweeney, who leads a full-time faculty of 19, four adjunct faculty and a staff of 16.
Accreditation
Beeson Divinity School at Samford University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS) and by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) to award the following degrees:

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.)
- Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

For questions or concerns about the accreditation of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, contact:

The Commissions on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
404-679-4500
www.sacscoc.org

The Commission on Accrediting
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
412-788-6505
www.ats.edu

Distinctive Features
Beeson Divinity School is a community of believers and scholars, offering students a unique opportunity to combine both faith and learning. Students are thoroughly grounded in the classical doctrines and traditions of the Christian faith. The Word of God is taught, believed and lived by faculty and students.

The divinity school is explicitly evangelical, standing without apology for the great principles of historic Christian orthodoxy. Faculty and students stress by word and example a life of prayer, devotion and Christian growth. At Beeson Divinity School, spiritual formation goes hand-in-hand with intellectual development.

Pastoral competence is underscored. The program of study offers comprehensive preparation for the tasks demanded by ministry in the world today. The presence of more than 700 congregations in the greater Birmingham area means all students have an opportunity to learn ministry through a mentoring relationship with an experienced church leader. Through weekly chapel services and special guest lecturers, students have opportunities to interface with the finest preachers, scholars and Christian leaders in the evangelical community. The annual Reformation Heritage Lectures feature theological aspects of the Reformation tradition. The annual Biblical Studies Lectures and William E. Conger, Jr. Lectures on Biblical Preaching feature outstanding biblical scholars of the evangelical tradition. Other conferences throughout the year provide additional opportunities for ongoing learning and inspiration.

Students are important at Beeson Divinity School. Because of the low faculty-student ratio, students receive personal attention through ongoing interaction with professors. Faculty members are experts in their fields of study and are committed to the Word of God and the lordship of Jesus Christ.
**Spiritual and Community Life**
The development of spiritual life within Christian community is as essential for theological students as academic development and practical skill enhancement. Weekly chapel services serve as a time of gathering as a community of faith for corporate worship. Students are expected to attend, and offices are closed so that all faculty, staff and students can attend. The worship experience is followed by community lunch in the Student Commons. Faculty members lead weekly mentoring groups structured to include prayer, focused meditations, Scripture reading and sharing. Participation is required.

Additional opportunities for encouraging and developing personal spiritual discipline, as well as courses offered in spiritual formation, are integral strands to the overall tapestry of Christian community life at Beeson Divinity School.

**Expectations/Regulations**
The Samford University community affirms the value of a peaceful and purposeful community founded on the moral and ethical integrity of students and faculty. Because of our strong commitment to the Christian values on which the university was founded, reasonable expectations of student behavior are necessary for contributing to a healthy and quality environment. Using principles of fundamental fairness, students are held accountable for their actions that violate our stated values: worth of the individual, self-discipline, academic integrity, respect for property and the environment and respect for community authority. The *Divinity School Student Handbook* contains the statement of values, minimum sanctions for inappropriate behavior and the appeal procedure. Divinity school faculty are committed to practice, and encourage students to practice, the discipline of employing inclusive language as one aspect of community building and a way of recognizing the worth of each individual.

**Housing**
The divinity school does not own housing. Most divinity students choose to live in one of the numerous apartment complexes near the Samford campus. Single student housing on campus is reserved for undergraduates at Samford.

**Library**
Davis Library, centrally located on campus, furnishes divinity school faculty and students with a mixture of group seating, study rooms, and individual carrels for quiet study. Utilizing funds drawn from the Beeson endowment, several million dollars have been spent to build the library’s theological holdings. Materials necessary for reference, research, independent study, and recreational reading have been carefully added since the school’s inception.

The entire public staff of the Davis Library is available to all students. Circulation, reference, and interlibrary loan departmental staffs are available throughout library hours. Extensive library hours include weekends and late evenings during the week.

The divinity school also enjoys the services of a theological librarian, who oversees collection development and provides research support to faculty, staff and students.
University Health Services
University Health Services, St. Vincent’s at Samford, provides outpatient health-care services to students attending the university. Staffed by a full-time physician, the clinic provides primary medical care services, including acute care for illness and injury, health maintenance, and management of stable, chronic conditions. Located on the east side of F. Page Seibert Hall, the clinic is equipped with radiology and an on-site, CLIA-certified lab. Hours of operation are Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Payment is expected upon provision of service and may be made by Visa or MasterCard. Copays also can be posted to a student’s ebill through the bursar’s office.

All full-time students enrolled in a degree-seeking program are required to submit an Immunization Record through MedProctor prior to attending class. The record must be signed by a health-care provider or carry a health department stamp. The International Student Immunization Record and Medical Evaluation form should be submitted through MedProctor prior to the student's arrival on campus. All international students, regardless of country of origin, are required to report to University Health Services upon arrival to campus for tuberculosis risk assessment as only domestic documentation of tuberculin skin testing will be accepted. All required documentation must be submitted to University Health Services no later than two weeks following the first day of class. Failure to do so will result in a hold on the student’s record and a nonrefundable $150 fine.

Student Services
Samford University is located in the picturesque Shades Valley, six miles from the heart of Birmingham, Alabama’s largest city and the state’s industrial, business and cultural center. Divinity school students enjoy the best of two worlds—an environmental setting for study, contemplation and social enjoyment and easy access to the varied offerings of a metropolitan area.

As a university-based divinity school, Beeson Divinity School offers students the opportunity to be involved in the larger community of a vibrant university. Divinity school students can fully participate in the activities of the university, including recreational facilities, concerts, theatrical productions, art exhibitions, lectures, recitals and sporting events.

The Student Government Association of Beeson Divinity School provides additional opportunities for social interaction and community building. Student concerns and suggestions are addressed through this group as well.

The Office of the Director of Student Services serves as a resource to students and provides direction in accessing available counseling services and other appropriate services.

Placement
The divinity school assists students and alumni in their efforts to seek and secure positions of service in vocational Christian ministry. The placement coordinator provides vocational counseling, assistance with résumé development and interview preparation by appointment. The school maintains a list of available part-time and full-time ministry positions and regularly hosts representatives from churches and ministry organizations for recruiting visits.

For additional information about placement services, go to www.beesondivinity.com/placement or call 205-726-2374.
GLOBAL CENTER

World missions and evangelization were a primary concern of Ralph Waldo Beeson. The mission of The Global Center at Beeson Divinity School is to encourage, connect and equip Samford’s campus and the church for cross-cultural and global mission. The Global Center offers missions opportunities and a variety of on-campus events to expand our thinking about the world and the role we play in it. In addition to serving current students as well as faculty and staff, the Global Center also supports alumni serving internationally and serves as a resource for local churches and the Samford community.

Events
Every semester, the Global Center invites international authors, experts, and missionaries to speak to the divinity school and Birmingham community on topics of world Christianity, pressing global issues, and missions. In conjunction with Samford’s Office of Spiritual Life, the Global Center hosts a missions emphasis and mobilizing event called Go Global, which is held annually in the fall semester. The Global Center also sponsors World Christianity Focus Week, which features a keynote speaker as well as other events designed to help us understand what Christianity looks like in other parts of the world, including the persecuted church.

On Thursdays at noon during the fall and spring semesters, the Global Center highlights stories of students, faculty, alumni and special guests about their cross-cultural ministry experiences and invites speakers to share about other pressing topics at Global Voices. For a list of the semester events, go to beesondivinity.com/global-center/events. Also throughout the semester, the divinity school community forms friendships with international students through International Lunch Club. International Lunch Club allows local international students the chance to learn more about American culture and teach others about their own culture over lunch.

Cross-Cultural Ministry Opportunities
Recognizing that all Christian ministers need to experience and be educated in cross-cultural ministry, Beeson Divinity School requires all M.Div. students to participate in a Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum [CCMP]. Students reside in, minister to and learn from a culture different from their own for at least 14 consecutive days while supervised by an on-site mentor. Students can choose to complete their CCMP from approximately 15 designated domestic and international ministry partners.
Community and World Missions Resources
The Global Center’s Resource Room offers the Samford community a place to enjoy coffee and conversation. The Resource Room has a selection of books and periodicals on missions, support raising and engaging local churches in the Great Commission. The website provides resources for missions and world Christianity, such as lists of worldwide mission agencies and international churches in the Birmingham area. Recordings of Global Center events are available at beesondivinity.com/global-center/videos.

World Missions Exhibition Area
The exhibition area of the Global Center houses multiple displays, including those that highlight trends and issues facing 21st-century Christianity, those that depict the ministry and martyrdom of six 20th-century Christians, and photos and quotes of 25 inspirational missionaries throughout Christian history. Other displays encourage prayer for alumni serving cross-culturally, highlight divinity students participating in cross-cultural ministry practicums and raise awareness through videos of current issues of importance throughout the world.

For more information
beesondivinity.com/globalcenter
global@samford.edu
205-726-2170
Beeson Divinity School

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Beeson Divinity School

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Support Staff

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Sharon Head, Enrollment and Admissions Associate
Le-Ann Little, Administrative Assistant, Dean’s Office
Melissa Matthews, Administrative Assistant, Associate Dean’s Office
Valerie Merrill, Administrative Assistant to the Faculty
Evan Musgraves, Research Assistant
Kristen Padilla, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Anna Russell, Program Assistant, Global Center and Supervised Ministry Practicum
Gabriele Watts, Events Coordinator
Rob Willis, Media and Technology Manager
Joy Wint, Program Assistant, Preaching Institute and Doctor of Ministry
Kyle Young, Recruitment Coordinator and Alumni Relations Officer
ADMISSION

Beeson Divinity School of Samford University admits qualified men and women of any Christian denomination, race, color and national or ethnic origin, without regard to physical disability. The decision to admit a student rests with the admission committee, appointed by the associate dean of the divinity school. The admission committee selects each entering class from applicants whose prior academic performance gives the strongest promise of success in the chosen degree program and whose application data and interview indicate the most promise of effective leadership in Christian ministry and compatibility with the community and spiritual life of the divinity school. Admission is also based on the following considerations.

1. **Christian Character**—as evidenced by membership and active participation in the life of a church, recommendation by Christian leaders and compatibility with the stated purposes of the divinity school.

2. **Commitment to Ministry**—as evidenced by an endorsement from a congregation or church governing body, a personal statement of call to ministry, a description of past and current involvement in ministry and clearly stated vocational goals.

3. **Academic Preparation**—as evidenced by a command of the English language in the admission essays and a bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited institution. The average GPA for admitted students is typically above 3.5.

4. **Commitment to Studies and Community Life**—as expressed in a willingness to engage fully in the curricular and co-curricular life of the Beeson Divinity School community. In admission decisions, preference is given to applicants who commit to full-time study (9-12 credit hours per semester) and to attend the weekly chapel service (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meeting (Thursdays at 11 a.m.) required of all full-time students. Engagement in all aspects of Beeson’s community life, both inside and outside the classroom, is vitally important to students’ preparation and formation for faithful ministry leadership.

**Admission Procedures**

Candidates for admission must submit the application and participate in an interview before the deadline date corresponding to the term in which they plan to enroll. The admission and scholarship deadline for the spring semester is October 1. February 15 is the admission and scholarship deadline for the fall semester. The administrative staff of the divinity school is eager to help applicants move through the admission process as easily as possible. Applicants should not hesitate to call if they have any questions. Following is the application checklist:
Applicant’s Checklist

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

- Enrollment and Biographical Information
- Personal Faith Narrative Essay
- Academic Essay on the topic of the Apostle’s Creed
- Academic Recommendation (to be completed by a college-level instructor)
- Pastoral Recommendation (to be completed by your senior pastor, other member of the pastoral staff or campus minister; cannot be a family member)
- Church Endorsement (to be completed by the governing body of your church of membership)

*This may be completed, if needed, by the same person who completes your pastoral recommendation form. However, please make the pastor aware he/she will need to complete both recommendation forms.

- Admission Interview: Each applicant is responsible for scheduling an interview. Interviews must be completed prior to the application deadline. It is recommended that your interview be completed on campus, but if this is not possible, interviews conducted by phone or web-based conferencing are acceptable. Interviews can be scheduled through your application portal.

- Official Transcript: Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate institutions previously attended should be mailed to:

  Beeson Divinity School  
  Office of Admission  
  800 Lakeshore Drive  
  Birmingham, AL 35229

  Alternatively, an official transcript can be emailed to shead@samford.edu. A final transcript is required upon completion of your undergraduate degree. Transcripts are considered official only when they bear the issuing institution's seal and arrive with the seal intact.

- $35 non-refundable fee that may be paid by credit card when submitting online application (not required for graduates of Samford University)
Admission Procedures
Approximately four weeks after each application deadline, each applicant will receive an admission and scholarship decision letter via email. In the interest of maintaining a safe learning environment for divinity students, all acceptance decisions are conditional upon the applicant’s successful completion of a criminal background check. If the admission committee has recommended a candidate for acceptance, the candidate’s decision letter will provide detailed instructions for initiating the criminal background check. These confidential checks are conducted by an authorized third party and are provided at no cost to the applicant.

International Students
Beeson Divinity School recognizes the importance of a multinational and multicultural student body and welcomes admission applications from international students. International applicants are encouraged to allow six months for completing the application process because there are several steps involved. International applicants must submit the following materials to Beeson Divinity School along with the standard application file described above:

1. An official transcript of academic work that has been evaluated by World Education Services (wes.org) or equivalent from each secondary school and college or university attended

2. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score of at least 550 (paper exam) or 90 (Internet exam) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language [TOEFL]. This test is administered in many countries and at many locations in the United States. Students may arrange to take the TOEFL by going to www.toefl.org or by writing to Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540.

3. Affidavit of Financial Support

The Affidavit of Financial Support form and the Application for Evaluation of International Educational Credentials may be found on the web site at beesondivinity.com/application-process.

International students are expected to come with the financial support of their church body or other sponsors. An affidavit of financial support, including a bank statement, is required before a student can enroll. As for all students, scholarships are available to international students for tuition. Complete information about the level of financial sponsorship required to study at Samford University is available from the Global Engagement Office of the university. The Global Engagement Office may be reached at 205-726-2741.

Based upon federal regulations and university policy, all F and J visa holders must have health coverage for themselves and all dependents during residency in the United States. Insurance may be obtained by the student independently or through the university but must contain certain required coverage. Proof of coverage is required before registering for classes. Samford University may expel international students who do not continue to comply. Information about specific policy carriers, minimum coverage and premium costs is available from the Global Engagement Office of the university.
Part-time Enrollment
Part-time enrollment for master's degree programs is defined as less than nine (9) credit hours in a fall or spring semester. In admission decisions, preference is given to applicants who commit to studying on a full-time basis (9-12 credit hours in a fall or spring semester). All full-time students are required to attend the weekly chapel service (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meeting (Thursdays at 11 a.m.). Part-time students are strongly encouraged to do the same. To be considered for admission for part-time study, applicants must explain their reasons for wishing to study part-time during the required admission interview.

Students studying on a part-time basis are not eligible for scholarship assistance. Additionally, students who are enrolled for less than nine (9) credit hours in any regular semester must pay the per-credit-hour tuition rate for courses taken.

Additional information regarding part-time enrollment at Beeson Divinity School can be found under "Academic Policies-Part-Time Studies."

Students Seeking Readmission
Applicants for readmission are evaluated along with first-time applicants for available spaces in any given term. This is a competitive process, with the readmission applicant's previous academic performance at Beeson Divinity School weighing heavily in the admission committee's evaluation. Students who have been out of Beeson Divinity School for more than one year (or who have transferred from Beeson Divinity School to another institution for any period of time) and who wish to be considered for readmission to Beeson must submit the following:

1. New application form
2. Official transcripts of credits earned since leaving Beeson Divinity School, if applicable
3. Essay explaining why the student's studies at Beeson Divinity School were interrupted and why the applicant wishes to be considered for admission again

To be considered for fall re-enrollment, the application deadline is February 15. For spring re-enrollment, the application deadline is October 1. Students who are readmitted must follow the curriculum requirements specified in the bulletin corresponding to the semester in which the student resumes enrollment at Beeson Divinity School. The divinity school may set additional requirements for readmitted students, all of which will be included in the readmission letter, along with scholarship information as applicable.

Transfer Students
Beeson Divinity School accepts transfer credit hours earned at accredited graduate institutions prior to admission to Beeson Divinity School. Students who desire a transfer credit evaluation should submit to the office of the associate dean a letter requesting evaluation, official copies of transcripts, syllabi and catalog descriptions of all courses to be evaluated. No online or correspondence credit will be accepted, though students with such credits may be considered for advanced standing. (See p. 32 for M.Div. and p. 37 for M.A.T.S.)
Transient Students
Beeson Divinity School accepts transient students who are regularly enrolled in other schools but wish to take a course(s) at Beeson Divinity School. A transient student application can be secured from the Office of Admission for any term. A transient student applicant must be in good academic standing with the school at which he or she is regularly enrolled to be considered for enrollment in a course(s) at Beeson Divinity School. Transient applications must be received at least four weeks before the beginning of the term to be attended. If admitted, transient students in any term will pay the fall, spring and Jan term credit hour rate.

Visitors
The Visitor Program is available to people who would like to enrich their lives and their ministry, to students who need additional study of a course they have previously taken for credit and to students who desire to supplement their course work. This program is not available to prospective students. A limited number of visitors may be admitted. No records are kept, and visitors receive no grades or credit for courses. Interested individuals must apply directly to the divinity school through the associate dean’s office for each course.
**Beeson Divinity School**

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Master Degree Programs Tuition and Fees**
(as of 2020-21)

Current tuition and fees are also posted at beesondivinity.com/scholarships-tuition-fees.

Endowment earnings and student tuition primarily support the masters programs of the divinity school. Tuition scholarships are awarded annually to all full-time masters degree students who meet the academic requirements.

**Tuition per semester, M.Div., M.A.T.S.**

- full-time, 9–12 credits (M.Div.) $8,001
- full-time, 9–13 credits (M.A.T.S.) $8,001

*The per-credit rate applies beyond 12 credits (M.Div.) or 13 credits (M.A.T.S.)*

**Tuition per credit, M.Div., M.A.T.S.**

- fall and spring $761
- summer term $305

*A student pays the per-credit rate when taking fewer than nine credits per semester.*

**Tuition per credit, D.Min.**

- all terms $494

**Fees**

- Application (nonrefundable) $35
- Returned check $30
- Auto decal $30/semester (fall and spring)
- Books and supplies $800–900/year (estimated)
- University fee $320/semester (fall and spring) $200/semester (summer and Jan term)
- Continuation fee (D.Min. only) $1,000/semester (after 7 semesters enrollment)

**Terms of Payment**

All admitted students must submit a $200 Enrollment Confirmation Deposit to complete the admission process. The deposit is nonrefundable and is applied toward the student’s tuition. Failure to submit the deposit when accepting a place in the entering class forfeits the student’s admission to Beeson Divinity School.

All student charges are payable each term on or before the due date. Students are responsible for seeing that payments are made. If needed, loan arrangements for meeting this responsibility are between the student and the supporting financial institutions. Fees not paid by the financing companies must be remitted by the student on the scheduled due dates. The student is urged to make any necessary financial arrangements well in advance of due dates. Students not paying their bill by the due date are subject to having their registration cancelled until payment is received. A student may be reinstated by paying their balance in full, which will include a $100 reinstatement fee. Following this payment, an electronic clearance slip will be sent from the Bursar’s Office to the Registrar to re-establish a student’s class schedule. Students who are in arrears to any department or enterprise of the university, or past due on any school-affiliated loan program, may not be permitted to receive reports of grades, transcripts or a diploma.
Tuition Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education
Students who wish to complete a unit or half-unit of Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] for credit toward a Beeson Divinity School degree program must first apply for admission to a qualified CPE program and gain acceptance by that program before registering for the divinity school course (see details on page 57). In addition to the tuition and fees charged by Samford University for the course, the CPE program will typically charge tuition as well. Beeson Divinity School will pay the tuition charged by a CPE program, up to a maximum of $350 or 30% of tuition billed for the course, whichever is less. Payment will be made to the program upon receipt of an invoice submitted to Beeson Divinity School by an approved vendor.

Refund Policy
The refund policy of the divinity school is that of the university. It is the university’s (not the divinity school’s) academic calendar that applies when refunds are calculated. See “Academic Policies—Withdrawal from Beeson Divinity School” for the official process for withdrawing. For more information on these policies, please contact Samford’s One Stop at 205-726-2905 or 1-800-888-7245.

Drop and Add Policy and Refunds
Drops and adds are changes in a schedule that do not involve complete withdrawal from school. During the drop/add period of any semester or term, if a schedule change results in a reduction of total credits below full-time status (nine credits), the student forfeits a tuition scholarship award and must immediately pay total tuition according to the part-time rate. After the drop/add period of any term, if a schedule change results in a reduction of total credits below full-time status (nine credits), the student forfeits a tuition scholarship award and must immediately pay back the scholarship that was awarded for the semester, therefore paying the total tuition at the full-time rate. Dropping a course after the drop/add period will not result in a reduction of charges for tuition or fees, unless it results in withdrawal from the university, in which case the refund and withdrawal policies apply.

Appeals to Refund Policies
Students who believe that they have individual circumstances warranting an exception to published refund policies may appeal the application of the policy. To appeal, the student should contact the University Registrar, Office of the Registrar, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229.

Financial Aid
Beeson Divinity School provides financial assistance in the form of tuition scholarships. All students who apply for full-time admission are automatically considered for scholarships from the Beeson endowment. Students who also wish to apply for federal loans should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] form, which is available in Samford’s Office of Financial Aid or online at www.fafsa.gov. Processing time for the FAFSA is up to six weeks. The FAFSA report is not necessary for Beeson Divinity School tuition scholarship consideration, but it is required for all student loan programs available through the university and some endowed scholarships offered through Beeson. Application for federal loans must be made for each academic year of study. Renewal is not automatic.
Eligibility
Students must be fully admitted before an award for financial aid or scholarship can be made. To remain eligible for Beeson tuition scholarships, students should, among other considerations, demonstrate satisfactory academic progress, defined as the completion of at least 18 credits per year (nine credits per semester) with a GPA of at least 2.5 each semester and overall GPA. (Recipients of the John Wesley Beeson Scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 each semester and overall GPA. Recipients of the and Dean’s Scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 3.2 each semester and overall GPA.) Official scholarship renewal notices are mailed to returning students late in the spring semester.

Principles of Tuition Scholarship
The following principles serve as guidelines in the administration of the tuition scholarship program:

1. Only students enrolled for full-time study may receive tuition scholarships. Part-time students do not qualify for tuition scholarships. For scholarship purposes, full-time is defined as nine (9) or more credits per semester.

2. Financial assistance consists primarily of tuition scholarships. Samford’s One Stop will help students secure loan assistance if desired. Qualification for and acceptance of a loan are not considered by the divinity school as prerequisite to the award of a scholarship.

3. Tuition scholarships are available only for students in master’s degree programs who meet the academic requirements for admission and/or enrollment.

4. The family of a student, whether the student is unmarried or married, is expected to make every reasonable effort to assist with the student’s educational expenses.

5. It is considered appropriate that a student’s home church and/or denominational body assist with the costs of preparation for ministry.

6. Tuition scholarships are granted on a semester basis.

7. Students receiving a tuition scholarship are limited to one retake of a failed course. If a student is put on academic probation for any reason, the student’s tuition scholarship will be revoked.
Sources of Financial Aid

1. **Beeson Scholarships**—Endowed funds make possible tuition scholarship awards. Full-time divinity students who meet the academic requirements for admission are considered for endowed scholarship support. Full-time students take 9–12 (M.Div.) or 9–13 (M.A.T.S.) credit hours per semester, and those receiving scholarships must attend weekly chapel services and mentor groups. Endowed scholarship awards are announced simultaneously with admission decisions. Visit beesondivinity.com/application-process for the most recent tuition and scholarship amounts. While it is the school’s intention for this scholarship amount to remain consistent for the duration of a student’s degree program, the school reserves the right to adjust the scholarship amount each academic year based on market fluctuations in endowment levels.

   a. **Dean's Scholarship**—Qualified M.Div. candidates are selected by the scholarship committee based on academic achievement and Christian character. For students admitted for the 2020-21 academic year, this award provides $5,000 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters. Dean's Scholars are required to earn a minimum 3.2 GPA each semester and cumulatively for the award to be renewed.

   b. **John Wesley Beeson Merit Scholarship**—For students admitted for the 2020-21 academic year, this award provides $2,750 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters to M.Div. or four semesters to M.A.T.S. students. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 3.0 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

   c. **Ralph Waldo Beeson Tuition Scholarship**—For students admitted for 2020-21 academic year, the award was $1,500 per semester. Beeson Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis. Students may receive this scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters for M.Div. or four semesters for M.A.T.S. Beeson Scholars are required to earn a minimum 2.5 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

2. **Memorial and Honorary Scholarships**—Several scholarships are provided through the generosity of friends of the divinity school. These normally are named in memory or in honor of individuals and/or families and are awarded by the scholarship committee to returning students each year. These endowed scholarships range from $400 to $2,000 per year, and the criteria for qualification vary. Details are available in the admission office.

   a. The Brookwood Baptist Church Scholarship
   
   b. The Day-Sanders Scholarship
   
   c. The Lillian Payne Donahoo Scholarship
   
   d. The Banks and Evelyn Farris Scholarship
   
   e. The Claude Heard Ford Scholarship
   
   f. The Fullman-Trott Scholarship
g. The Guffin Memorial Scholarship
h. The George H. Allred and Frances Allred Mason Scholarship
i. The Pierce Freeman McGuire Scholarship
j. The James K. V. Ratliff Memorial Scholarship
k. The Bryant Strain Divinity Scholarship
l. The Aletha Tente Dawson Scholarship
m. The Woodward Scholarship
n. The Antonio Maurice Smith Scholarship
o. The General James M. Hutchens Military Chaplain Scholarship
p. The Patricia Anne Outlaw Endowed Scholarship
q. The Nancy Norton Endowed Scholarship

3. **Assistantships**—A limited number of student assistantships are available. Student assistants receive a semester stipend based on performance of duties assigned by a faculty or staff member. Assistants normally are expected to work three to eight hours per week, depending on whether the teaching assistant load is full time or half time.

4. **Veteran’s Benefits**—Armed Forces veterans may be eligible for one of several types of educational assistance. Complete details are available from Samford’s One Stop at 205-726-2905 or 1-800-888-7245.

5. **Federal Stafford Loans**—These loans are available through Samford’s financial aid office (see above).

6. **External Sources**—Many denominations and agencies offer varying kinds and amounts of aid. The divinity school makes every effort to be aware of these sources. Students are expected, however, to determine their eligibility and to apply for aid as appropriate.
**Academic Policies**

Beeson Divinity School operates on a semester system. The academic year is comprised of two semesters (fall and spring), a January Term and two summer terms. Credits earned for each course are expressed as semester credits. Students must be enrolled for at least nine (9) credits to be classified as full time. No student may take more than 12 credits (M.Div.) or 13 credits (M.A.T.S.) without special permission from the associate dean.

Students graduate under the requirements stated in the *Beeson Divinity School Bulletin* at the time of entering the program, provided they do not withdraw longer than two consecutive semesters. If course requirements change while a student is pursuing the degree, the student may elect to graduate under the new requirements. Upon choosing this option, the student must meet all the new requirements.

Entering students are required to participate in an orientation session. Orientation is conducted before the beginning of classes in fall and spring semesters.

Students admitted for the fall semester may elect to begin coursework during the summer session. This option requires prior notice to the divinity records officer.

**Academic Appeals**

The procedure for registering an academic appeal is available from the office of the associate dean and in the *Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook*.

**Advanced Standing**

Students who believe they have competence in the subject of a required course may request permission in writing from the associate dean to substitute another course in that subject area, at which time they should also submit transcripts and syllabi of relevant courses. Students may be required to demonstrate competency through a written and/or oral examination. When awarded, advanced standing is without credit; the total number of academic credits required for a degree is not reduced. Example: If advanced standing is granted for Greek I (DVNT 511), the student may enter directly into Greek II (DVNT 512) but must still complete 12 hours of Greek New Testament courses.

**Class Attendance**

Attendance in all classes is both required and expected. Nevertheless, it is sometimes the case that a student will miss class due to circumstances beyond their control. When a student is absent for such a reason, that student must inform the professor as soon as possible and provide whatever documentation the professor requires to support the claim. While there may be multiple reasons for an absence (e.g. illness, medical condition, accident), mission trips and/or other ministry-related opportunities are not considered a sufficient reason to miss class. The professor is not required to allow a student to make up any work missed as a result of an absence.

**Changing Degree Programs**

Students wishing to transfer from the M.Div. degree program to the M.A.T.S. degree program, or vice versa, must submit a request in writing to the office of the associate dean. Requests must take the form of a 1–2-page essay explaining the rationale for the transfer and specifically addressing changes in one’s vocational plans. Such requests must be received by the standard deadline date for applications for admission for the following semester. The associate dean, in consultation with the admission committee, will consider each request. Applicants will be informed of a decision and any scholarship changes in a letter 3–4 weeks after the application deadline.
Cross-Registration
Divinity students may not register for courses in other academic divisions of Samford University without permission of the academic deans in both areas.

Degrees Taken in Sequence
When students enroll for the M.Div. degree after having received the M.A.T.S. degree at Beeson Divinity School, they are required to earn a minimum of 69 additional semester credits to receive the M.Div. degree. It is understood that all normal requirements for the degree must be met.

Directed Study
Directed studies allow advanced students to pursue in-depth a subject not regularly offered in the curriculum. These courses are offered at the associate dean and faculty member’s discretion. Courses are for three credits. Directed study courses may be available to M.Div. students who have completed 32 semester credits and M.A.T.S. students who have completed 20 semester credits of Beeson Divinity School course work and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA. No more than six (6) semester credits of directed study may be taken by M.Div. students, and no more than three (3) semester credits of directed study may be taken by M.A.T.S. students during a student’s divinity school career. Details are available in the associate dean’s office. Requests are due by October 15 for spring semester and March 15 for fall semester.
Grading System

Academic achievement is graded on a system of letter grades with quality points assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A represents the highest proficiency.

A- represents slightly less than the highest proficiency.

B+ represents outstanding proficiency.

B represents ability and achievement of a high but second order.

B- represents ability and achievement of a high but third order.

C+ represents a better than average performance.

C shows average ability or achievement.

C- shows slightly below average achievement.

D+ shows performance slightly below average.

D reflects performance below average throughout the course.

D- reflects performance just above failing throughout the course.

F indicates outright failure and can be changed only if it is the result of a clerical error made by the institution.

FA is given to a student who is dropped from a course because of excessive absences or who withdraws without proper permission. It carries the same penalty as F.

FX indicates failure due to values violation. See the Beeson Divinity School Student Handbook.

INC indicates an incomplete due to unavoidable absence from a final exam or an excusable failure to complete assignments. When course requirements are completed, the instructor may change the INC to any grade. An INC automatically becomes an F if not removed within one semester after the grade is given. This grade of F may not be challenged. A student on probation who earns an incomplete in any course must remove the incomplete or secure special permission from the associate dean to register for the next session.

Z (no grade) is given when a faculty member does not assign a grade based on performance. The instructor must change a Z to the earned grade.

W indicates a student withdrew before the academic penalty period but was in good standing.

WF indicates a student withdrew during the academic penalty period and was failing the course. WF carries the same penalty as F.

Pass/Fail credit only may be given for certain internship and externship courses.

Note: The numerical value assigned to a letter grade is determined by the divinity school grading scale noted in each syllabus.
**Leave of Absence**

Students who wish to interrupt their studies may request a leave of absence for one semester, with the option of requesting a second semester. Leave of absence is granted by the associate dean. Time granted for such a leave does not count against the total time allowed for completion of a degree. Upon returning, a student may be expected to resume studies under the catalog requirements current at the time. Except in cases of emergency, requests are due by Oct. 1 for spring semesters and Feb. 15 for fall semesters. Reapplication must be made for a second consecutive semester of leave.

A student on leave of absence must file a written statement of intent to resume studies by Feb. 15 for the upcoming fall semester and by Oct. 1 for the upcoming spring semester. Placement in desired classes and scholarship aid cannot be guaranteed otherwise. All grades of incomplete at the time leave is granted must be completed before studies can resume. A student who does not request and receive an approved temporary leave of absence must reapply for admission to the divinity school and meet all admission requirements of the bulletin in force at the time.

**Noncourse Load**

Faculty strongly recommend that students who work concurrently with their theological studies limit themselves to no more than 20 hours per week of church or nonchurch employment during semesters in which they are registered as full-time students (nine or more credits per semester).

**Part-Time Studies**

Part-time enrollment for master’s degree programs is defined as less than nine (9) credit hours in a fall or spring semester. Unless admitted with permission to study on a part-time basis, students must obtain permission to change from full-time enrollment to part-time enrollment. This requires submitting a request to the associate dean’s office, explaining the reason for wishing to change to part-time study.

Students studying on a part-time basis are not eligible for scholarship assistance. Additionally, students enrolled for less than nine (9) credit hours in any regular semester must pay the per-credit-hour tuition rate for courses taken. Part-time students are not required to attend the weekly chapel service (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meeting (Thursdays at 11 a.m.), but strongly encouraged to do so.

**Academic Probation/Suspension**

Students who have attempted nine (9) or more semester credits must maintain a grade point average of 2.0. Regardless of a student’s cumulative grade point average, failure to achieve a 2.0 grade point average in any semester will result in a student being placed on probation. Regardless of a student’s cumulative grade point average, failure to achieve a 2.0 grade point average in a second consecutive semester will result in that student being required to withdraw. Students whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 in two consecutive semesters will be required to withdraw even if their semester grade point average has not fallen below 2.0 in two consecutive semesters.

A student who has been required to withdraw will not be eligible to apply for readmission until one full semester has elapsed. Summer and Jan terms will not count as a semester for this purpose. During the time a student is required to withdraw, credit earned at another institution will not be accepted for credit toward requirements for graduation from Beeson Divinity School. Readmission is not automatic. Applications for readmission must be made to the Admission Office for consideration by the admission committee by Oct. 1 for spring readmission and Feb. 15 for fall readmission.
Theses
Master's degree students may choose to write a thesis as part of their elective requirements. Admission is by petition from M.Div. students who have completed at least 48 hours of credit with a minimum GPA of 3.25 and M.A.T.S. students who have completed at least 20 hours of credit with a minimum GPA of 3.25. Faculty members are not required to supervise M.Div. theses. Forms and information are available from the office of the associate dean.

Petition is made to the associate dean's office by October 1 for the succeeding spring semester and by March 1 for the succeeding fall semester. This petition will include a completed request form and a written proposal of 1,000–1,500 words stating a requested supervisor and second reader, proposed timeframe for completion, topic, thesis, methodology, and suggested bibliography. Students do not need to gain approval from a proposed supervisor and second reader before submitting a proposal; however, speaking with a potential supervisor before applying would be prudent. The proposed supervisor and second reader will have the opportunity to agree or decline to participate if the proposal receives approval.

If the petition is approved by the office of the associate dean, it will be sent to the proposed supervisor and second reader. If they agree to participate, the supervisor and second reader will sign the form and return it to the office of the associate dean. The office of the associate dean will inform the student, supervisor and second reader and forward the approval to the enrollment and admissions associate, who will enroll the student in DVTH 798 and DVTH 799.

Students may not take both courses in the same term or semester. These courses are not available during January term. The first course consists of research and writing leading to the completion of the thesis in the second semester. A grade of “IP” (In Progress) will be assigned the first semester. In the second semester, the student will complete and submit the thesis to the supervisor and second reader by Oct. 1 in the fall semester, by Feb. 15 in the spring semester, or by Aug. 1 in the summer session. Students may receive an “INC” (Incomplete) in the second semester only.

The supervisor and second reader will set an oral examination date and will confer on a final grade, which will be the same for both semesters, with the supervisor having the responsibility of entering the final grade. Students may not receive a grade for the first semester without completing the thesis. If students do not complete the thesis, the first semester grade will change from “IP” to “F.”
Transfer Credit
Beeson Divinity School accepts transfer credits earned at accredited graduate institutions prior to admission. Once accepted, students who desire a transfer credit evaluation should submit a letter requesting evaluation to the associate dean, along with official copies of transcripts to be evaluated and a syllabus for each course to be evaluated. No online or correspondence credit will be accepted, though students with such credits may be considered for advanced standing.

Beeson Divinity School will accept for transfer from another accredited theological school no more than one-third of the credits required for a master’s degree. All transfer credits must be applied before beginning work at Beeson Divinity School. The exact allowance of transfer credit is determined on an individual basis. Up to nine (9) hours of course work may be completed at another institution after the student has begun work at Beeson Divinity School.

Nonseminary graduate courses taken before enrollment in Beeson Divinity School may be considered for possible transfer credit provided the courses were taken within three years and can be viewed reasonably as contributing to the development of an M.Div. or M.A.T.S. degree program. Such transfer credit will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Normally, no more than twelve (12) semester credits for nonseminary graduate courses will be granted toward an M.Div. degree or six (6) credits toward an M.A.T.S.

For course work to be eligible for transfer, a student must have received a B- or above in the course. No less than two-thirds of the required credits of study for a degree must be completed in residence at Beeson Divinity School after the student has transferred all relevant previously earned credits. All decisions on transfer credits are made by the associate dean.

Withdrawal from Beeson Divinity School
Before withdrawing from the divinity school, a student must speak with the associate dean. The student may then complete the following process and procedures: a student desiring to withdraw from the divinity school at any time must secure an official withdrawal request from the divinity school enrollment and admissions associate. The request must be validated by the divinity school enrollment and admissions associate. The form must be delivered to the university student records office. From that point, the student follows Samford University procedures for withdrawing. If a student drops out of the university without permission, the permanent grade report will show a grade of FA in all courses for that term. FA carries the same penalty as F. The permanent record of a student who withdraws officially from the university in the schedule change period of a term will not show any courses attempted and will list no academic penalty. The permanent record of a student who withdraws officially from the university before the published last date to withdraw without academic penalty will show W in courses attempted. A student who withdraws after the published last date to withdraw automatically receives an F.
**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

**Master of Divinity Degree (M.Div.)**
The Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) is the flagship degree of Beeson Divinity School. It combines academic and practical training to prepare God-called persons for full-time ministry leadership. This degree offers a balanced curriculum of biblical studies, historical and theological studies, spiritual formation and ministry leadership development. M.Div. graduates are prepared to serve in pastoral capacities in vocational Christian ministry roles, whether in traditional parish settings or in other Christian ministry organizations.

The requirements for an M.Div. degree can be completed in three years of full-time study. The degree must be completed within six years; nevertheless in extenuating circumstances, a student may request an extension. A letter justifying such a request must be addressed to the associate dean.

A master of divinity degree requires at least 87 semester credits with a minimum of 57 credits completed at Beeson Divinity School (see “Transfer Credit,” page 31). A grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale is required. Students are required to satisfy all student accounts.

**Core Courses**
These classes, which constitute 21 hours of the 87 hours required for graduation, must be taken by students entering in a fall semester in their first two semesters and one summer, and by students entering in a spring semester in their first three semesters and one summer. The core constitutes foundational courses, all of which are prerequisites for subsequent classes.

Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g., DVHD 502) before taking the 501 course in the same subject (e.g., DVHD 501).

- DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)*
- DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3)
- DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine (3)
- DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine (3)
- DVNT 511 Introduction to New Testament Greek (3)
- DVNT 512 Greek Syntax and Translation (3)
- DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation (3)

*Required in first semester regardless of semester of entry
Biblical Studies (30 credits, including core courses)
DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3) (Fall and Spring)
DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3) (Spring)
DVNT 511 Introduction to New Testament Greek (3) (Summer 1 and Fall)
DVNT 512 Greek Syntax and Translation (3) (Summer 2 and Spring)
DVNT 616 Greek Exegesis Practicum (3) (Fall)
DVNT 731 or 732 Greek Exegesis Book Study (3) (Spring, some Fall and Jan-term offerings)
DVOT 511 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (3) (Summer 1 and Fall)
DVOT 512 Hebrew Syntax and Translation (3) (Summer 2 and Spring)
DVOT 616 Hebrew Exegesis Practicum (3) (Fall)
DVOT 731 or 732 Hebrew Exegesis Book Study (3) (Spring, some Fall and Jan-term offerings)

Historical and Doctrinal Studies (21 credits, including core courses)
DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine (3) (Fall)
DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine (3) (Spring)
DVHD 601 Reformation and Early Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Fall)
DVHD 602 Later Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Spring)
DVHD 605 Pastoral Theology (3) (Fall and Spring)
DVHD 606 Ecclesiology and Worship (3) (Fall and Spring)
DVET 701 Doctrine and Ethics (3) (Fall)

Spiritual and Pastoral Formation Studies (24 credits, including core courses)
DVCC 655 Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (0) (Summer)
DVEV 500 Evangelism and Church Planting (3) (Jan-term and Fall)
DVML 701 Supervised Ministry Practicum I (3) (Fall)
DVML 702 Supervised Ministry Practicum II (3) (Spring)
DVMS 500 Introduction to Christian Missions (3) (Jan-term and Spring)
DVPM 701 Pastoral Care and Counseling (3) (Fall and Spring)
DVPR 601 Christian Preaching (3)* (Fall)
DVPR 602 Preaching Practicum (3)** (Spring)
DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation (3) (Fall and Spring)

*Must be taken with or after DVNT 616 or DVOT 616
**Must be taken with or after DVNT 731 or 732 or DVOT 731 or 732

Electives (12 credits)

Total for M.Div. Degree (87 credits)
Master of Divinity Objectives
Graduates of the M.Div. program will be:

1. Able interpreters and expositors of the Scriptures, who use sound hermeneutical methodology to teach the Bible to others faithfully and clearly

2. Well-grounded in the doctrines of historic Christian orthodoxy, who articulate orthodox doctrinal convictions in denominational context

3. Growing in love for God and neighbor and in Christlike character, relating to others with respect and charity, engaging consistently in practices of Christian spirituality, and demonstrating Christlike character in ministry leadership roles

4. Well-equipped to share the gospel, both locally and globally, in biblically faithful and culturally appropriate ways

5. Faithful and competent ministers, who feed and lead God's people well

Ministry Practicum Requirements
As preparation for faithful and competent ministry practice, the master of divinity degree requires students to engage in ministry under supervision. These supervised ministry experiences afford students opportunities to develop vital skills and capacities for service in various contexts and cultures and to reflect biblically and theologically on the nature of gospel ministry. Two such practicums are required for the M.Div. degree: Supervised Ministry Practicum and Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum.

Supervised Ministry Practicum (SMP)
The SMP requires that a student engage in the practice of ministry, under supervision, for no fewer than 12 hours per week for 35 consecutive weeks, beginning in early September and concluding in early May. The SMP may be carried out in a variety of ministry settings, subject to the approval of the director of contextual learning. Most students serve in a local congregation but may do so in other settings, such as Christian parachurch organizations, chaplaincy roles or campus ministry sites. Students preparing for ministry or missionary service in other cultures may desire an intensive experience of ministry to or among international populations. The Global Center is prepared to assist students in shaping an SMP with such a focus. Supervision must be provided by a ministry mentor (normally on-site), subject to the approval of the director of contextual learning. All mentors must meet the divinity school’s qualifications and receive training for their role. Students submit proposals for SMP sites and mentors to the director of contextual learning for review and approval by July 1 of the year in which they intend to begin the SMP.

For more information regarding the SMP, contact the contextual learning office at 205-726-2170.
Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum [CCMP]

This curricular requirement arises from the recognition that cross-cultural ministry is no longer exceptional but normative for Christian ministers. Communities across the United States are increasingly multicultural and opportunities for mission involvement internationally are expanding rapidly. Competent ministry leaders in the 21st century must be prepared to cross cultural boundaries in the course of (and for the sake of) sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is an objective of this requirement that such preparation might be an introduction for some and be advanced for others.

The practicum can be satisfied in an abbreviated but intensified immersion into the practice of faith and ministry in a cultural context different from the student’s own. The Global Center has partnered with ministries in various parts of the United States and internationally to provide optimal experiences for students. Students will choose from these selected options based on the ministry, location, budget and timeframes available to visit the ministry. Students must fulfill the CCMP in a summer term during the course of their M.Div. studies. These preapproved CCMP destinations and ministries have been chosen to meet the following criteria that have previously existed for the course:

1. Location: Well outside the Birmingham metropolitan area
2. Duration: Fourteen (14) consecutive days on location
3. Residence: In the community where the ministry is taking place
4. Substance: Ministering in a different cultural setting
5. Supervision: On-site mentor

While the ministries are preapproved, ministry partners will vary regarding the times students are able to join them, how many students they can host effectively, cost to join them, etc. After the director of the Global Center gives approval for a student to join a CCMP destination, final approval will need to be given by the ministry partner.

To receive credit for a CCMP, students should register for DVCC 655 by submitting the following to the Global Center:

1. Samford University Assumption of Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement
2. Global Center Registration Form for DVCC 655
3. Travel-Grant Application (if seeking financial assistance for the trip)
4. Proof of insurance for medical evacuation from the country of their visit to the United States is required for all international CCMP options. This can be purchased through Samford. Contact the Global Center for more information.

Students may enroll for the practicum during their first semester of study. For more information, contact the Global Center at global@samford.edu, 205-726-2170 or 205-726-2274 (fax).
Certificate of Anglican Studies
Master of Divinity students who intend to pursue ordination in an Anglican communion may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of Anglican studies. Students pursuing the certificate must:

- Complete three elective courses: Anglican History and Doctrine
  Sacramental Theology
  Anglican Liturgics
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701-702) in an Anglican ministry context
- Attend regularly (at least nine times per semester) morning prayer services offered at Beeson or at a local Anglican congregation
- Attend regularly (at least nine times per semester) evensong services (and the training beforehand) offered at Beeson or at a local Anglican congregation
- Demonstrate mastery of the core competencies for ministry leadership, based on evaluations conducted by professors and mentors in the Anglican Institute

In addition to these requirements, students are also encouraged to participate fully in other Anglican Institute program opportunities, such as monthly Anglican lunches, monthly Anglican theology nights, and lectures and sermons by visiting Anglican scholars and dignitaries.

Certificate of Missions
Students who wish to give special emphasis to Christian missions in their Master of Divinity studies may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of missions. Students pursuing the certificate must:

- Complete two elective courses: Contemporary Issues and Strategies in Missions
  World Religions
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701-702) in a role that requires ministering cross-culturally
- Complete the Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (DVCC 655) over a minimum duration of six (6) weeks
- Attend regularly (at least five times per semester) the Global Voices program offered at Beeson
- Attend regularly (at least six times per semester) the morning prayer service for missions offered at Beeson

In addition to these requirements, students are also encouraged to attend other Global Center and missions-related programs and fellowships throughout the year.

For more information, please contact Dr. David Parks at 205-726-2274.
Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.)
The Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.) is an academic M.A. degree, designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the content of the Christian faith. The M.A.T.S. program is ideally suited for persons wishing to gain a foundational understanding of the core theological disciplines for personal enrichment and growth, for the enhancement of their ministries in nonordained capacities and/or as an introductory graduate theological degree. This degree is also offered in tandem with several other graduate degrees in other schools of the university (see Joint-Degree Programs on pp. 38-39). The M.A.T.S. degree does not provide the breadth and depth of preparation expected or required by most churches and denominations for pastoral ministry roles or for ordination.

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

Students in the M.A.T.S. program may not take DVPM courses, DVML courses or DVHD 605 without permission of the associate dean. Students may take language courses as electives but should be advised that the faculty has set the biblical languages curriculum in a building, sequential manner. Thus, if students take fewer than four courses in a language, they may not gain the facility they desire in that language.

The requirements for the M.A.T.S. degree can be completed in two years of full-time study. The program requires at least 37 credit hours, with a minimum of 24 credit hours being completed at Beeson Divinity School. A grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale is required. Students must satisfy all student accounts.
Core Courses
These courses constitute 25 hours of the 37 hours required for graduation. Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g. DVHD 502) prior to taking the 501 course in the same subject (e.g. DVHD 501).

DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)
DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3) (Spring)
DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine (3) (Fall)
DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine (3) (Spring)
DVHD 601 Reformation and Early Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Fall)
DVHD 602 Later Modern History and Doctrine (3) (Spring)
DVOT 721–722 Exposition Book study (3) (Fall or Spring)
DVNT 721–722 Exposition Book study (3) (Fall or Spring)
DVTH 701 Faith and Vocation (1)** (Spring)

*Must be taken in the first semester
**Must be taken in the semester in which the student expects to graduate

Electives (12 credits)

Total for M.A.T.S. Degree (37 Credits)

Master of Arts in Theological Studies Objectives
1. Demonstrate the ability to use appropriate principles of interpretation in the analysis of English Bible texts.

2. Demonstrate the ability to use relevant biblical, historical, and theological data and methodology to articulate key evangelical doctrines in the context of one's denominational tradition.

3. Demonstrate the ability to use relevant biblical, historical, and theological data and methodology to articulate an understanding of vocation that meaningfully informs one's life and work in the world.

Joint-Degree Programs
Beeson Divinity School offers several joint-degree programs in conjunction with other schools of the university. These programs allow students to earn two degrees concurrently with fewer credit requirements than needed to earn the degrees separately. The joint-degree programs are:

Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Juris Doctor (M.A.T.S./J.D.)
Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Master of Social Work (M.A.T.S./M.S.W.)
Master of Divinity/Juris Doctor (M.Div./J.D.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration (M.Div./M.B.A.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Music (M.Div./M.M.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Science in Education (M.Div./M.S.E.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work (M.Div./M.S.W.)
Joint-degree programs require separate applications for admission to each of the respective schools. Students must gain admission to the program in each school.

Joint-degree students are encouraged to plan their course work well in advance to minimize scheduling conflicts. To receive divinity scholarship assistance, joint-degree students must take a minimum of nine (9) credit hours of divinity courses per semester. For more information, please contact the admissions office at 205-726-2066.

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

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

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

Beeson Divinity School offers the D.Min. degree with an exclusive focus on Christian preaching. The program consists of seminars on campus, field-based assignments and a ministry research project and report.

**D.Min. Degree Objectives**

Graduates of the D.Min. in Christian preaching will:

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

**Academic Requirements for the Degree**

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

The sequence of study is as follows:

**First year:**
- Two one-week seminars, three (3) credits each
- Two semesters of field-based research, three (3) credits each

**Second year:**
- Two one-week seminars, three (3) credits each
- Two semesters of field-based research, three (3) credits each

**Third year:**
- One one-week ministry project proposal writing seminar, three (3) credits each
- Three semesters of ministry research project implementation and report, three (3) credits each
Due to the need to assess curriculum offerings regularly, every prerequisite cannot be listed in this publication. Thus, students should consult the divinity school website and the enrollment associate’s instructions for registration for current information on prerequisites. Unless stated otherwise on the website or in registration materials, sequential courses must be taken in sequence (e.g., DVHD 501 before DVHD 502); DVOT and DVNT courses have DVBF 502 and/or 503 as prerequisites; DVHD 501 and 502 are prerequisites for all DVHD courses numbered above 502; courses numbered above the required course in the relevant discipline have the required course as a prerequisite (e.g., DVEV 500 for all other DVEV courses); and the 21-hour core is required for DVPR 601 and DVHD 601. Exceptions to prerequisites are rarely granted for reasons other than students having conflicts in their final semester. Students with advanced backgrounds should petition for advanced standing (see page 26).

Biblical Foundations
DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology
This course is required of all students in their first semester. This course studies the historical, literary and canonical contexts of the Old Testament and its individual books. Special attention is given to the Old Testament’s theological unity, role in biblical theology and significance for Christian thought and practice. Three credits.

DVBF 503 New Testament Theology
This course studies the historical, literary and canonical contexts of the New Testament and its individual books. Special attention is given to the New Testament’s theological unity, role in biblical theology and significance for Christian thought and practice. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVBF 502. Three credits.

DVBF 504 Biblical Theology
This course studies theological interpretation of the Old and New Testaments. Attention is given to major theological themes, issues of unity and diversity and specific theological problems raised by the inclusion of both Testaments in a single Christian Bible. Prerequisites: DVBF 502 and 503. Three credits.

DVBF 521 Special Topics in Biblical Foundations
This course is a special study in a selected aspect of biblical foundations not otherwise covered in the Biblical Foundations curriculum. Three credits.

Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum
DVCC 655 Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum
This practicum introduces students to issues related to cross-cultural ministry through first-hand experience in a cross-cultural ministry setting. Course offered in summer only.
ETHICS

DVET 701 *Doctrine and Ethics*
This course examines major elements of theology and ethics with special attention given to the doctrines of Revelation, Trinity, Creation, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology and Eschatology. Special attention also is given to the application of a model of Christian ethics to specific ethical problems. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 602. Three credits.

DVET 703 *The Ethics of Personhood*
This course explores several of the answers given by thoughtful people to the question, “Who are we?” and considers the consequence of various answers. These are studied in light of two specific biblical answers, “We are sinners,” and “We are redeemed.” *Prerequisite* or *corequisite*: DVET 701. Three credits.

DVET 711 *Racial Reconciliation*
This course is designed to develop a moral sensitivity to the history of race relations in the South, while causing students to think about racism not only as sociological and historical but as a distorted theology that was/is translated into action. Students develop a biblical theology of racial reconciliation and consider ways the church can work to promote racial reconciliation today. Three credits.

DVET 721 *Special Topics in Ethics*
This course is a special study in a selected aspect of ethics not otherwise covered in ethics curriculum. *Prerequisite* or *corequisite*: DVET 701. Three credits.

EVANGELISM

DVEV 500 *Evangelism and Church Planting*
This course is an introduction to evangelism coupled with an introduction to the history and theology of the Church Planting Movement. The study of evangelism moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of the current philosophical and sociological scene in which the evangelistic mission must be implemented. Attention is given to the history and principles of important evangelistic movements and their relevance for today as well as contemporary trends and methodologies in effective evangelism through the globalization of the gospel. The study of church growth surveys the basic principles of church planting in the local church. Three credits.

DVEV 521 *Special Topics in Evangelism*
This course is a special study in a selected aspect of evangelism not otherwise covered in evangelism curriculum. *Prerequisite*: DVEV 500. Three credits.
HISTORY AND DOCTRINE

DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine
This course examines major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the end of the first century to the eighth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of Scripture and its interpretation, the Trinity and Christology. Three credits.

DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine
This course examines the major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the eighth century to the sixteenth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of the Church and the Sacraments. Prerequisite: C-or above in DVHD 501. Three credits.

DVHD 601 Reformation and Early Modern History and Doctrine
This course examines the major elements of the history and doctrine of the church from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century. Special attention is given to the doctrine of Justification and the Work of the Holy Spirit. Prerequisites: C-or above in DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 602 Later Modern History and Doctrine
This course examines major elements of twentieth-century history and doctrine, including the expansion of Christianity, liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, neo-evangelism and the charismatic movement. Special attention is given to the doctrines of Scripture, Christology, salvation, eschatology, anthropology and selected major confessions. Prerequisites: C-or above in DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 605 Pastoral Theology
This course examines the theology and practice of significant pastoral issues such as the call of God, the mission of the church, the priesthood of all believers, the pastor’s self-understanding, the ministry of the Word, worship, sacraments, preaching, music, church growth, leadership and the formation and growth of the congregation. Prerequisite: DVHD 502, DVSF 501. Three credits.

DVHD 606 Ecclesiology and Worship
This course is a practical study of Christian worship based on the doctrine of the church. It traces the biblical and historical patterns and principles of significant aspects of worship as they fit within the theology and polity of the church in general and in the various traditions within the church specifically to promote more effective worship practices in the church. Prerequisite: DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 651 Introduction to Latin
This course covers basic elements of Latin grammar and gives students a reading knowledge of simple religious texts by the end of the semester. Three credits.

DVHD 652 Latin Syntax and Translation
This course continues study from DVHD 651, Introduction to Latin, including reading original theological texts and other texts. Prerequisite: DVHD 651 or equivalent. Three credits.
DVHD 702 *Readings in Augustine*
This course covers some of the major works of the greatest father of the Western church. Students read Augustine’s *Confessions*, *The City of God* and *The Trinity* and look closely at Augustine’s life, theology and spirituality. Students prepare one term paper on some aspect of Augustine’s thought. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 501. Three credits.

DVHD 703 *Calvin and the Reformed Tradition*
This course studies the life and theology of John Calvin. Attention focuses on Calvin’s role in the development of Reformed Protestantism as well as his distinctive contribution to Reformation theology. Readings include selections from Calvin’s commentaries, letters, polemical and theological treatises and *Institutes*. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVHD 705 *History of Biblical Interpretation*
This course covers the history of interpretation of Scripture from New Testament times to the present. Special attention is given to doctrinal issues, and cases are illustrated from specific biblical texts. *Prerequisites:* DVHD 502; DVBF 502 and 503. Three credits.

DVHD 708 *Doctrine of the Trinity*
This course looks at the way the understanding of the Trinity has evolved during the history of the church and considers different approaches that can be, have been and currently are taken toward the permanent issues that surface in Trinitarian interpretation. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 713 *Doctrine of God*
This course is an intensive investigation of biblical teachings and philosophical arguments concerning God. Special attention is given to the Trinitarian understanding of God. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 715 *Christology*
This course is a biblical and historical study of the person of Christ with special emphasis on patristic and contemporary understandings of Christ. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVHD 721–722 *Special Topics in History and Doctrine*
These courses cover special studies in a selected aspect of history and doctrine. *Prerequisite:* DVHD 502. Three credits.

**Ministry Leadership Development**

**DVML 701 Supervised Ministry Practicum 1**
This course is designed to enhance the personal and pastoral formation of students preparing for Christian ministry leadership via field-based learning. Students engage in the practice of ministry under the counsel and guidance of a ministry mentor, learning and growing from their experiences through the discipline of theological reflection. Students in this course must engage in supervised ministry for no fewer than 12 hours per week, September 1 through December 31. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of field education.
Students also meet bi-weekly in a small group setting for instruction in ministry-related matters. Prerequisite: DVHD 605. Three credits.

**DVML 702 Supervised Ministry Practicum 2**
This course is designed to enhance the personal and pastoral formation of students preparing for Christian ministry leadership via field-based learning. Students engage in the practice of ministry under the counsel and guidance of a ministry mentor, learning and growing from their experiences through the discipline of theological reflection. Students must engage in supervised ministry for no fewer than 12 hours per week, January 1 through April 30. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of field education. Students also meet bi-weekly in a classroom setting for instruction in ministry-related matters. Prerequisite: DVML 701. Three credits.

**DVML 551, 651 Clinical Pastoral Education I and II**
These courses are basic half-units (200 hours each) of Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] at an ACPE-accredited institution. Students work as chaplains/ministers to patients, families and/or hospital staff (when conducted in a medical-care setting). Emphasis is on clinical work, personal and theological reflection, peer and supervisor feedback and application of experience to ministry. Students must apply for admission to an accredited CPE program and gain acceptance into said program before registering for this course. For more information on program fees, see “Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education” under Financial Information. One credit (DVML 551); Two credits (DVML 651).

**DVML 751 Clinical Pastoral Education**
This course is one unit (400 hours) of Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] at an ACPE-accredited institution. Students work as chaplains/ministers to patients, families and/or hospital staff (when conducted in a medical-care setting). Emphasis is on clinical work, personal and theological reflection, peer and supervisor feedback and application of experience to ministry. Students must apply for admission to an accredited CPE program and gain acceptance into said program before registering for this course. For more information on program fees, see “Fees for Clinical Pastoral Education” under Financial Information. Three credits.

**Missions**

**DVMS 500 Introduction to Christian Missions**
This course serves as a general introduction to Christian missions. It seeks to integrate biblical theology, missions history, current global issues, cross-cultural competency and missions strategy. It is designed to equip current and future local pastors with the tools for leading churches on mission locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. It will also acquaint students with various strategies for missions and church planting as well as challenge students with God’s call to missions. Three credits.

**DVMS 503 Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Missions**
This course will focus on biblical and theological perspectives of mission and missions with two primary objectives: to explore mission and missions in the Old and New Testaments and to explore the theology of missions through the study of important theologians and issues. This course will also introduce the history of missions, the globalization of Christianity, cross-cultural issues, the call to missions and the mobilization of the local church. Three credits.
DVMS 504 *Historical Perspectives on Missions*
This course will focus on the historical perspectives on missions with two primary objectives: to explore a survey of the history of the major epochs of Christian missions and to explore the theological and cultural issues the church has faced in its worldwide expansion. This course will also introduce the Bible and mission, the globalization of Christianity, cross-cultural issues, the missionary life and issues and the mobilization of the local church. Three credits.

DVMS 505 *Perspectives on Global Christianities*
This course focuses on Christianity as a worldwide movement by looking at the development and present state of missions and the church in the major regions of the world (Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe). The course also introduces the Bible and missions, short-term missions, cross-cultural communication, the call to missions and mobilizing the local church. Three credits.

DVMS 506 *Contemporary Missions: Issues and Strategies*
This course provides an in-depth survey of contemporary missions through the prism of issues and strategies. The course also introduces the Bible and missions, short-term missions, cross-cultural communication, the call to missions and mobilizing the local church. Three credits.

DVMS 651 *Introduction to Islam*
This course surveys key elements in the life of Islam viewed from a Christian perspective with the aim of preparing Christians for ministry to Muslims. Special attention is given to the role of Muhammad, the Quran, diversity within Islam and Islamic values, thought, social structure and theology. Implications for cross-cultural communication are analyzed along with questions of contextualization. Three credits.

**New Testament**

DVNT 511 *Introduction to New Testament Greek*
This course studies the language in which the New Testament was written with special attention to the basic forms of nouns and adjectives, the inflection of simple indicative verbs and the rudiments of Greek syntax. Three credits.

DVNT 512 *Greek Syntax and Translation*
This course continues study of Greek grammar and syntax, translation of selected passages from the Greek New Testament and an introduction to exegetical method. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 511 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVNT 616 *Greek Exegesis Practicum*
This course is a comprehensive study of intermediate Greek grammar and exegetical method based on the Greek text of Ephesians or Colossians. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 512 or equivalent. Three credits.

DVNT 721–722 *Special Topics in New Testament*
These courses are special studies in a selected aspect of New Testament studies not otherwise covered in New Testament curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 503. Three credits.
DVNT 731–732 *Special Topics in New Testament Exegesis*
These courses consist of exegetical study of a selected book or books based on the Greek text. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 616. Three credits.

**Old Testament**

**DVOT 511 *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew***
This course studies the essentials of biblical Hebrew grammar, including phonology, morphology and vocabulary. *Prerequisite:* DVNT 512. Three credits.

**DVOT 512 *Hebrew Syntax and Translation***
This course continues study of biblical Hebrew grammar and syntax and translation of selected passages from the Hebrew Bible. *Prerequisite:* C-or above in DVOT 511 or equivalent. Three credits.

**DVOT 521–522 *Special Topics in Old Testament Exposition***
These courses are special advanced studies in a selected aspect of Old Testament exposition not otherwise covered in Old Testament curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 502. Three credits.

**DVOT 602 *Advanced Old Testament Theology***

**DVOT 607 *Women and the Bible***
This course is a through-the-Bible detailed study of God’s design for women in creation, culture and Christianity. The substance of the course is biblical exposition and the discussion of interpretations. The goal of the exposition and discussion is the synthesis of biblical material. The relevance of the synthesis is the spiritual development of the household of faith, both women and men. Three credits.

**DVOT 616 *Hebrew Exegesis Practicum***
This course studies the method and research tools of Hebrew exegesis with application to a selected book or books in the Old Testament. *Prerequisite:* C-or above in DVOT 512 or equivalent. Three credits.

**DVOT 705 *Biblical Archaeology***
This course surveys archaeology as it pertains to the Old Testament in general and Israel specifically. It includes a study of major findings of archaeology, both written texts and cultural remains; a correlation of these findings with biblical records; and an assessment of the value of archaeology in the study and exposition of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 502. Three credits.

**DVOT 721–722 *Special Topics in Old Testament***
This course is a special study in a selected aspect of Old Testament studies not otherwise covered in Old Testament curriculum. *Prerequisite:* DVBF 502. Three credits.
DVOT 731–732 Special Topics in Old Testament Exegesis
These courses consist of exegetical study of a selected book or books based on the Hebrew text. Prerequisite: DVOT 616. Three credits.

Pastoral Ministry
DVPM 701 Pastoral Care and Counseling
This course is a detailed study of the history, theology and skills of pastoral counseling. A major emphasis of the course is the development of a biblical counseling model. Skill development focuses on listening, diagnosis, development of strategies, application of biblical principles and referral. Special topics include premarital, family, career, crisis, grief and substance-use counseling. Three credits.

DVPM 702 Marriage and Family Counseling
This course studies principles and methods of dealing with specific marriage and family problems with an emphasis on premarital counseling. Prerequisite: DVPM 701. Three credits.

DVPM 703 Crisis, Trauma, and Grief Counseling
This course explores in-depth the psychological and systemic dynamics associated with experiences of crisis, trauma and grief. Emphasis is placed on the role of the minister in responding to crisis situations, in providing pastoral guidance in times of bereavement and loss, in providing safety in the church for individuals to process past experiences of abuse and trauma and in serving as a role model for the community as a messenger of truth and grace. This course is oriented toward the practical rather than the theoretical and toward the victim rather than the victimizer. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVPM 701. Three credits.

DVPM 721 Special Topics in Pastoral Ministry
This course is a detailed study of one aspect of the practice of pastoral ministry in the context of the local church. Special features include field investigation, lectures and seminars by experienced practitioners in the area of ministry and hands-on instruction where possible. Prerequisite or corequisite: DVPM 701. Three credits.

Preaching
DVPR 601 Christian Preaching
This course is a detailed study of the principles of sermon preparation and delivery. Topics include types of sermons and the relationship of exegesis, hermeneutics and theology to the task of preaching. Special attention is given to the development of skill in preparation of expository sermons from the biblical text. The course also introduces principles of sermon delivery. Pre- or corequisites: DVNT 616 and DVHD 502. Three credits.

DVPR 602 Preaching Practicum
This course studies sermon delivery by means of experience in a laboratory setting. The course includes study of the principles of speech communication as well as the delivery of sermons for self-study and evaluation. Audio and video recordings of sermons are utilized. Prerequisite: DVPR 601 and DVHD 601. Three credits.

DVPR 607 Expository Preaching
This course gives students experience in applying exegetical and homiletic principles to the
preparation of expository sermons. Sermons by recognized expository preachers as well as sermons by members of the class are evaluated. The aim is to make biblical exposition relevant to contemporary needs with specific attention given to preaching through individual books of the Bible. *Prerequisite: DVPR 602. Three credits.*

**DVPR 609 Doctrinal Preaching**
This course examines the theology, history and practice of doctrinal preaching. Attention is given to the biblical/theological basis for doctrinal preaching, the historical development of doctrinal preaching and hermeneutical issues related to the art of doctrinal preaching. The essential and relevant nature of doctrinal preaching for the contemporary church is emphasized. *Prerequisite: DVPR 601. Three credits.*

**DVPR 721 Special Topics in Preaching**
This course is a special study in a selected aspect of preaching not otherwise covered in the preaching curriculum. *Prerequisite: DVPR 601. Three credits.*

**Spiritual Formation**

**DVSF 501 Spiritual Formation**
This course is required of M.Div. students in the first 24 hours of the program. It is designed to help students reflect on the practice and experience of biblical spirituality. Students will engage with multiple traditions from an evangelical perspective to learn more about their own tradition and glean from others. Three credits.

**DVSF 601 Early Christian Spirituality**
This course focuses on key writers, such as Irenaeus, Athanasius, Gregory of Nyssa and Evagrius of Pontus to illuminate key themes from the Patristic period, such as the nature of sin and the passions, the image of God in human salvation and the personal nature of theology grounded in prayer. The intent is to examine differences and similarities between this period and now and to make judgments concerning the usefulness of early Christian spirituality today. Three credits.

**DVSF 621–622 Special Topics in Spiritual Formation**
These courses are special studies in a selected aspect of spiritual formation not otherwise covered in the Spiritual Formation curriculum. *Prerequisite: DVSF 501. Three credits.*

**Directed Study**

**DVTH 701 Faith and Vocation**
This course introduces students not pursuing careers in full-time paid ministry to the process of integrating theological studies and vocational objectives. This course must be taken in the semester in which the student expects to graduate. One credit. M.A.T.S. students only.

**DVTH 741 Directed Study**
This course is designed by the advanced student in consultation with the instructor to pursue a topic of special interest not otherwise covered in the divinity curriculum. See page 27 for a complete description and procedures for a directed study course. Three credits.

**DVTH 798, 799 Master’s Thesis**
For a description and procedures, see page 26 in the “Academic Policies” section. Three credits each course.

**Doctor of Ministry**

**DVDM 801 Preaching and the Pastoral Identity**
This seminar explores the matter of pastoral identity as revealed in the Scriptures, given expression in the history of the Church and embodied uniquely by students and the implications for how one regards and practices the ministry of preaching and teaching. Three credits.

**DVDM 805 Ministry Context Studies I**
This course addresses the implications of pastoral identity for the preaching and teaching of the Bible in the student’s ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry at the intersection of preaching and pastoral identity, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 801. Three credits.

**DVDM 811 Preaching the Whole Counsel of God**
This seminar examines the major theological themes that span the Old and New Testaments and the hermeneutical principles that undergird faithful and responsible exposition of biblical texts in one’s preaching ministry. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 805. Three credits.

**DVDM 815 Ministry Context Studies II**
This course enhances students’ ability to choose and utilize a biblical theology appropriate for the preaching and teaching of the Bible in a student’s ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry that involves the application of biblical theology to their preaching ministry, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 811. Three credits.

**DVDM 821 Preaching and Culture**
This seminar engages the dynamic tension between the Word of God and culture, the nature and mission of the church in relation to culture(s) and the challenge of proclaiming biblical truth in changing cultural contexts. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 815. Three credits.

**DVDM 825 Ministry Context Studies III**
This course enhances students’ ability to develop a theological vision and biblical hermeneutic that is cross-cultural, culturally sensitive and effective for preaching in a student’s ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry that relates to the interchange between preaching and culture, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 821. Three credits.

**DVDM 831 Moving from Text to Sermon**
This seminar introduces students to homiletical principles and practices for text-driven preaching and assists them in developing processes by which to improve their preaching and teaching ministries. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 825. Three credits.
DVDM 835 *Ministry Context Studies IV*
This course enhances students’ ability to prepare and deliver text-driven sermons in a student’s ministry context. Students identify a topic of significance to the practice of ministry in the planning, development and delivery of sermons, research the topic and present findings and implications for practice. Students also submit a sermon(s) for evaluation and feedback. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 831. Three credits.

DVDM 841, 842, 843, 844 *Selected Topics I, II, III, and IV*
These elective, one-week seminars in selected topics may take the form of a directed study designed by the advanced student in consultation with the professor to pursue independently a topic of special interest not otherwise covered in the curriculum. Some courses offered under this heading include Issues in Marriage and Family Ministry, Leading Your Church in Worship, Pastoral Evangelism and Doctrinal Preaching. Three credits each.

DVDM 860 *Project Proposal Writing Seminar*
This seminar is designed to provide guidance for students as they write proposals for their ministry research project. *Prerequisite:* DVDM 835. Three credits.

DVDM 871, 872, 873 *Ministry Research Project I, II, and III*
The implementation of a ministry research project in the student’s place of ministry includes a formal written report that describes and evaluates the ministry initiative followed by an oral examination on the project and its report. Students are given three semesters to complete the project and report. A continuation fee is charged for subsequent semesters. Three credits each.
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Directions to Campus
From I-65, take Exit 255 and turn east on Lakeshore Drive. Travel approximately 1.5 miles and turn left at the traffic light at the main entrance of Samford University. Turn left onto Montague Drive at the first stop sign. Divinity Hall is on the right with a large dome. The Hodges Chapel entrance faces west.
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