2021-22 Catalog

Quality Theological Education for a Lifetime of Ministry

CONTENTS

Dean's Message ................................................. 1
Mission Statement .............................................. 2
Confession of Faith ............................................. 3
Introduction ..................................................... 4
Faculty ............................................................ 9
Staff ............................................................... 13
Admission ........................................................ 17
Financial Information ....................................... 22
Academic Policies ............................................. 27
Academic Programs .......................................... 34
Curriculum ....................................................... 43
Index .............................................................. 54
Map ................................................................. 55
Dean’s Message

It is an honor and delight for me to serve as only the second dean of Beeson Divinity School. In this our 34th 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 to prepare God-called persons to serve as ministers in the church of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this by providing face-to-face, classical graduate theological education, worshipping the triune God and encouraging the practices of Christian spirituality in covenanted community.

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.
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, expresses our common commitment to the historic faith of the church.

**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 Jan. 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 reinstituted. This development, coupled with the existing diversity of degree programs, resulted in Howard College's official elevation to university status on Nov. 9, 1965. In the same year, the new university was named for Frank Park Samford, 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 Beeson School of Education, School of Health Professions, Cumberland School of Law, Moffett & Sanders 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 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 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 (now M.A.T.S.) 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 Douglas A. Sweeney, who leads a full-time faculty of 17, five part-time adjunct faculty and a staff of 15.
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 [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 *Beeson 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
Samford University, in partnership with MedHelp, is pleased to provide healthcare services to our campus community of students and employees. In partnership with MedHelp, Samford’s on-campus Health Center is staffed by a physician and a nurse practitioner during regular operating hours. Students and employees also have access to MedHelp’s five locations in Birmingham after hours and on weekends. The Health Center accepts walk-ins throughout the day; appointments are also available. To make an appointment, call 205-726-2835.

Student Services
Samford University is located in picturesque Shades Valley, six miles from the heart of Birmingham, one of Alabama’s largest cities 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 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 at the divinity school.

For additional information about placement services, go to beesondivinity.com/placement or call 205-726-2374.
The Global Center

Beeson Divinity School’s Global Center exists to encourage, connect and equip Samford University’s campus and the church for cross-cultural and global mission. The Global Center hosts regular lecture events, prayer meetings and fellowship events for students, faculty and staff to build cross-cultural awareness and inform visitors about major issues in world missions and global Christianity.

The Global Center’s exhibit area highlights major figures in cross-cultural Christian witness throughout history, as well as major issues of global concern for 21st century cross-cultural workers. The resource room hosts a small library of books and periodicals on global missions and more that is available for student use. Additionally, the space includes a hospitality station with coffee and tea to welcome students and visitors, and features multiple seating areas for study, fellowship or events.

The Global Center facilitates the short-term cross-cultural ministry practicum for M.Div. students, as well as the Missions Certificate, an emphasis program with special electives and requirements designed to equip and mobilize students with a particular call to cross-cultural ministry. For more information, visit beesondivinity.com/global-center.
Faculty

Carl L. Beckwith
Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., St. Olaf College
M.Phil., Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
M.A., Yale University
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Gerald L. Bray
Research Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., McGill University
M.Litt., D.Litt., University of Paris–Sorbonne

Charles T. Carter
James H. Chapman Fellow of Pastoral Ministry
Pastoral Leadership
A.B., Samford University
B.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
D.D., (Hon.), Samford University

D. Mark DeVine
Associate Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.S., Clemson University
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Thomas L. Fuller
Associate Dean
Pastoral Leadership
B.A., Samford University
M.Div., D.Min., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Ph.D., University of Alabama
FACULTY

Timothy F. George
Research Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
A.B., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
M.Div., Harvard Divinity School
Th.D., Harvard University

Mark S. Gignilliat
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
B.A., Bob Jones University
M.Div., Reformed Theological Seminary
Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, Scotland

Paul R. House
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
B.A., Southwest Baptist University
M.A., University of Missouri–Columbia
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Stefana Dan Laing
Assistant Professor of Divinity
Theological Librarian
History and Doctrine, Spiritual Formation
B.A., Macquarie University
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Piotr J. Malysz
Associate Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań Poland
M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Th.D., Harvard University
FACULTY

Kenneth A. Mathews
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
B.A., Dallas Baptist University
Th.M., Dallas Theological Seminary
M.A., Ph.D., University of Michigan

Osvaldo Padilla
Professor of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., Moody Bible Institute
M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Ph.D., University of Aberdeen

David Parks
Director of the Global Center and Contextual Learning
Christian Missions
B.A., Samford University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School
Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

M. Sydney Park
Associate Professor of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., University of Chicago
M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary
Th.M., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Ph.D., University of Aberdeen

Michael Pasquarello III
Methodist Chair of Divinity, Director of The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute and Doctor of Ministry program
History and Doctrine, Christian Preaching, Wesleyan Studies
B.A., Master’s College
M.Div., Duke Divinity School
M.A.R.S., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
FACULTY

Allen P. Ross
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
B.A., Bob Jones University
Th.M., Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary
Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Robert Smith, Jr.
Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity
Christian Preaching
A.S., God's Bible College
B.S., Cincinnati Bible College
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Doctor of Sacred Theology (Hon.), Temple Community Bible College

Ronald Sterling
Director of Student Services
B.S., Southern University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School
D.Min., Beeson Divinity School

Douglas A. Sweeney
Dean, Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., Wheaton College
M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
M.A., Vanderbilt University
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

Frank S. Thielman
Presbyterian Chair of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., Wheaton College
B.A., M.A., University of Cambridge
Ph.D., Duke University
FACULTY

Douglas D. Webster
Professor of Divinity
Pastoral Theology, Christian Preaching
B.A., M.A., Wheaton College
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto School of Theology

STAFF

Gary Fenton
Advancement Officer

Sharon Head
Enrollment and Admissions Associate

Stephen Johnson
Associate Director of Thriving Pastors Initiative and Placement Coordinator
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
Manager of Marketing and Communication and
Director of Center for Women in Ministry
James C. Pounds Jr.
Director of Operations

Anna Russell
Events Coordinator

Rob Willis
Media and Technology Manager

Joy Wint
Program Assistant
Preaching Institute, Doctor of Ministry program
and Student Services

Kyle Young
Recruitment Coordinator and
Alumni Relations Officer
Adjunct and Visiting Faculty

**Gordon C. Bals**  
B.S., U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; M.A., Colorado Christian University; Ed.D., University of Sarasota; Executive Director of Daymark Pastoral Counseling

**Tyshawn Gardner**  
B.S., Stillman College; M.Div., Beeson Divinity School; Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Pastor, Plum Grove Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Vice President for Student Affairs, Stillman College

**John D. Laing**  
B.S., University of North Carolina (Charlotte); M.Div., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Senior Command Chaplain, Texas Military Department

**J.D. Payne**  
B.A., University of Kentucky; M.Div., Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Professor, Christian Ministry, School of the Arts, Samford University

**Stephen Randy Todd**  
B.A., Furman University; M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; Professor and Chair of Classics, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University
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. Admission is competitive.

4. **Commitment to Full-time Studies**—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 Oct. 1. The admission deadline for the fall semester is March 1; the scholarship deadline is Feb. 15. 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:

• Completed online application

• Personal Faith and Vocation Essay*

• Academic Recommendation (to be completed by a college- or graduate-level instructor)

• Character Recommendation (to be completed by a pastor, church member, campus minister, mentor or employer who can speak to your Christian character and calling to ministry; cannot be a family member)

• Church Endorsement (to be completed by your senior pastor or church elder; cannot be a family member)

• Admission Interview: Each applicant is responsible for scheduling an interview prior to the application deadline. It is recommended that your interview be completed on campus, but if this is not possible, interviews conducted by Zoom are acceptable. Schedule your interview through the application portal.

• Official Transcript(s) from all undergraduate and (if applicable) graduate institutions previously attended. Please see the application portal for instructions about how to send the transcripts.

• $35 non-refundable fee (may be paid by credit card when submitting online application). The fee is waived for students and graduates of Samford University, Preview Day attendees and official campus visits.

*Students applying for a tier one scholarship also must write an essay on the Apostles’ Creed and submit it by the scholarship deadline.

Approximately four weeks after the application deadline, applicants 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 due to the 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 Series (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 per semester). All full-time students are required to attend weekly chapel services (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.) and mentoring group meetings (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 March 1. For spring re-enrollment, the application deadline is Oct. 1. Students who are readmitted must follow the curriculum requirements specified in the catalog 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 for all courses to be evaluated. More information is available under “Transfer Credit” (p. 32).

**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 will pay the applicable per credit hour rate for that term.

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

Endowment earnings and student tuition primarily support the programs of the divinity school. Tuition scholarships are awarded annually to all full-time 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
- 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, spring, and January terms $761
- summer term $305

A student pays the per credit rate when taking less than nine credits per semester.

**Fees**

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

**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 p. 47). 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” (p. 33) 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, available from Samford One Stop office or online at fafsa.ed.gov. Processing time for the FAFSA is up to four 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. Questions regarding the Stafford Loans and Grad PLUS Loans should be directed to the One Stop Office in Ingalls Hall at 205-726-2905 or onestop@samford.edu.

Scholarships
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 must be fully admitted before a scholarship award can be made. 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.

There are two tiers of scholarship assistance from the Beeson endowment. Tier One scholarships cover 65-100% of tuition. Tier One scholarships are awarded to qualified students pursuing the Master of Divinity degree. The scholarships in this tier include the Timothy George Scholarship for Excellence and the Dean’s Scholarship.

- **Timothy George Scholarship for Excellence**—Named for Timothy George, Beeson Divinity School’s founding dean and world-renowned scholar, this scholarship is awarded to one M.Div. applicant annually who demonstrates academic excellence and a sincere calling to pastoral ministry in a congregational context. For students admitted for the 2021-22 academic year, this scholarship provides $7,000-8,000 per semester, for a maximum of six semesters. Recipients of this scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 3.2 each semester and cumulatively.

- **Dean’s Scholarship**—This scholarship is awarded to qualified M.Div. applicants who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement and Christian character. For students admitted for the 2021-22 academic year, this scholarship provides $5,000-7,000 per semester, for a maximum of seven semesters. Recipients of this scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 3.2 each semester and cumulatively.

Incoming students to the Master of Divinity program, who meet the following requirements, may be considered for a Tier One scholarship.

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale)
- Strong Christian character and ministry leadership potential, demonstrated in previous roles of service in church and/or community
- Expressed commitment to enter vocational Christian service upon graduation

Applicants wishing to be considered for a Tier One scholarship must:
- Complete all application requirements for admission to the M.Div. program by Feb. 15* (for admission to the following fall semester) or Oct. 1 (for admission to the following spring semester).
- Write and submit an essay on the Apostles’ Creed (also due by Feb. 15 or Oct. 1). Essay guidelines are provided in the application portal.

*Please note that the Feb. 15 application deadline date differs from the standard application deadline date for fall admission.
The admission and scholarship committee reviews all applications. Finalists for Tier One scholarships are invited to participate in Beeson’s Scholarship Day activities, including a personal interview with members of the admission and scholarship committee. The committee then selects Tier One scholarship recipients.

Tier Two scholarships cover 30-45% of tuition. Tier Two scholarships are awarded to qualified students pursuing the Master of Divinity or the Master of Arts in Theological Studies. The scholarships in this tier include the John Wesley Beeson Scholarship and the Ralph Waldo Beeson Scholarship.

- **John Wesley Beeson Scholarship**—For students admitted for the 2021-22 academic year, this scholarship provides $3,500 per semester, for a maximum of seven semesters of M.Div. studies or five semesters of M.A.T.S. studies. Recipients of this scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 each semester and cumulatively.

- **Ralph Waldo Beeson Scholarship**—For students admitted for the 2021-22 academic year, this scholarship provides $2,500 per semester, for a maximum of eight semesters of M.Div. studies or five semesters of M.A.T.S. studies. Recipients of this scholarship must maintain a GPA of at least 2.5 each semester and cumulatively.

Incoming students to Beeson’s Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies programs, who complete the application requirements by the general tuition deadline and who do not receive a Tier One scholarship, receive one of these scholarships. For fall applicants, the application deadline is March 1 prior to the term of admission. For spring applicants, the deadline is Oct. 1 prior to the term of admission.

While it is the school’s intention for the scholarship amount initially awarded 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.

To remain eligible for Beeson tuition scholarships, students should demonstrate satisfactory academic progress, as well as participate in weekly chapel services and mentor groups.

Satisfactory academic progress is defined as the completion of at least 18 credits per year (nine credits per semester) with a minimum GPA, each semester and cumulatively, as listed in the scholarship descriptions above. Official scholarship renewal notices are mailed to returning students late in the spring semester. 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.

In addition to the tuition scholarships made possible by the Beeson endowment, several scholarships are provided through the generosity of friends of Beeson Divinity School. These normally are named in memory or in honor of individuals and/or families and are awarded by the scholarship committee to students each year. The amount of these scholarships and the criteria for each one vary. Details are available in the office of
admission. Based on a student’s application, the scholarship committee may award these scholarships to supplement the Beeson endowment scholarship.

- Aletha Tente Dawson Scholarship
- Antonio Maurice Smith Scholarship
- Banks and Evelyn Farris Scholarship
- Brookwood Baptist Church Scholarship
- Bryant Strain Divinity Scholarship
- Claude Heard Ford Scholarship
- Day-Sanders Scholarship
- Fullman-Trott Scholarship
- Gary Fenton Scholarship
- General James M. Hutchens Military Chaplain Scholarship
- George H. Allred and Frances Allred Mason Scholarship
- Guffin Memorial Scholarship
- James K. V. Ratliff Memorial Scholarship
- Lillian Payne Donahoo Scholarship
- Mark Gignilliat Scholarship
- Mathews-Thielman Scholarship
- Nancy Norton Endowed Scholarship
- Patricia Outlaw Scholarship
- Pierce Freeman McGuire Scholarship
- Woodward Scholarship

Other Sources of Financial Assistance
In addition to scholarships and federal loans, other sources of financial assistance include:

- Assistantships—Each academic year, 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 assistance load is “full-time” or “half time.”
- Veteran’s Benefits—Veterans of the Armed Forces may be eligible for one of several types of educational assistance. Details are available from Samford’s One Stop at 205-726-2905 or 800-888-7245.
- External Sources—Many denominations and agencies offer varying types and amounts of aid. Beeson Divinity School makes every effort to stay alert to these sources. Students are expected, however, to determine their eligibility and to apply for such aid as appropriate.
ACADEMIC POLICIES

Beeson Divinity School operates on a semester system. The academic year is comprised of two semesters (fall and spring), an interterm (early January) and two summer terms. Credits earned for each course are expressed as semester credits. Students must be enrolled for at least nine 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 catalog 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 course work during the summer session. This option requires prior notice to the divinity records admissions and enrollment associate.

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. The request must be accompanied by 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.

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 three to four 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 semester credits of
directed study may be taken by M.Div. students, and no more than three 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
Oct. 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<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 Mar. 1 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 Mar. 1 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 catalog 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 are 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 terms and interterms 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 by Oct. 1 for spring readmission and Mar. 1 for fall readmission.

**Theses**

Students in the M.Div. and the M.A.T.S. degree programs may wish to write a thesis for elective credit toward their degree requirements. Eligibility for thesis writing is restricted to M.A.T.S. students who have completed at least 20 hours of coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.25, and to M.Div. students who have completed at least 48 hours of coursework, with a minimum GPA of 3.25. A student must gain approval from the associate dean’s office and the academic affairs committee, as well as the consent of two faculty members to act as supervisor and second reader of the thesis, before proceeding.

To gain approval for thesis writing, a student must:

1. Complete a Petition for Approval for Thesis Writing form (available from associate dean’s office).
   - On the form, a student will list the thesis topic, the academic terms during which they plan to conduct research and write the thesis, and the Beeson faculty members whom they wish to serve as supervisor and second reader. A student does not need to gain approval from these faculty members prior to submitting their proposal. The proposed supervisor and second reader will have opportunity to agree or decline to participate after receiving the petition. Faculty members are under no obligation to supervise or serve as a reader for a thesis.

2. Write a proposal of 1000-1500 words. In the proposal, the student must:
   - Identify the topic he/she wishes to address, and a thesis in relation to that topic;
   - Outline a suggested plan/methodology for conducting the research and writing, including a tentative schedule for the work; and
   - Provide an initial bibliography of sources to be consulted.

3. Submit the completed petition form and proposal to the associate dean’s office.
   - The associate dean will verify that the student meets the academic qualifications for thesis writing before bringing the petition to the academic affairs committee.
   - The academic affairs committee will review the petition and proposal and render a decision on the request.
   - If the committee approves the request, the associate dean will send the petition
and proposal to the proposed supervisor and second reader for their review and consideration.

- The associate dean’s office will inform the student of the outcome of the review process.
- If approved, the associate dean’s office will submit a request to the enrollment associate to register the student for the first of two semesters of Master’s Thesis (DVTH 798—Master’s Thesis 1; DVTH 799—Master’s Thesis 2).

The deadline for submitting petitions and proposals for a spring semester is Oct. 1; the deadline for a fall semester is March 1.

A student may not take both courses in the same term or semester. These courses are not available during the Interterm. The first course will consist 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. 15 in the fall semester, by March 15 in the spring semester, or by Aug. 1 in the summer session). A student may receive an “INC” (Incomplete) in the second semester only for the reasons noted and only according to the procedures outlined in the Beeson Divinity School catalog. After receiving and reading the thesis, the supervisor and second reader will set an oral examination date. Upon completion of the oral examination, the supervisor and second reader will confer on a final grade, which will be the same for both semesters. The supervisor is responsible for entering the final grade and/or submitting it to the enrollment associate for entry. A student may not receive a grade for the first semester without completing the thesis. If a student does not complete the thesis, he/she will receive a “F” grade for both semesters.

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. The exact allowance of transfer credit is determined on an individual basis. All decisions on transfer credits are made by the associate dean in consultation with the academic affairs committee of the school. All transfer credits must be applied before beginning work at Beeson Divinity School.

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. 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. For course work to be eligible for transfer, a student must have received a B- or above in the course.

Normally, no more than six (6) credits will be accepted for online or correspondence courses. To receive credit for biblical language courses, whether taken in residence or by online or correspondence delivery, students may be required to demonstrate competency through a written examination. 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. 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.

Up to nine (9) hours of course work may be completed at another institution after the student has begun work at Beeson Divinity School. Students wishing to take courses elsewhere for transfer credit toward a Beeson degree should first consult the associate dean of Beeson Divinity School before applying for admission or enrolling in courses at another institution.

**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:

- Please see the enrollment & admissions associate to discuss university withdrawal. You will be directed to an online withdrawal form.
- 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.

Failure to attend class does not constitute withdrawal. Students are responsible for completing the appropriate paperwork and submitting it to the enrollment & admissions associate.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
The Master of Divinity (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.

Admission to the M.Div. program requires a bachelor’s degree from a recognized institution.

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.

An M.Div. degree requires at least 87 semester credits with a minimum of 57 credits completed at Beeson Divinity School (see “Transfer Credit,” p. 32). 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.

Degree 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.

Curriculum
Biblical Studies (30 credits)
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) 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)

Historical and Doctrinal Studies (21 credits)
DVHD 501 Patristic History and Doctrine (3)* (Fall)
DVHD 502 Medieval and Reformation History and Doctrine (3)* (Spring) DVHD 601 Refonnation 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)
DVCC 655 Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum (0) (Summer)
DVEV 500 Evangelism and Church Planting (3) (Fall, some Interterm) DVML 701 Supervised Ministry Practicum I (3) (Fall)
DVML 702 Supervised Ministry Practicum II (3) (Spring)
DVMS 500 Introduction to Christian Missions (3) (Interterm 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)
Electives (12 credits)
Total for M.Div. Degree (87 credits)

* Designates core courses, which 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. Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g., DVHD 502) before taking the 501 course in the same subject (e.g., DVHD 501). Old Testament Theology (DVBF 502) is required in first semester of study, regardless of semester of entry.

** 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

Ministry Practicum Requirements
As preparation for faithful and competent ministry practice, the Master of Divinity 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.: 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 CCMP 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 time frame available to visit the ministry. Students must fulfill the CCMP in a summer term during the course of their M.Div. studies. Preapproved CCMP destinations and ministries have been chosen to meet the following criteria:

1. Location: Well outside the Birmingham metropolitan area
2. Duration: Minimum 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 are eligible to enroll in the CCMP as early as the summer following their first year 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 two elective courses: Anglican History and Doctrine*
  Anglican Worship and Sacraments**
• 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 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.

To learn more about the certificate of Anglican studies, contact the Anglican Chair of Divinity and director of the Anglican Institute.

*For students pursuing the certificate in Anglican studies, Anglican History and Doctrine satisfies the required M.Div. course, DVET 701 Doctrine and Ethics.

**For students pursuing the certificate in Anglican studies, Anglican Worship and Sacraments satisfies the required M.Div. course, DVHD 606 Ecclesiology and Worship.
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 & 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 David Parks at 205-726-2274.

Certificate of Wesleyan Studies
Master of Divinity students who intend to pursue ordination in a Wesleyan denomination may wish to complete requirements for the certificate of Wesleyan studies, as these will satisfy educational requirements stipulated by several denominations. The certificate program prepares a student for life and ministry in churches within the Wesleyan theological tradition, giving attention to Wesleyan history and doctrine, worship, polity, spirituality, ministry and mission. The certificate is awarded upon successful completion of the Master of Divinity degree, including the following requirements:

- Complete two elective courses: Wesleyan History & Doctrine*
  Wesleyan Polity, Ministry & Mission**
- Complete the Supervised Ministry Practicum (DVML 701 & 702) in a Wesleyan ministry context
- Participate fully in the meetings and events of the Wesley Fellowship at Beeson Divinity School. Under the care and direction of the Methodist Chair of Divinity, the Wesley Fellowship provides students with opportunities to grow in the Wesleyan way of holiness of heart and life by the gracious empowerments of the Holy Spirit. Monthly gatherings include participation in the practices of prayer, meditation on Scripture, mutual encouragement and accountability, learning and service. The Wesley Fellowship also includes occasional events that feature conversations with Wesleyan pastors, denominational leaders, scholars, missionaries and lay persons.

To learn more about the Certificate of Wesleyan Studies, please contact Michael Pasquarello, Methodist Chair of Divinity, at 205-726-2786.

*This course satisfied the M.Div. required course, DVET 701 Doctrine of Ethics, for Wesleyan certificate-seeking students.
**This course satisfies the M.Div. required course, DVHD 606 Ecclesiology & Worship, for Wesleyan Certificate seeking students.**

**Accelerated B.A.-to-M.Div. Pathway Program**

Beeson Divinity School, in cooperation with the Biblical and Religious Studies department in Samford’s Howard College of Arts and Sciences and with the Christian Ministry department in Samford’s School of the Arts, offers exceptional students the opportunity to complete the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree and the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree in a minimum of six years of full-time study rather than the typical minimum of seven years. This program of study is available only to students majoring in Biblical Studies, Religion or Religion w/a Concentration in Ministry Leadership (in the Howard College of Arts and Sciences) and Christian Ministry (in the School of the Arts).

Students interested in the accelerated pathway program should seek guidance from their advisor as early as possible in their undergraduate studies. The undergraduate program of study requires completion of all university core curriculum courses, all general education requirements, and all courses required for the undergraduate major (96-98 credit hours total). Upon completion of the first 64 credit hours of undergraduate studies (or one year prior to the term in which a student wishes to begin graduate theological studies), he or she must apply for admission to the Master of Divinity program at Beeson Divinity School. Offers of admission are extended to applicants who demonstrate exceptional personal and spiritual maturity, a clear call and commitment to vocational Christian ministry, and strong academic performance in their undergraduate studies. If accepted, a student must complete all remaining undergraduate coursework and participate in a co-curricular program of spiritual and vocational mentoring before beginning studies at Beeson Divinity School.

To learn more about the accelerated B.A.-to-M.Div. pathway program, please contact the office of admissions at 205-726-2169.

**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 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. The degree is also offered in tandem with several other graduate degrees in other schools of the university (see Joint-Degree Programs on p. 41). 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.

Admission to the M.A.T.S. program requires a bachelor's degree from a recognized institution.
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 DVCC courses, 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.

Curriculum

Biblical Studies (12 credits)
DVBF 502 Old Testament Theology (3)* (Fall and Spring)
DVBF 503 New Testament Theology (3)* (Spring)
DVNT 721 or 722 Exposition of New Testament Book (3)** (Fall or Spring)
DVOT 721 or 722 Exposition of Old Testament Book (3)** (Fall or Spring)

Historical and Doctrinal Studies (12 credits)
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)

Capstone Course (1 credit)
DVTH 701 Faith and Vocation (1)*** (Spring)

Electives (12 credits)

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

*Designates core courses, which 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. Students may not take courses numbered 502 (e.g., DVHD 502) before taking the SO I course in the same subject (e.g., DVHD SO I). Old Testament Theology (DVBF 502) is required in first semester of study, regardless of semester of entry.

**DVOT 721 or 722 must be taken after DVBF 502; DVNT 721 or 722 must be taken after DVBF 503.

***Must be taken in the semester in which the student expects to graduate
Degree Objectives
Graduates of the M.A.T.S. program will:

1. Understand the content and character of the Bible and how to interpret English Bible texts responsibly.

2. Understand the doctrines of historic Christian orthodoxy and their significance for the life and work of the church, in evangelical context.

3. Understand the meaning of Christian vocation and its relevance to one’s life and work.

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 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 205-726-2169.

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 into 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.

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.

**Degree Objectives**

Graduates of the Doctor of Ministry 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.
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; and 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). 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 p. 27).

**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: DVBF502. 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**

**DVCC 655 Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum**
This practicum introduces students to issues related to cross-cultural ministry through firsthand experience in a cross-cultural ministry setting. Course offered in summer only. (M.Div. students 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 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, 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
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 701 Supervised Ministry Practicum I
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, Sept. 1 through Dec. 31. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of contextual learning. Students also meet bi-weekly in a small group setting for instruction and discussion 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, Jan. 1 through April 30. Placements and supervisors must be approved in advance by the director of contextual learning. Students also meet bi-weekly in a small group setting for instruction and discussion in ministry-related matters. *Prerequisite:* DVML 701. Three credits.

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 731–733 *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 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 731–733 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. Prerequisite 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 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 p. 28 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 p. 31 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 their 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 their 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. \textit{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. \textit{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.
INDEX

Academic Policies .................................................. 27
Academic Programs ............................................... 34
Admission .......................................................... 17
Confession of Faith ................................................ 3
Curriculum .......................................................... 43
Doctor of Ministry Program ................................. 41
Faculty .............................................................. 9
Financial Aid ........................................................ 23
Financial Information .......................................... 22
Global Center ...................................................... 8
Grading System .................................................... 29
History of School ................................................ 4
International Students ........................................ 19
Library ............................................................... 6
Mission Statement ............................................... 2
Scholarships ......................................................... 24
Transfer Credit ..................................................... 32
Tuition .............................................................. 22
Withdrawal Policy ............................................... 33
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.
Information in this catalog covers academic years 2021-22.
Information contained in this catalog is accurate as of the date of publication. Beeson Divinity School of Samford University reserves the right to revise, amend or change items set forth in this catalog from time to time. Accordingly, readers of the catalog should inquire as to whether such revisions, amendments or changes have been made since the date of publication. Such revisions, amendments or changes may include, but are not limited to, the right to modify requirements for admission or graduation, to change tuition, to modify or cancel course offerings, to set minimum and maximum class sizes, to change designated instructors in courses, to change textbooks used, to alter regulations affecting the student body and to dismiss or drop from the school any student at any time if such change is deemed in the best interest of the school or the student.

The Beeson Divinity School catalog is published by Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama 35229. Second class postage is paid at Birmingham, Alabama.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Divinity School catalog, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35229.

Volume 22
July 2021

USPS 253-020

Samford University complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including applicable provisions of and amendments to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or services. Inquiries and concerns regarding this policy may be directed to the vice president for business affairs or general counsel, Office of Business and Financial Affairs, 200 Samford Hall, Birmingham, AL 35229, 205-726-2811. This notice is available in alternative formats upon request.

Beeson Divinity School
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35229
205-726-2991
1-800-888-8266
beesondivinity.com