BEESON
DIVINITY SCHOOL
Samford University’s Beeson Divinity School opened its doors in the fall of 1988 to an entering class of 32 full-time students. Much has changed; the Beeson Divinity School family now includes more than 1,200 graduates serving the Lord on six continents. Much remains the same; we continue to be loyal to our core commitments. We are committed to the life of the church, to the practice of spiritual disciplines, to the total truthfulness of Holy Scripture, to the centrality of preaching, to the mission and unity of the church in the world and to the great principles that characterized the Protestant Reformation.

At Beeson Divinity School, we frequently say, “Above all else, we want our students to be men and women of God.” We welcome you gladly to join with us as we press “toward the high calling” of God in Jesus Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!

Timothy George
Founding Dean
Beeson Divinity School
Interdenominational
Confessional
Personal
Beeson Divinity School trains men and women for a lifetime of faithful service to the church.

We do this by teaching biblical languages and biblical theology, history and doctrine, preaching, spiritual formation, and pastoral ministry courses that equip you to minister to the church and preach the gospel throughout the world. You will learn to serve God’s people by studying and preaching the Bible, integrating the history and theology of the church throughout the centuries, and serving in local and cross-cultural ministry settings.
"As a Presbyterian, studying theology at an evangelical, interdenominational seminary allows me to fully embrace the theology and practice of my church tradition, while also continually reminding me that the kingdom of God is bigger than my own tradition. I have therefore become a better Presbyterian and a better ecumenist at the same time. These are only a few of the many precious gifts I have received while at Beeson."

—Dylan Evans, M.Div. student
Beeson Divinity School was founded to represent the entirety of the orthodox Christian church. Our faculty and student body are Protestant Christian, evangelical and interdenominational. You will learn in community with students, faculty and staff who represent more than 20 different evangelical denominations, but who together confess the orthodox tenets of the Christian faith and are passionate about the unity and witness of the church. The faculty teaches elective courses that help students learn their own and others’ ecclesial traditions. The divinity school joyfully expresses this identity and ethos within the context of a larger Christian university.

“Beeson uniquely blends interdenominational and evangelical Christianity with historic orthodoxy and the tenets of the great Protestant Reformation as well as an ambience of worship and mentored fellowship in small groups.”

—Rev. Dr. David Bowman Riker, former president, Equatorial Baptist Theological Seminary, Belém, Brazil, M.Div.
I believe."

The Beeson community confesses the Apostles’ Creed, seeking to know and live the faith once for all delivered to the saints.
Confessional

Beeson prepares God-called men and women for ministry in the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the One Triune God of holiness and love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are committed to the great tradition of historic Christian orthodoxy. Therefore, we believe in the central doctrine of justification by grace through faith, the tenet by which the church either stands or falls. We also believe that the good news of God’s gracious salvation in Christ is clearly taught in God’s written Word, the Bible; its full inspiration and total truthfulness we confess, and to its authority we submit. This rich core of commitments forms the basis of our unity as a theological, interdenominational community centered on Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP
We meet as a community of faith and learning each Tuesday during the semester to worship God in Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel. Each semester we focus our chapel services on a specific theme. Some of our past themes include: “Knowing God through the Psalms,” “Finkenwalde: In the School of Bonhoeffer,” and “Apocalypse Now: The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

ENDOWED LECTURES
We offer three endowed annual lectureships (Biblical Studies Lectures, Reformation Heritage Lectures and William E. Conger Jr. Lectures on Biblical Preaching) in order to enrich the spiritual life of our community and enhance the educational experience of our students.

“One thing that was very important for me in choosing a seminary was to find a seminary committed to Scripture and to the foundational beliefs of the Christian church throughout its history. At Beeson, the confessions in the historic Apostles’ Creed unite our community across denominational lines, and a commitment to gospel truth is taught and lived out daily, from our courses to community worship to our fellowship and life together.”

—Anna Russell, M.Div. student
We believe strongly that a community-oriented, full-time and personal environment offers the best opportunity to train for a lifetime of faithful ministry.

“Beeson has not just shown me love, it has shown me Christ, continually pointing me toward him. I can say that I have learned as much from the example and love of students and teachers as I have in the fantastic classes.”

—Yannick Christos-Wahab, Beeson alum
STUDENT SERVICES
Your holistic development at Beeson is enhanced through weekly faculty-led mentor groups, extracurricular events, counseling resources and student advocacy. The Student Government Association (SGA) promotes student interests in the decision-making process at Beeson Divinity School. SGA officers sponsor various activities, such as intramurals, luncheons with professors and other social and educational events for the student body.

WOMEN’S THEOLOGICAL COLLOQUIUM
The Women’s Theological Fellowship encourages and prayerfully supports female students at Beeson. The fellowship meets several times each semester and occasionally welcomes special guests who discuss their experiences and roles in ministry leadership. Meetings include sharing a meal and a time of prayer.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER ROOM
Beeson’s Prayer Room is dedicated to engaging in the ministry of prayer for others. The Beeson community is invited to join in this pastoral ministry of soul care. Each volunteer commits to a half-hour, hour or longer session once a week in the Prayer Room.

BEESON WIVES FELLOWSHIP
The Beeson Wives Fellowship provides a place for wives to grow and mature together in Christ as they prepare for ministry individually and alongside their husbands. Each wife’s call and seminary journey is different; therefore, the fellowship meets regularly for discussion and a time of prayer. It also invites special speakers and hosts retreats.
Curriculum

We believe training for ministry requires knowledge, skill and wisdom in all the areas below. We believe you must be informed and transformed by God’s Word and Spirit in community. Beeson students commit to serious, full-time study. We do not offer distance learning because we believe the best training for personal ministry of the gospel takes place in a personal environment.

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES, BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AND PREACHING
Learning the original languages helps you communicate the Bible as God desires. Beeson emphasizes biblical theology and the ability to preach and teach directly from the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.

HISTORY AND DOCTRINE
Effective preaching and teaching of the gospel requires knowledge and understanding of how the church throughout the ages has confessed and defended the witness of Scripture. The history and doctrine curriculum is a four-course sequence from the early church to today that focuses on key doctrines, texts and theologians who have shaped the history and theology of the church.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND PASTORAL MINISTRY
We emphasize spiritual formation and pastoral and missional theology that puts you in real ministry settings. Local church and cross-cultural practicums engage you in such ministry while you study.

ROBERT SMITH JR. PREACHING INSTITUTE
In 2013, Beeson Divinity School was awarded a five-year grant by the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its pilot Initiative to Strengthen the Quality of Preaching program. This project is designed to strengthen preaching through the use of new course offerings, conferences and lectures, web resources, and quality peer groups of pastors and current Master of Divinity students. In accordance with the divinity school founding donor Ralph W. Beeson’s belief that the school should prepare “pastors who can preach,” the institute is designed to continue to improve the quality of preaching for all ministers in the Birmingham region and beyond.
Beeson’s curriculum prepares students for faithful and serious ministry of God’s Word.
The Master of Divinity prepares students for full-time Christian ministry. It is the flagship program of Beeson Divinity School.
Degree Programs

**MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.)**
The Master of Divinity is the flagship degree of Beeson Divinity School. It combines academic and practical training to prepare students for full-time ministry. This degree offers a balanced curriculum of biblical studies, history and doctrine, spiritual formation and ministry leadership development. The M.Div. consists of 87 hours and typically requires three and a half to four years to complete.

**MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (M.A.T.S.)**
The Master of Arts in Theological Studies is a general academic degree. It is designed for laypeople who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and theology. Admission to this degree is selective and limited to 10 percent of the total student body. The M.A.T.S. consists of 37 hours and typically requires two years to complete.

**JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS**
The joint-degree programs offered between Beeson Divinity School and five other graduate schools on the Samford University campus allow students to pursue two degrees concurrently and in a reduced amount of time through credit sharing. This makes your divinity degree even more versatile and tailored toward your particular call to ministry. The following joint degrees are currently offered:

- Master of Divinity/Master of Education
- Master of Divinity/Juris Doctorate
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Juris Doctorate
- Master of Divinity/Master of Music
- Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration
- Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Master of Social Work

Generally, between six and 12 hours of course work earned toward one degree satisfy the electives of the other degree. The number of transferrable electives varies by program. A student must apply to each school individually to be considered for enrollment. Please see the insert in back pocket for more specific information.

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

The *Certificate of Anglican Studies (C.A.S.)* helps students deepen in the knowledge of Anglican belief, practice, worship and spirituality.

The *Missions Certificate* provides students called to cross-cultural missions a rich training ground that combines both classroom and field training.

Certificates are awarded with the successful completion of the M.Div.
Our graduates serve the Lord and his church in various roles and denominational contexts around the globe.

We are committed to walking alongside each person, educating, encouraging and equipping them to minister to the body of Christ.

Engaging in the practice of ministry under caring and competent supervision, you will be assisted in clarifying God’s call, gaining or improving ministry skills, growing in God’s grace, and much more. While we encourage you to worship and serve in a local congregation throughout your time at Beeson, most students complete a yearlong Supervised Ministry Practicum (SMP) in the latter half of their degree program. The director of Ministry Leadership Development is available to advise you on these and other vocational matters.

The adventure of discerning how God may best use you and your gifts in ministry begins early in your Beeson studies. The programs for ministry leadership development and ministry placement are closely linked at Beeson, providing students and alumni with highly personalized assistance in seeking and securing positions of service.

**PLACEMENT SERVICES**

Placement Services regularly hosts ministry opportunity events, allowing students to make vital connections with ministry leaders and to explore possibilities for present and future service. As a result of these and other initiatives, nine out of 10 Beeson graduates (2010-14) who have actively sought ministry-related positions are engaged in positions of ministry leadership within one year following graduation.

“I realize the ministry pathways that people walk after school are varied, but I’ll just say this—I served in my first post-graduation position because of a connection with a Beeson alumnus, and currently I serve underneath another Beeson alumnus. I’m grateful for both the friendships that I made while I was in the M.Div. program and for the wider connections with Beeson alumni upon graduation.”

—Blake Jenkins, M.Div., Minister to College Students, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Homewood, Alabama
Our vision is to prepare missional students who intentionally participate in Kingdom expansion. We send equipped divinity students into every part of the world and invite global Christians into our community. The Global Center offers students focused missions curriculum, special events and speakers, resources for world missions participation and prayer and cross-cultural ministry opportunities. Through Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicums, M.Div. students train for at least two weeks with ministry mentors who provide holistic, long-term, gospel-centered ministry in strategic locations in the U.S. and around the globe. We also provide prayer support for more than 40 divinity school alumni serving Christ internationally.

“I am more than 6,000 miles from my home in Ghana. Having the opportunity to work with the Global Center has been such a blessing. I was introduced to wonderful people that helped me know that I am not here alone in my quest to help God’s plan. At the Global Center, we all work together to share Jesus through missions.”

—Okai Kwabena, M.Div. student
Our vision is to prepare missional students who intentionally participate in Kingdom expansion.

**CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY PRACTICUMS**

All M.Div. students complete a two-week minimum cross-cultural immersion experience overseen by the Global Center. Certificate students participate in a minimum six-week experience. Beeson has partners both in the United States and around the world with mentors who oversee students. Ministry partners are in places such as the Czech Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Mexico, the Middle East and Brooklyn, New York.

**GLOBAL VOICES**

Global Voices is a weekly event in which students, alumni and special guests share their cross-cultural ministry experiences. They also discuss the global church, global needs and issues pertinent in missions today. Complimentary lunch is included.

**GO GLOBAL AND WORLD CHRISTIANITY FOCUS WEEK**

During the fall semester, the Go Global Missions Emphasis allows students to consider their involvement in global missions through interacting with guest speakers and representatives of various missions agencies. In the spring during the World Christianity Focus Week, students are able to hear and interact with a leader in the world Christian movement and modern scholarship about the state of the church worldwide.

**INTERNATIONAL LUNCH CLUB**

Beeson students meet every other week over lunch with international university students to develop cross-cultural friendships through English conversation and cultural exchange. Complimentary lunch is included.
Faculty

Timothy George
Dean
Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
A.B., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
M.Div., Harvard Divinity School
Th.D., Harvard University
Research Interests: Reformation theology, history of exegesis, Catholic/Evangelical relations, John Calvin, Baptist history and heritage

Grant D. Taylor
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Divinity
New Testament
B.S., Union University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Gospel of John, biblical theology, theological education

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
Research Interests: Trinitarian thought of the Early Church Fathers, use of the Fathers by the Reformers, Lutheran theology, Hilary of Poitiers, Johann Gerhard

Gerald L. Bray
Research Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., McGill University
M.Litt., D.Litt., University of Paris-Sorbonne, France
Research Interests: church history, historical theology, systematic theology, doctrine of God
Charles T. Carter  
James H. Chapman Fellow of Pastoral Ministry  
Ministry Leadership Development  
A.B., Samford University  
B.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
D.D. (Hon.), Samford University

Stefana Dan Laing  
Assistant Professor of Divinity, Theological Librarian  
B.A., Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia  
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Research Interests: Early Christian spirituality, historiography, hagiography, Theodoret of Cyrus, Evangelical Ressourcement movement

D. Mark DeVine  
Associate Professor of Divinity  
History and Doctrine  
B.S., Clemson University  
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Research Interests: Bonhoeffer, faith and vocation, Baptist history and theology

Thomas L. Fuller  
Director of Ministry Studies  
B.A., Samford University  
M.Div., D.Min., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Ph.D., The University of Alabama  
Research Interest: pastoral leadership

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  
Research Interests: Old Testament exegesis, biblical theology, history of interpretation, theological hermeneutics

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  
Research Interests: Old Testament theology, Hebrew, Book of Daniel, Bonhoeffer
Faculty

Piotr J. Malysz
Assistant Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
Th.D., Harvard University
Research Interests: systematic theology, Reformation studies, continental philosophy, social theory

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
Research Interests: Old Testament, Hebrew, Leviticus, Joshua

Gerald R. McDermott
Anglican Chair of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., University of Chicago
B.S., North Dakota State University
M.R.E., Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary
Ph.D., University of Iowa
Research Interests: Jonathan Edwards, Jewish-Christian theology, theology of religions

Osvaldo Padilla
Associate Professor of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., Moody Bible Institute
M.A., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Ph.D., King’s College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

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, Scotland
Research Interests: racial reconciliation, the Gospel of Mark, theology of women

David Parks
Director of the Global Center
History and Doctrine
B.A., Samford University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Michael Pasquarello III
Methodist Chair of Divinity, Director of the Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute
B.A., The Master’s College, Newhall, California
M.Div., Duke Divinity School
M.A.R.S., Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Research Interests: history and theology of preaching, homiletical formation, Wesleyan theology and history, theological aesthetics, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, English Reformation

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, England
Research Interests: Exodus, Isaiah, Psalms, Hebrew

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
Research Interests: the place of passion in preaching, the literary history of African American preaching, Christological preaching, theologies of preaching

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

Frank Thielman
Presbyterian Chair of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., Wheaton College
B.A., M.A., University of Cambridge, England
Ph.D., Duke University
Additional studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Romans, history of early Christianity, the life and theology of the apostle Paul, Greek

Douglas D. Webster
Professor of Divinity
Pastoral Theology and Christian Preaching
B.A., M.A., Wheaton College
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto School of Theology, Canada
Research Interests: pastoral theology and Hebrews, preaching, Christ and culture issues
Beeson Divinity School sits at the heart of Samford University—Alabama’s top-ranked private university. Samford was founded in 1841 and has an enrollment of over 5,600 students (2,100+ graduate and professional students) representing 45 states and 30 countries. Samford is comprised of 10 academic schools: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health. As part of the larger Samford University community, students have access to many resources, including an excellent library, sporting and art events, health services, workout facilities and community service opportunities.
Welcome to Birmingham

Beeson Divinity School is located in Birmingham, Alabama, the largest city in the state with a population of about one million people in a seven-county area.

It’s a new day in Birmingham. Today, there is a shared vision and passion among city and church leaders for a unified, forward-moving city that represents the many cultures and traditions of its residents. The city boasts a revitalized urban center, a nationally recognized food and art scene, and, most importantly, new areas of church and parachurch ministry. In fact, many of the new church plants in Birmingham’s city center are pastored and led by Beeson alumni.

Things to do and see in Birmingham

Barber Motorsports Park
Birmingham Barons
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Birmingham Museum of Art
Birmingham Zoo
Fiesta: Annual Hispanic Festival
Greek Food Festival
Magic City Art Connection

Oak Mountain Park
Pepper Place Farmer’s Market
Railroad Park
Red Mountain Park
Sidewalk Film Festival
Sloss Furnace
Sloss Music and Arts Festival
St. Elias Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival
Vulcan Park and Museum

Inner City Ministries

Firehouse Shelter
The Foundry
Jimmie Hale Mission
The Lovelady Center

M-Power Ministries
Urban Purpose
The Wellhouse

To see more of what Birmingham has to offer, go to meetmagiccity.com.
Experience Beeson Divinity School for yourself! We would love to arrange a visit that allows you to sit in on a class, take a tour and talk with an admission representative. We also host Preview Days each semester that allow prospective students to hear from the dean, meet professors and gain insight into the divinity school’s uniqueness from current students. See Preview Day dates at beesondivinity.com/previewday. Arrange a campus visit by calling 877-575-0595 or 205-726-2066, or at beesondivinity.com/visit.

Visit Beeson
**FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Most full-time M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students at Beeson Divinity School receive a scholarship. Below are available scholarships and requirements. Please visit our website for the latest information.

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<th>SCHOLARSHIP TYPE</th>
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<td><strong>DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>Dean’s Scholarships provide $5,000 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters. Qualified M.Div. candidates are selected by the scholarship committee based on academic achievement and ministry involvement. Dean’s Scholars are required to earn a minimum 3.2 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.</td>
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<td><strong>JOHN WESLEY BEESON SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>These awards provide $2,750 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters to M.Div. or M.A.T.S. students. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 3.0 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.</td>
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<td><strong>BEESON TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS</strong></td>
<td>Approximately 40 percent of full-time M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students receive a Beeson Tuition Scholarship of $1,500 per semester. Beeson students may receive this scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 2.5 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.</td>
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**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

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<th>Admission Type</th>
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<td>FEB. 15</td>
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<td>Spring Admission</td>
<td>OCT. 1</td>
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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Office of Admission  
877-575-0595  
bdadmis@samford.edu  
Director of Admission Sherri Brown  
205-726-2066  
sbrown5@samford.edu

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Business card here