

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: May-June 2021

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS) concerning substantive changes only for schools in the US (Canadian schools are not included in this report). The membership of COAATS has adopted new [Standards of Accreditation](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), effective July 1, 2020. Any older references would correspond to the [pre-2020 accrediting documents](#) and are currently subject to the Board-approved implementation procedures [posted here](#). Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#). Past abstracts can be found [here](#).

At its semiannual meeting [June 7-8, 2021](#), conducted via videoconference due to public health concerns, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **June 8, 2021**, unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Augustine Institute - Greenwood Village, CO

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2028, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Arts in Leadership for the New Evangelization
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

China Evangelical Seminary North America - West Covina, CA

To *postpone* the next scheduled comprehensive evaluation visit *from* spring 2022 *to* fall 2022, with adjustment to the period of accreditation as necessary [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2023].

[Commission staff action 6/14/2021 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

Gateway Seminary - Ontario, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Educational Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies
 - Master of Global Engagement
 - Master of Theological Essentials
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy (Biblical Studies)
 - Doctor of Philosophy (Theology)
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations:
 - 7393 S Alton Way, Centennial, CO 80112: complete degree
 - 38891 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536: complete degree
 - 12801 N 28th Dr, Ste 14, Phoenix, AZ 85029: complete degree

3200 NE 109th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98682: complete degree

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Georgia Central University School of Divinity - Atlanta, GA

To *postpone* the next scheduled comprehensive evaluation visit *from* spring 2022 *to* fall 2022, with adjustment to the period of accreditation as necessary [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2023].

[Commission staff action 6/14/2021 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

Grace Mission University Graduate School - Fullerton, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Education
 - Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies
 - Doctor of Missiology
 - Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Harvard University Divinity School - Cambridge, MA

To approve an additional one-year *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* fall 2023 *to* fall 2024) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2025].

Holy Apostles College and Seminary - Cromwell, CT

To *postpone* the next scheduled comprehensive evaluation visit *from* spring 2022 *to* fall 2022, with adjustment to the period of accreditation as necessary [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2023].

[Commission staff action 6/14/2021 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

Logos Evangelical Seminary - El Monte, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Christian Studies)
 - Master of Arts in Family Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy (Bible)
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional location(s):
 - 631 State Route 83, 1st floor, Bensenville, IL 60106: complete degree

Multnomah Biblical Seminary of Multnomah University - Portland, OR

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2028, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Applied Theology
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
 - Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

- Master of Arts in Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry
- b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
- c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Oakwood University School of Theology Graduate Department - Huntsville, AL

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2028, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies [Standard 4.6.(b)]
 - Master of Arts in Urban Ministry and Community Development [Standard 4.6.(b)]
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Pentecostal Theological Seminary - Cleveland, TN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Christian Studies)
 - Master of Arts in Church Ministries
 - Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Counseling
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - Fort Worth, TX

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Christian Apologetics)
 - Master of Arts (Islamic Studies)
 - Master of Arts (Philosophy)
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Christian Education
 - Master of Arts in Church Music
 - Master of Arts in Missiology
 - Master of Arts in Worship Leadership
 - Master of Music in Church Music
 - Master of Music in Worship Leadership
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology

- Doctor of Educational Ministry
- Doctor of Musical Arts
- Doctor of Ministry
- Doctor of Education
- Doctor of Philosophy
- b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
- c. Additional locations: None in the US

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - Crestwood, NY

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2028, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: No
 - c. Additional locations: None

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

United Lutheran Seminary - Gettysburg, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2028, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2028. The school remains **accredited on warning (faculty)** (cf. Notation N5.b, "*The institution does not appropriately resource, support, retain, or evaluate faculty, including provision of sufficient time to teach and research, or engage them adequately in the institution's planning and shared governance, and there is no evidence of a credible plan or its implementation to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.*" Notation/Warning effective March 16, 2020, for 24 months).
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Public Leadership
 - Master of Sacred Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
 - c. Additional locations:

NB: the school understands itself to operate equally on two campuses:
 61 Seminary Rdg, Gettysburg, PA 17325
 7301 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19119

NOTE: The Board also authorized a follow-up, on-site focused visit when it is safe and reasonable to do so, per Board-approved guidelines, in order to meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met through this virtual visit.

Urshan Graduate School of Theology - Wentzville, MO

To *postpone* the next scheduled comprehensive evaluation visit *from* spring 2022 *to* fall 2022, with adjustment to the period of accreditation as necessary [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2023].

[Commission staff action 6/14/2021 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

Wesley Seminary - Marion, IN (formerly WESLEY SEMINARY AT INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY)

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts in Ministry
- Master of Practical Theology
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry
- b. Comprehensive distance education: Yes
- c. Additional locations:
 - 3777 Priority Way South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240: complete degree

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Claremont School of Theology - Claremont, CA

1. To approve the Doctor of Professional Counseling degree program (Standards 5.7-10).
2. To exempt the school from a focused evaluation visit for this new doctoral program in light of the exemption allowed in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.1 and IV.D.1.

Grace Mission University Graduate School - Fullerton, CA

1. To receive the report of the focused/comprehensive visit committee (spring 2021).
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies degree program (Standards 5.11-16).
[See *PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION*, above]

Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Ministry Graduate Department - West Palm Beach, FL

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2021).
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Practical Theology degree program (Standards 5.11-16).

Payne Theological Seminary - Wilberforce, OH

To approve the Master of Arts in Religious Leadership degree program (Standards 4.6-9).

Portland Seminary of George Fox University - Portland, OR

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2021).
2. To approve the Doctor of Leadership in Global Perspectives degree program (Standards 5.7-10).

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary - Grand Rapids, MI

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2021).
2. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (Standards 5.1-6).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology - Berkeley, CA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Franciscan School of Theology - San Diego, CA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Harvard University Divinity School - Cambridge, MA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University - South Orange, NJ

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

International Theological Seminary - West Covina, CA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

John Leland Center for Theological Studies - Arlington, VA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Loyola Marymount University Department of Theological Studies - Los Angeles, CA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

McCormick Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Meadville Lombard Theological School - Chicago, IL

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Methodist Theological School in Ohio - Delaware, OH

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Reformed Episcopal Seminary - Blue Bell, PA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

Seattle Pacific Seminary - Seattle, WA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology [sic]- Seattle, WA

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

University of St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary - Mundelein, IL

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

University of the South School of Theology - Sewanee, TN

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Ashland Theological Seminary - Ashland, OH

Pursuant to *Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2, to grant temporary authorization (until the Board meets in September 2021 to act on the school's petition) to relocate the additional location at 6500 Rockside Rd, Ste 130, Independence, OH 44131 approved to offer the complete DMin and complete master's degrees, about 1.4 miles to 6393 Oak Tree Blvd, 2nd Fl, Independence, OH 44131 (Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio); the petition notes, "All students will relocate to the new location." *[Commission staff action 6/30/2021 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

Central Baptist Theological Seminary - Shawnee, KS

1. To grant approval to expand the school's additional location at 1815 E Center Street, Anaheim, CA 92805 (Immanuel Korean Southern Baptist Church) to offer more than half of the MDiv degree but not a complete degree.
2. To *exempt* the additional location from a focused evaluation visit since the school meets the exemption criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO MISSION, LEGAL STATUS, NAME, OR MAIN LOCATION

N/A

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO PUBLIC SANCTION (WARNING, PROBATION, OR SHOW CAUSE)

Previous versions of the Standards of Accreditation and the Policies and Procedures used the term "notation" to refer to instances where a member school was not meeting or not fully meeting one or more standards. In June 2020, the membership and Board adopted a new set of Policies and Procedures that replace the term "notation" with "warning," describing the new term as follows (III.G): "Issuing a warning is a public action (the lowest level of three public sanctions; see III.H-I for the other two) that is taken when the Board determines that an accredited school substantially meets the standards but is at risk of not meeting one or more standards." Per the Board-approved [Implementation Procedures](#), any school that received a notation prior to June 2020 must address that notation in light of the newer Standards of Accreditation (effective July 1, 2020).

Bexley Hall Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Federation, Inc. - Chicago, IL

1. To receive the report required in June 2019 regarding the seminary's financial concerns and Notation N8.b, "The institution's financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."
2. To **extend** for good cause for one year Notation N8.b—i.e., **Warning on Resources (Financial)**.
3. To require a report by April 1, 2022, addressing Notation N8.b/Standard 10.3. This report should include the FY2021 audit, budget projections for FY2022 and FY2023, and a detailed, data-rich report from the seminary demonstrating how the seminary has sufficient and stable financial

resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial stability and that budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures are realistic, holistic, and sustainable with actual operating results demonstrating a pattern of surpluses over time. An inadequate response may lead to the imposition of probation related to financial resources (Standard 10.3).

Christian Theological Seminary - Indianapolis, IN

1. To receive the report required in June 2020 regarding Notation N9.c, *"The institution has not demonstrated the extent to which its students have met the learning outcomes appropriate for each degree program it offers or that its assessment efforts have led to improvement and there is no evidence of a credible plan or its implementation to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."*
2. To remove Notation N9.c [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].

Fuller Theological Seminary - Pasadena, CA

1. To receive the report as required in February 2019 regarding Notation N1.c, *"The institution does not demonstrate appropriate or adequate institutional evaluation and improvement."*
2. To remove Notation N1.c.
3. To receive the report as required in February 2019 regarding Notation N7.b, *"The governing board does not require ongoing institutional evaluation and planning or evaluation of its own performance as a board."*
4. To remove Notation N7.b.
5. To receive the report as required in February 2019 regarding Notation N8.b, *"The institution's financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."*
6. To **extend** for good cause for one year Notation N8.b—i.e., **Warning on Resources (Financial)**.
7. To require a report by April 1, 2022, addressing Notation N8.b/Standard 10.3. This report should include the FY2021 audit, budget projections for FY2022 and FY2023, and evidence that the school has sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial stability and that budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures are realistic, holistic, and sustainable with actual operating results demonstrating a pattern of surpluses over time (see Standard 10.3).

International Theological Seminary - West Covina, CA

1. To receive the report required June 2019 regarding Notation N9.c, *"The institution has not demonstrated the extent to which its students have met the learning outcomes appropriate for each degree program it offers or that its assessment efforts have led to improvement and there is no evidence of a credible plan or its implementation to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."*
2. To remove Notation N9.c [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].

New York Theological Seminary - New York, NY

1. To receive the report concerning the school's Warning/Notation on Resources (Financial), which the Board voted in June 2018 to impose and in June 2020 to extend for good cause for one year (to June 2021)—viz. N8.b, *"The institution's financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."*
2. To **impose** probation for a period of 24 months (June 2021 to June 2023), as a result of the institution not meeting Standard 10.3 on Financial Resources, specifically, the school is at risk of not having "sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability" (per *Policies and Procedures*, III.H). The school must submit a report by April 1, 2023, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, including a financial plan that is "realistic, wholistic, and sustainable." The school's most recent audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report. In addition, the report should include updated budget projections for FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025, and a report on the school's progress in increasing its reserves and its enrollment.
3. To authorize a focused visit prior to the end of the period of probation (spring 2023) to make a recommendation regarding whether the Board of Commissioners should remove probation or take an adverse action, i.e., withdrawal of accreditation (*Policies and Procedures*, III.J).

NOTE: actions #2-3 (above) are effective July 1, 2021, per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.A.(1-3)]

Shaw University Divinity School - Raleigh, NC

1. To receive the report required June 2019 regarding internal controls, Notation N8.c: *"Significant deficiencies have been noted in the institution's internal financial and reporting systems and/or internal controls, and the institution's response to these deficiencies does not appear to be sufficiently effective or appropriately timely."*
2. To remove Notation N8.c [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].

Starr King School for the Ministry - Oakland, CA

1. To receive the report addressing the Board requirements in January 2020 regarding "a system of timely budgetary reports of revenues and expenditures to those persons with oversight responsibilities (Standard 8, section 8.2.2.5)" and in June 2020 regarding financial resources and Notation N8.b, *"The institution's financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner."*
2. To remove Notation N8.b [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].

Report prepared: July 1, 2021

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