

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: December 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 standards](#) 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 Reader Panel meeting conducted via videoconference on September 15, 2021, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on and ratified the below actions with an effective date of **September 22, 2021**—unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Grace Mission University Graduate School - Fullerton, CA

To grant approval to offer the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling degree program. [Board-mandated contingency satisfied, effective: 12/08/2021]

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary - New Orleans, LA

On behalf of the Board, Commission staff acknowledged (12/15-12/21/2021) notifications that the school is closing five additional locations, as follows:

- effective August 1, 2022
 - North Monroe Baptist Church (210 Finks Hideaway Road, Monroe, LA 71203)
 - Longview Heights Baptist Church (4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654)
 - Thomasville Road Baptist Church (3131 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308)
- effective August 31, 2022
 - First Baptist Church of Jonesboro (147 Church Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236)
 - Whitesburg Baptist Church (6806 Whitesburg Drive South, Huntsville, AL 35802)

Since these locations are approved to offer half or more of any approved degree but no complete degrees, no teach-out plans are required. The notifications for these closures indicate that the educational needs of the few students currently enrolled are being appropriately addressed through a variety of options. These closures meet the criteria for notifications described in *Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2.

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

Meadville Lombard Theological School - Chicago, IL

On behalf of the Board, Commission staff granted *temporary authorization* (date: 12/13/2021) to relocate the main campus *from* its current location (610 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60305) about 1 mile *to* 180 N Wabash Ave, Ste 700, Chicago, IL 60601, by 12/13/2021 (semester to begin 1/24/2022 at the new location), until the Board can act on this substantive change (anticipated: February 2022).

Report prepared: January 4, 2022

Christopher The, MAR, MDiv, PhD Candidate | Director of Commission Information Services

The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 253 | accrediting@ats.edu | www.ats.edu