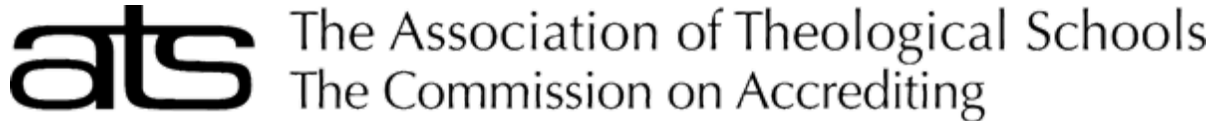


From: [ATS Accrediting](#)
To: lwalrond@nyts.edu; [Barbara Mutch](#)
Cc: thenry@nyts.edu
Subject: [COAATS] Action Letter, June 2023
Date: Friday, June 9, 2023 1:38:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



June 9, 2023

ATTN: LaKeesha Walrond
New York Theological Seminary
475 Riverside Drive
Suite 650
New York, NY 10115
via email only

Dear President Walrond,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 5-6, 2023, and included on its agenda New York Theological Seminary's recent focused visit, as required by the Board in June 2021, and the resulting report by the evaluation committee. At the same time, the Board reviewed the school's interim report required by the Board in June 2021 related to the imposed probation on resources (financial).

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission [Standards](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), the Board voted:

1. To issue a Show Cause Order. The school should submit a report no later than the 1st of April 2024, demonstrating why accreditation should not be withdrawn. This report should demonstrate that the school meets Standard 10.3 and has "sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability." The report should include the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Audit Reports, the school's analysis of its FY 2022 and FY 2023 operating revenues and expenditures, updated budget projections for FY 2024 and FY 2025, and a report on the school's progress toward balancing its operating budget, increasing its reserves, and replenishing its investments. Failure to submit a satisfactory report will lead to withdrawal of accreditation (*Policies and Procedures*, III.J).

In a separate action, the Board also considered the school's interim report required by the Board in June 2022 "regarding teach-out agreement(s) with institutional partner(s) that address the program completion needs of every student in an ATS-approved program and meet all the criteria for teach-out agreements described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.3."

The school submitted signed teach-out agreements with four ATS-accredited seminaries (New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Interdenominational Theological Center, and Asbury Theological Seminary) addressing the program completion needs of the approximately 86 active and 22 inactive students in its approved programs (Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Pastoral Care and Counseling, Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Administration, Master of Arts in Religious Education, and Doctor of Ministry). Each of the agreements (signed between November 30, 2022 and March 31, 2023) addresses the five required

criteria: a list of students enrolled in each program and their program requirements to completion, information regarding how to obtain a closed school discharge, a records retention plan, the number and types of credit the teach-out institution is willing to accept prior to enrollment, and a statement regarding the tuition and fees to be charged. In addition, the school submitted a “modified transfer of credit agreement” with Union Theological Seminary related to students enrolled in the MDiv. If the Board approves the June 2023 petition from Union Theological Seminary to offer the Doctor of Ministry program, this transfer of agreement policy will relate to the DMin, also.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission [Standards](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), the Board voted:

2. To receive the report required in June 2022 regarding teach-out agreements with New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and Asbury Theological Seminary addressing the program completion needs of students in ATS-approved programs. The agreements with these schools meet all the criteria for teach-out agreements described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.3. In addition, the “modified transfer of credit agreement” with Union Theological Seminary related to the MDiv and the DMin is received.
3. To require a report by the 1st of September 2023, regarding a teach-out agreement with an institutional partner that addresses the program completion needs of all students in the MARE program since the institution named in the report is no longer admitting students to Master’s programs.

Actions taken during the 2023 summer meeting of the Board of Commissioners are effective as of **June 6, 2023**.

The ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#) defines a public sanction as (negative) action being taken by the Board of Commissioners to issue a Warning (III.G), to place on Probation (III.H), or to issue a Show Cause (III.I). Timeframes for resolving a public sanction may not exceed twelve months in the event of a Show Cause—which is neither reviewable nor appealable (III.I.1)—or two years in the event of either an imposition of Warning (III.G.1) or being placed on Probation (III.H.1). Evidence for removal of the above public sanction(s) should be sent to the ATS Commission on Accrediting no later than **April 1, 2024**, in order to be considered by the Board at its 2024 summer meeting (June). Submission of such evidence follows the guidelines and formatting as other interim reports to the Commission (III.E(.1)); see also <https://www.ats.edu/Interim-Reports>). To request that a public sanction be removed earlier, the school should contact its assigned ATS Commission staff liaison regarding the possibility of any advance submission and associated deadline for Board review.

Please contact me directly at mutch@ats.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mutch
Senior Director of Accreditation

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