

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: July–September 2023

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. 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 18, 2023, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **September 25, 2023**—unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Missio Theologocial Seminary – Philadelphia, PA

To approve a one semester *delay* of the school’s comprehensive evaluation visit (*from* spring 2024 to fall 2024) and to adjust the school’s period of accreditation accordingly (i.e., to expire March 31, 2025).

[Commission staff action 9/26/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

St. Patrick’s Seminary and University – Menlo Park, CA

In August 2023, the Board of Commissioners received notification of the school’s **voluntary withdrawal** from accredited membership in the ATS Commission on Accrediting, effective September 14, 2023. The Officers Committee acknowledges the notification and notes that the school’s degrees will continue to be accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission and the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Claremont School of Theology – Claremont, CA

To grant approval for the extension of the period of approval of the Doctor of Professional Counseling *from* June 2023 to June 2024.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Gateway Seminary – Ontario, CA

Notification acknowledged regarding the relocation of an approved location offering a complete degree in the same geographic area, *from* 9810 NE 76th Street, Vancouver, WA 98662, to 6307 NE 87th Street, Vancouver, WA 98665, effective January 13, 2023.

[Commission staff action 6/20/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

[Previously unreported but effective June 20, 2023]

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary - New Orleans, LA

1. To grant approval to close the school’s additional location at Church at the Cross, 700 Good Homes Road, Orlando, FL 32818 (effective January 1, 2024). This site is approved to offer the complete MDiv, MACE, and MTS degrees.
2. To approve the school’s teach-out plan, since it meets the criteria for evaluation teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary - Pittsburgh, PA

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 25150 North Pima Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85255, previously approved to offer the complete Doctor of Ministry degree.
2. Not to require a teach-out plan because no students remain at this location.
3. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 4200 54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711, previously approved to offer the complete Doctor of Ministry degree.
4. Not to require a teach-out plan because no students remain at this location.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary - Pittsburgh, PA

Notification acknowledged to reduce the additional location at 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA 15923, to offer less than 25 percent of any degree, effective April 17, 2023.

[Commission staff action 9/26/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

Western Seminary – Portland, OR

Notification acknowledged that the school is relocating its additional location at 1000 S. Park Victoria Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035 to 6601 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. The new site is in the same geographic area approximately 17 miles from the closed site and the school has indicated that all current students will be relocating to the new location. The site is approved to offer complete master's degrees. To *exempt* the new location from a focused evaluation visit since the new location is in the same geographic area (*Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2 and III.L.1)

[Commission staff action 8/22/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

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

Claremont School of Theology - Claremont, CA

To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

[Previously unreported but effective June 6, 2023]

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Chicago, IL

To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

[Previously unreported but effective June 6, 2023]

McCormick Theological Seminary – Chicago, IL

To grant *temporary authorization* for courses to be held at the new location at 5416 South Cornell Avenue, Fifth Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60615, effective September 1, 2023. This authorization will be in effect until such time as the Board of Commissioners can meet and act officially on the relocation, per the *Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2 (anticipated September 2023).

[Commission staff action 7/31/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]

McCormick Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL

1. To approve the relocation of the main campus *from* its current location at 5460 South University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60615, about one mile *to* 5416 South Cornell Avenue, Fifth Floor, Chicago, IL 60615, effective September 1, 2023.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation (visit anticipated: spring 2024).
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.1-2.

The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology - Seattle, WA

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 2501 Elliott Avenue, Seattle, WA 98133, *to* 1130 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144, effective January 8, 2024.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation (visit anticipated: spring 2024).
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.1-2.

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING

Ecumenical Theological Seminary – Detroit, MI

To accept the teach-out plan as required by *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2 due to USDE placement on heightened cash monitoring.

[Previously unreported but effective June 6, 2023]

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).

New York Theological Seminary – New York, NY

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.

[Previously unreported but effective June 6, 2023]

Report prepared: September 29, 2023

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The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

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