

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: November 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 November 15, 2023, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **November 22, 2023**—unless otherwise noted.

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

#### Grace School of Theology – The Woodlands, TX

To approve a one semester *delay* of the school's comprehensive evaluation visit (*from* April 15-18, 2024, *to* September 23-26, 2024), and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2025].

*[Commission staff action 11/28/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

#### Memphis Theological Seminary – Memphis, TN

To approve a one semester *delay* of the school's comprehensive evaluation visit (*from* spring 2025 *to* fall 2025) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (i.e., to expire March 31, 2026).

*[Commission staff action 11/20/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

#### Claremont School of Theology - Claremont, CA

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 900 State Street, Salem, OR 97301, effective January 24, 2023. This site is approved to offer half or more of any approved degree, including complete degrees.
2. 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.

#### New Brunswick Theological Seminary - New Brunswick, NJ

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439, previously approved to offer complete master's-level degrees, effective December 31, 2023.
2. 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.
3. To *rescind* the report required June 2022 and due April 1, 2024, regarding the school's additional location at Jamaica, Queens (St. John's Hall, Room B36, St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY 11439).

#### Western Seminary - Portland, OR

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 8150 Industrial Avenue, Building D, Ste. 250-D, Roseville, CA 95678, where the full Master of Arts in Counseling had been offered, effective August 31, 2023.
2. 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.

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

### **Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - Rochester, NY**

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location at 320 N. Goodman Street, Suite 207, Rochester, NY 14607, about 1.2 miles *to* 20-30 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604, effective July 1, 2024.
2. To authorize the evaluation committee for the scheduled October 2024 comprehensive visit for reaccreditation to determine whether the new location has the adequate resources to support the school's institution and educational mission in lieu of a separate focused visit as required by *Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2.
3. 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.

### **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Chicago, IL**

To approve a one-semester *delay* of the school's focused evaluation visit for main campus relocation (*from* fall 2023 *to* spring 2024) so the focused evaluation visit can be held concurrently with the school's comprehensive visit for re-affirmation of accreditation (scheduled for February 19-22, 2024).  
*[Commission staff action 11/16/2023 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

### **Reformed Episcopal Seminary - Blue Bell, PA**

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 826 Second Avenue, Blue Bell, PA 19422, about 7.5 miles *to* Saint Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church, 800 Church Road, Oreland, PA 19075, effective July 1, 2024.
2. To accept the school's arrangements with students as fulfilling all requirements of a teach-out plan.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the new location at Saint Paul's Reformed Episcopal Church, 800 Church Road, Oreland, PA 19075 has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)

## **ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING**

### **Lexington Theological Seminary - Lexington, KY**

To approve the teach-out plan, required given that the US Department of Education placed the school on heightened cash monitoring, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

## **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 accept the report required in June 2023 regarding a teach-out agreement for students in the MARE program.

*Report prepared: December 1, 2023*

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**The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting**

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