

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: February 2024

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 semiannual meeting *February 5-6, 2024*, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **February 6, 2024**—unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Alliance Theological Seminary - New York, NY

1. To acknowledge the school's *voluntary withdrawal* from membership in the Commission, effective October 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 two reports required by the Board in February 2022, due November 1, 2024, and April 1, 2025.

Candler School of Theology of Emory University - Atlanta, GA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Religion and Public Life
 - Master of Religious Leadership
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of five years, until 31 March, 2029, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2028.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Professional Counseling
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: Chang Jung Christian University (396 Chang Jung Rd, Sec. I, Kway Jen), Tainan, Taiwan. This site is approved to offer at least half of the PhD in Contextual Theologies program.

Concordia Seminary (MO) - St. Louis, MO

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.

2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Religion)
 - Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies
 - Master of Sacred Theology (STM)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Hartford International University for Religion and Peace - Hartford, CT

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Arts in Chaplaincy (MAC)
 - Master of Arts in Interreligious Studies (MAIRS)
 - Master of Arts in International Peacebuilding (MAP)
 - PhD in Interreligious Studies (PhD)
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology - Brookline, MA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Hood Theological Seminary - Salisbury, NC

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Chaplaincy
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Knox Theological Seminary - Fort Lauderdale, FL

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2030.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)
 - Master of Arts (Christian and Classical Studies)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University - St. Davids, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Practical Theology
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: Parchment Valley Conference Center, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary - Pittsburgh, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas - St. Paul, MN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Theology
 - b. Distance education: Limited
 - c. Additional locations: None

Shaw University Divinity School - Raleigh, NC

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

St. Patrick's Seminary and University - Menlo Park, CA

1. To acknowledge the school's *voluntary withdrawal* from membership in the Commission, effective September 14, 2023.
2. To *waive* the need for a teach-out plan as 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.
3. To *rescind* the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for fall 2024.

St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary - South Canaan, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree program:
 - Master of Divinity
 - b. Distance education: Limited
 - c. Additional locations: None

University of Notre Dame Department of Theology - Notre Dame, IN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Theology
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Western Theological Seminary - Holland, MI

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Christian Studies
 - Master of Arts in Disability and Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Theology
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Hartford International University for Religion and Peace - Hartford, CT

1. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 2.5-8).
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.

Moravian Theological Seminary - Bethlehem, PA

1. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 5.1-6).
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.

Pentecostal Theological Seminary - Cleveland, TN

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2023).
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).
3. To require a report by the 1st of November 2027, regarding the development and successful implementation of the PhD program. The report should include enrollment to date (see Standard 7.2), the status of PhD faculty appointments (see Standard 8.4), the provision of financial aid (see Standards 7.8-9), documented evidence of the financial sustainability of the program (see Standard 10.3), and an updated PhD handbook (see Standard 8.1).

Urshan Graduate School of Theology - Wentzville, MO

1. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2023).
2. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 5.1-6).

Western Theological Seminary - Holland, MI

- To approve the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (see Standards 4.6-9).

World Mission University School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2023).
2. To approve the Doctor of Worship Studies degree program (see Standards 5.7-10).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION

Duke University Divinity School - Durham, NC

To grant approval for comprehensive distance (online) education (more than half of any approved degree).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Calvin Theological Seminary - Grand Rapids, MI

1. To grant approval for a new additional location at 3717 S. Cottonwood Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282 to offer 100 percent of the Commission approved Master of Arts in Missional Theology.
2. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at 3717 S. Cottonwood Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282 has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: spring 2024)

Covenant Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO

1. To grant approval to close the school's three additional locations, all previously approved to offer complete master's-level degrees, at:
 - a. Redemption Church – Tempe (2052 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85282);
 - b. Redemption Church – Gilbert (1820 W. Elliot Road, Gilbert, AZ 85223); and
 - c. 3717 S. Cottonwood Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.
2. To acknowledge notification of the closure of the Master of Arts in Missional Theology and to remind the school to inform Commission staff when the last student has left the program.
3. To approve the school's teach-out plans, since they meet the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Dallas Theological Seminary - Dallas, TX

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 4400 North Point Parkway, Suite 100, Alpharetta, GA 30022. This site is approved to offer a complete degree.
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.

Lancaster Theological Seminary - Lancaster, PA

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

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School of Trinity International University - Deerfield, IL

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at Christ Community Chapel (750 W Streetsboro Street, Hudson, OH 44236), effective September 5, 2022.
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 grant approval to close the school's additional location at Eastbrook Church (5385 N Green Bay Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209), effective December 14, 2023.
4. 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

B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary - Arlington, TX

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 6500 N. Belt Line Road, Suite 170, Irving, TX 75063 *to* 301 S. Center Street, Suite 412, Arlington, TX 76010, effective February 1, 2024.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location to coincide with the already scheduled focused visit to take place in March 4-6, 2024.
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.

Harding School of Theology - Memphis, TN

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 100 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117 *to* 915 E. Market Avenue, Searcy, AR, 72149, effective by August 1, 2024.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)
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.

Lincoln Christian Seminary - Lincoln, IL

1. To approve the school's request for a change in governing control through an acquisition by Ozark Christian College, effective June 1, 2024.
2. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 100 Campus View Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656 *to* 1111 North Main, Joplin, MO 64801.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change in governing control and relocation to verify that the seminary continues to meet applicable Commission Standards. This visit should give particular attention to Standard 9 (governance) and Standard 10 (resources). (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)
4. To acknowledge the institutional name change *from* Lincoln Christian Seminary *to* Lincoln Seminary at Ozark Christian College, effective June 1, 2024.

Multnomah Biblical Seminary of Multnomah University - Portland, OR

1. To approve the petition for a change in control of Multnomah Biblical Seminary *from* Multnomah University *to* Jessup University, 2121 University Ave., Rocklin, Ca 95765 effective May 1, 2024, with the school continuing as Multnomah Biblical Seminary of Jessup University.
2. To authorize a focused visit in light of this change in control to verify that the seminary continues to meet applicable Commission Standards and to satisfy the previously identified concerns regarding planning, evaluation, and institutional resources required by the Board in June 2021, to take place no later than six months from the effective date of the transfer. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024).

New York Theological Seminary - New York, NY

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 650, New York, NY 10115 *to* Union Theological Seminary (3041 Broadway at 121st Street, New York, NY 10027), effective December 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 note that the school's teach-out agreements with five schools are already approved.

Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan University - Rochester, NY

1. To approve the school's request for a change in governance resulting from a merger with Roberts Wesleyan University, effective June 30, 2024.
2. To authorize a focused visit in light of this change in governance, to take place no later than six months from the effective date of the merger, June 30, 2024. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING

Erskine Theological Seminary - Due West, SC

1. To acknowledge the notification that Erskine College, including all components of the institution which includes Erskine Theological Seminary, has been placed on warning by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, effective December 4, 2022.
2. To take no further action in light of the recent comprehensive evaluation visit (spring 2022) and the subsequent reports regarding planning (November 2024) and finances (November 2025).

Interdenominational Theological Center - Atlanta, GA

1. To acknowledge the notification that the school has been placed on warning by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, effective December 2021 and continued in December 2022 (subsequently changed to Probation for Good Cause in December 2023).

2. To remind the school of the report required by the 1st of November 2023, delayed by staff action to the 1st of April 2024, on finances and the importance of demonstrating in that report progress toward economic sustainability.

Multnomah Biblical Seminary of Multnomah University - Portland, OR

1. To acknowledge notification of action taken by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), received July 7, 2023, issuing a Sanction of Show Cause on the school's larger institution, Multnomah University, due to concerns related to mission fulfillment and sustainability.
2. To take no further action in light of the November 10, 2023 petition for a change in control of the seminary from Multnomah University to Jessup University.

Nashotah House - Nashotah, WI

To approve the school's teach-out plan, required as the result of USDE placement on heightened cash monitoring, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary - Pittsburgh, PA

1. To acknowledge notification of action taken by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), received June 29, 2023, to place the school on warning due to concerns related to educational effectiveness assessment.
2. To take no further action in light of the school's September 2023 comprehensive evaluation visit for reaccreditation and related recommendations.

Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University - Richmond, VA

1. To acknowledge the notification that Virginia Union University including all components of the institution which includes the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology has been placed on warning by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, effective December 10, 2022; and that in December 2023 SACSCOC voted to place the institution on Probation for Good Cause.
2. To require a report by the 1st of November 2024, regarding the governing body's fiduciary responsibilities for managing the school's finances and other assets (see Standard 9.3); and evidence that budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures are realistic, holistic, and sustainable (see Standard 10.3). The report is to include the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 audits and management letters (if available), the school's analysis of its FY 2024-25 operating revenues and expenditures, and budget projections for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 (see Standard 10.3).

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

1. To acknowledge notification of action taken by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), received November 20, 2023, to place the school on probation due to concerns related to planning, resources, and institutional improvement.
2. To take no further action at this time as the Board has already placed the institution on probation (June 2023) and required a teach-out plan in anticipation of the subsequent report on finances (April 2025) from that action.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - Fort Worth, TX

1. To acknowledge the notification that Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been placed on warning by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, effective June 23, 2023.
2. To adjust the date of the upcoming report **to July 1, 2024** (*from* July 1, 2025), regarding the governing body's authority for managing the school's finances and other assets (see Standard 9.3); evidence that budgeted and actual revenues and expenditures are realistic, holistic, and sustainable (see Standard 10.3); and evidence the school's endowment investment and spending strategy considers its mission, planning, financial sustainability, and potential impact on the future (see Standard 10.5). The report is to include the FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 audits and management letters, the school's analysis of its FY 2023-24 operating revenues and expenditures, and three-to-five-year budget projections.

St. Mary's Seminary and University - Baltimore, MD

1. To acknowledge the notification that Saint Mary's Seminary and University has continued on warning by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, effective June 22, 2023.
2. To require a report by the 1st of April 2024, regarding planning with attention to how the planning process informs the resourcing of strategic priorities and institutional improvement (see Standards 2.2-5).

Starr King School for the Ministry - Oakland, CA

To require a teach-out plan by the 1st of September 2024, given that the US Department of Education placed the school on heightened cash monitoring for “failure of financial responsibility under the Department’s regulations” and specifically for a “missing or late audit.” This provisional teach-out plan must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2. The school is requested to consult their Commission liaison for guidance in the process.

Westminster Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA

1. To acknowledge the notification that the school has been placed on warning by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, effective June 22, 2023.
2. To remind the school of the report required “by the 1st of April 2024, addressing institutional and programmatic planning and evaluation. The report is to address Standards 2.5-7 for each of the school’s programs including a description of the sustained process of analyzing and reflecting upon the gathered data, and evidence of how the analysis of the data shapes educational and institutional improvement (closing the loop) (see Standards 2.5-7). A link to the web posting of the current statement of educational effectiveness is to be included (see Standard 2.8). The school is encouraged to consult the Board’s [*A Reflective Guide to Effective Evaluation for Theological Schools*](#).”

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

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific standard. The school has two years to address this warning adequately, or the Board will take appropriate action as described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J, which usually means imposing probation. [Effective February 26, 2024, 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]

Standard 10.3 on Financial Resources. The school is at risk of not having “sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” The school must submit a report by the 1st of November 2025, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, including a financial plan that is “realistic, holistic, and sustainable” with a credible plan to address any deficiencies going forward. The school’s FY 2023 and FY 2024 audits, along with any management letters (if available), must be appended to the report. The report should also address how the \$7.7M arbitration award will be used and the role of the board in planning and governance related to the financial crisis.

International Theological Seminary - West Covina, CA

To require a teach-out plan by the 1st of July 2024, because the institution has been placed on probation by the Board (*Policies and Procedures*, III.L.1). The teach-out plan should follow the criteria for teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Pontifical College Josephinum - Columbus, OH

1. To receive the report required in February 2022 regarding the warning related to Standards 2.1-4 on planning, including information related to Standards 7.3 (enrollment), 9.6-8 (shared governance), 10.3 (balanced budgets), and 10.5 (prudent endowment draws).
2. To remove the warning related to Standards 2.1-4 [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].
3. To require a report by the 1st of November 2025, documenting continued progress as anticipated in the strategic and operating plans in increased enrollment, sustained balanced budgets, and regular prudent endowment draws (see Standards 7.3, 10.3, and 10.5).

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

To require a teach-out plan by the 1st of July 2024, because the institution has been placed on probation by the Board (*Policies and Procedures*, III.L.1). The teach-out plan should follow the criteria for teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities - St. Paul, MN

1. To receive the report required in January 2023 regarding the warning related to Standards 10.3-6 on financial resources.
2. In light of incremental progress, to remove the warning related to Standards 10.3-6 [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].
3. To require a report by the 1st of November 2024, documenting continued progress toward financial sustainability. The report is to include an update on the school's progress toward anticipated enrollment growth, reducing and eliminating its operating deficits including negative net revenue budgeting (see Standard 10.3), the current tuition revenue and scholarship strategy (see Standard 10.4), the continued preservation and utilization of endowment draws (see Standard 10.5), and the donor cultivation and giving strategy (see Standard 10.6). Documentation is to include FY 2023-24 audit, management letter (if available), the school's analysis of the FY 2024-25 operating revenues and expenditures to the date of the report's submission, and budget projections for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 (see Standard 10.3).

Report prepared: February 27, 2024

Leah K. Wright | Accrediting Records Coordinator

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

10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 240 | accrediting@ats.edu | www.ats.edu