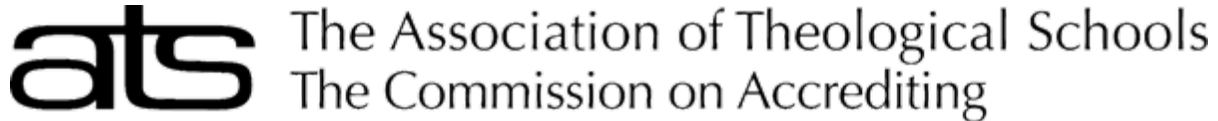


From: [ATS Accrediting](#)
To: richard.manley-tannis@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca; [Heather Campain Hartung](#)
Cc: richard.manley-tannis@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca
Subject: [COAATS] Action Letter, June 2024
Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 12:43:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



June 7, 2024

ATTN: Richard Manley-Tannis
St. Andrew's College
1121 College Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W3
Canada
via email only

Dear Principal Manley-Tannis,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 3-4, 2024, and included on its agenda St. Andrew's College's comprehensive visit and the resulting report by the evaluation committee.

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

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of five years, until 31 July 2029, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2029.

Rationale if less than maximum period: Given the many ongoing uncertainties of the impact on St. Andrew's College of the current reconfiguration of the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU), including, but not limited to, evolving governance structures (of the individual member institutions and the STU as a whole) and concomitant organizational, financial, and curricular structures and the ways that those changes will be communicated and how they support the viability and flourishing of St. Andrew's College, the committee recommends five years.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs (each by virtue of participation in the Saskatoon Theological Union):
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None
3. To affirm these distinctive strengths to be maintained during the next period of accreditation:
 - a. Historic and present faithfulness to a widely expressed commitment to justice, equity, and decolonization as defining and lived institutional values.
 - b. An embrace of hopefulness in the face of challenge as evidenced by a values-driven willingness to engage and collaborate with one another and with the other schools of the Saskatoon Theological Union.
 - c. An institutional ethos that seeks to flatten hierarchical structures and foster collaboration and consensus models of decision-making with mutual respect.

- d. A commitment to providing contextually relevant theological education with particular attention to the social and religious landscape of the Canadian prairies.
4. To highlight the following issues needing special attention during the next period of accreditation:
 - a. Effective patterns of transparency and communication with internal and external constituents about institutional mission and evolving structures, particularly as the Saskatoon Theological Union takes new and more formalized form (see Standards 1.1 and 1.4).
 - b. Institutional evaluation (e.g., evaluation of and metrics related to strategic plan initiatives, student services, library resources, development initiatives) that is simple, systematic, and sustainable; engages appropriate stakeholders; and uses analysis and reflection for institutional improvement (see Standard 2.6).
 - c. Assurance that students in all degree programs have access to appropriate vocational counseling and placement guidance and services that are relevant to their studies and consistent with the school's mission and religious context (see Standard 7.10).
 - d. Workload of faculty and their range of faculty responsibilities in teaching and learning, scholarship, and service that are viewed holistically, with clear expectations, and fulfilled by a faculty that is of sufficient size, attentive to responsibilities shared with the STU common faculty (see Standards 8.2 and 8.10-11).
5. To require the following reports to address areas needing improvement and/or further information:
 - a. To require a report by the 1st of April 2025, regarding its governance model and shared governance practices, particularly in light of the school's participation in the Saskatoon Theological Union. The report should outline the governance structure of the STU and changes to the school's own governance structure, board committees, faculty committees, and reporting structures (see Standards 9 opening paragraph, 9.6-9, and 10.10).
 - b. To require a report by the 1st of November 2025, regarding: i) the creation of a collection development policy; ii) a plan for evaluating the adequacy and use of services and resources; and iii) evidence of appropriate integration of library personnel into the school's leadership, faculty, and decision-making structures, with particular attention to the school's multiple educational modalities and participation in the Saskatoon Theological Union (see Standards 6.2, 6.4-5, 6.8).
 - c. To require a report by the 1st of April 2027, regarding operating results that demonstrate a trajectory toward a consistent pattern of surpluses over time and deployment of a prudent endowment draw that protects and preserves endowment funds. The report should include the school's plans for ensuring sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability, as well as a copy of the most recent two years of audited financials (see Standards 10.3 and 10.5).
6. To issue the following warning(s) because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standard(s). The school has two years to address these warnings adequately, or the Board will take other appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J.
 - a. Standard 2.6-7, 4.5, 4.9, and 5.10 on Educational Evaluation. While progress has been made in developing a shared new curriculum with the STU, the 2024 Self-Study noted, and the committee confirmed, planning processes for regular educational evaluation (assessment), have yet to be developed. The gathering of data and the engagement of appropriate stakeholders, and a sustained process of analyzing and reflecting upon the gathered data with documentation reflecting that process is largely absent. Further, little evidence was presented that the analysis of the data shapes educational improvement ("closing the loop"). As a result, the school must submit a report by the 1st of April 2026, addressing programmatic evaluation. The report is to include evidence of a sustained process of gathering, analyzing, and reflecting upon the data, the parties responsible, benchmarks for success, and evidence of how the analysis of the data shapes educational improvement for each degree program

(see Standards 2.6-7, 4.5, 4.9, 5.10). The school is encouraged to consult the Board's [4 Reflective Guide to Effective Evaluation for Theological Schools](#).

- b. **Standard 4.4 on the Master of Divinity degree.** The 2024 Self-Study noted, and the committee confirmed, that supervised practical experience (i.e., supervised ministry experience) is not currently part of all MDiv degree program pathways. As a result, the school must submit a report by 1st April 2026 demonstrating how all students in the MDiv program will engage in supervised practical experiences (e.g., practicum or internship) in areas related to the student's vocational calling in order to achieve the learning outcomes of the degree program. The report should address how settings are appropriately chosen, well suited to the experience need, and of sufficient duration, and how those who serve in supervisory roles are appropriately qualified, professionally developed, and regularly evaluated (see Standard 4.4).

NOTE: **Actions #1- #5** (above) are effective **June 4, 2024**; **action #6** (above) is effective **June 21, 2024**—thereby allowing sufficient time from the receipt of this notification for any initial request for a review (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VIII.A and VIII.A.1-3). To request a review of the above public sanction(s), the school must submit an official request signed by the school's chief executive officer (or designee) within two weeks from today's Board action letter; the school would then have two more weeks to submit specific documentation supporting its review request (VIII.A.1-2). Any initial request for a review is to be addressed to the Board of Commissioners and submitted in care of the Accrediting Records Coordinator (accrediting@ats.edu).

The ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#) defines a public sanction as a negative action 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). The school is reminded that it must disclose its accreditation status publicly on its website and in appropriate documents such as its catalog (VII.A.6). If the school has been placed on public sanction (i.e., warning, probation, show cause), that information must also be included in the school's public statement of accreditation and disclosed to all current and prospective students **within seven business days** of the effective date of that action (see III.G-I, VI.A.5, and VIII). The school is to provide evidence to the Commission (accrediting@ats.edu) that these disclosures have occurred by **July 2, 2024** (e.g., date stamped screenshots, letter communiques, etc.).

Timeframes for resolving a public sanction may not exceed two years in the event of issuing a Warning (III.G.1). Evidence for removal of the above public sanction(s) should be sent to the ATS Commission on Accrediting no later than **April 1, 2026**, in order to be considered by the Board at its 2026 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 hartung@ats.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Heather Campaign Hartung
Director of Accreditation

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