

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: May–June 2025

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 June 2-3, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **June 3, 2025**—unless otherwise noted.*

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Asbury Theological Seminary - Wilmore, KY

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - MDiv
 - MA (Biblical Studies)
 - MA (Intercultural Studies)
 - MA (Theological Studies)
 - MA in Christian Ministries
 - MA in Christian Spiritual Direction
 - MA in Leadership
 - MA in Marriage and Family Counseling
 - MA in Mental Health Counseling
 - MA in Ministry
 - MA in Pastoral and Spiritual Care
 - MA in Pastoral Counseling
 - Master of Biblical and Theological Foundations
 - ThM
 - DMin
 - PhD (Biblical Studies)
 - PhD (Intercultural Studies)
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary at East Texas Baptist University - Arlington, TX

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Theological Studies
 - Master of Arts in Counseling
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis - Plymouth, MN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Duke University Divinity School - Durham, NC

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Practice
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Theology
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Grace Theological Seminary - Winona Lake, IN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Divinity (direct assessment CBE)
 - Master of Arts in Local Church Ministry (direct assessment CBE)
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Ministry Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Intercultural Studies
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Ongoing exception status to the five-year experiment approved in 2017 to offer the complete MDiv and MA in Local Church Ministry programs using a non-residential, competency-based model of theological education (called Deploy).
 - d. Additional location:
 - Grace Church Building – Norton Campus (3970 Cleveland-Massillon Road, Norton, OH 44203) to offer the complete degree Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Kearley Graduate School of Theology of Faulkner University - Montgomery, AL

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
 - Master of Arts in Family Life Ministry
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Ongoing exception to the PhD residency requirement (see Standard 5.15).

- d. Additional locations: None

Lancaster Theological Seminary - Lancaster, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Theological Studies
 - Master of Ministry
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Luther Seminary - St. Paul, MN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (in teach-out)
 - Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry (in teach-out)
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Philosophy
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

M. Christopher White School of Divinity of Gardner-Webb University - Boiling Springs, NC

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Bible and Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional location:
 - 8030 Arrowridge Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28723, offering 25-49 percent of the MDiv.

Missio Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA

To adjust the school's voluntary withdrawal from accredited membership in the Commission *from* June 30, 2026 *to* December 31, 2025, and *rescind* the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for fall 2025.

Northwest Nazarene Divinity School - Nampa, ID

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Leadership and Formation
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
 - Doctor of Theology
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

San Francisco Theological Seminary - San Anselmo, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2032.
Rationale if less than maximum period: The school continues to engage its mission in a new context as an embedded seminary within a university. While some transitional issues have been resolved, there is ongoing work needed to reengage its constituencies, implement and assess its strategic plan framework, attend to recruitment/enrollment needs, address the adequacy of its administrative structure and staffing, and renew its institutional and educational evaluation processes.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Shaw University Divinity School - Raleigh, NC

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2032.
Rationale if less than maximum period: There are significant concerns about the school's institutional stability related to financial issues and personnel turnover that could impact its long-term ability to meet some of the Commission standards.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

St. Joseph's Seminary and College - Yonkers, NY

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies)
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

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

To approve a one-year *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* spring 2027 *to* spring 2028) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire July 31, 2028].

Vanderbilt University Divinity School - Nashville, TN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Dominican House of Studies - Washington, DC

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025), confirming that the school has sufficient resources to offer the Doctor of Philosophy degree program.
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy in Theology (Thomistic Studies) degree program.

Shepherds Theological Seminary - Cary, NC

To approve the Doctor of Christian Leadership (DCL) degree program (see Standards 5.7-10), *contingent* upon clarification to staff of the program's curriculum, prerequisites, including the type of graduate degree appropriate for admission to the program.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Gateway Seminary - Ontario, CA

1. To grant approval to relocate the school's additional location in the San Francisco Bay Area *from* 38891 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536, approved to offer complete master's-level degrees, about 18 miles *to* 1221 Pacific Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577.
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 *exempt* the additional location from a focused evaluation visit since the school meets the exemption criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.

George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University - Waco, TX

1. To grant approval to expand the school's additional locations at First Baptist Church (1208 S Tyler Street, Amarillo, TX, 79101), Lanier Theological Library (14130 Hargrave Road, Houston, TX 77070), Trinity Baptist Church (319 E Mulberry Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78212), and Baptist World Alliance (405 North Washington Street, Falls Church, Virginia, 22046) to also offer 25-49 percent of the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 5.1-6).
2. To *exempt* the additional locations from a focused evaluation visit since the school meets the exemption criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.

Shepherds Theological Seminary - Cary, NC

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025), confirming that resources are available and appropriate to offer a complete master's level degree at Emmanuel Baptist Church (7320 Steep Hollow Road, Bryan, TX 77808) as an additional location of Shepherds Theological Seminary, *contingent* upon submission of an updated signed memo of understanding with the church. [Contingency met March 25, 2025]

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

Central Baptist Theological Seminary - Overland Park, KS

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the new main campus located at 8620 W. 110th Street, Overland Park, KS 66210.

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - Rochester, NY

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025), confirming that adequate resources are in place at the school's new main campus location 20 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604.

Grace School of Theology - The Woodlands, TX

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location, 3705 College Park Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77384, about 3.2 miles *to* 2700 Technology Forest Blvd, Suite 225, The Woodlands, TX 77381, effective June 1, 2025.
2. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at 2700 Technology Forest Blvd, Suite 225, The Woodlands, TX 77381, has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: fall 2025)
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 Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University - Hickory, NC

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025), confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the school's new main campus located at 625 7th Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601.

Missio Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025).
2. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 421 N. 7th Street, Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19123 *to* Sharon Baptist Church of Philadelphia (3955 Conshohocken Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19131), effective April 1, 2025, confirming that resources at this location are available, adequate, and appropriate.

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

1. To approve the school's request for a change in governing control through a formal acquisition by Trinity Western University, effective December 31, 2025, with relocation *from* the campus of Trinity International University in Bannockburn, IL *to* Trinity Western University in Langley, BC, Canada by fall 2026.
2. To require the school to submit a detailed teach-out plan and/or agreement(s) for each student in each degree program by the 1st of November 2025, given that the school is leaving its main campus and relocating to the campus of Trinity Western University in Canada (see above). This teach-out plan and/or agreement(s) must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.
3. To authorize a focused visit in light of this change of governance and relocation, to take place no later than six months from the effective date of the relocation to the campus of Trinity Western University (September 1, 2026) following the change of governance, effective December 31, 2025. (Visit anticipated: fall 2026)

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING**Eden Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO**

To require a report by the 1st of April 2026, on the financial operations of the school, including the FY 2025 audit, management letter (if available), the school's analysis of its FY 2026 operating revenues and expenditures, budget projections for FY 2027 and FY 2028, and a report on the school's progress toward reducing and eliminating its operating deficits (see Standard 10.3).

Pentecostal Theological Seminary - Cleveland, TN

To require a report by the 1st of April 2026, on the financial operations of the school, including the FY 2025 audit, management letter (if available), the school's analysis of its FY 2026 operating revenues and expenditures, budget projections for FY 2027 and FY 2028, and a report on the school's progress toward reducing and eliminating its operating deficits (see Standard 10.3).

Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America of California Prestige University - Santa Fe Springs, CA

To require a report by the 1st of April 2026, regarding adequate financial resources, in light of cumulative losses in operations over the last three years, as reported in the school's most recent Annual Report Form. The report should include the FY 2025 audit, management letter (if available), the school's analysis of its FY 2026 operating revenues and expenditures, budget projections for FY 2027 and FY 2028, and a report on the school's progress toward reducing and eliminating its operating deficits (see Standard 10.3).

The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology - Seattle, WA

To authorize an expansion of the focused visit to the school's new campus following relocation *from* 2501 Elliott Avenue, Seattle, WA 98133, *to* 1130 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144, (anticipated fall 2025) to address the school's financial condition, particularly in light of a pattern of operating losses and the deficit in undesignated net assets (see Standard 10.3).

United Lutheran Seminary - Gettysburg, PA

1. To acknowledge notification that the school has been placed on warning by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) effective November 25, 2024, due to concerns related to educational effectiveness assessment.

2. To take no action at this time in light of the report due November 2, 2025, regarding the evaluation of personnel and the programmatic evaluation of student learning outcomes.

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

International Theological Seminary - West Covina, CA

1. To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee (spring 2025) and the interim report required by the Board in June 2023 related to strategic planning and probation on resources (financial).
2. To **extend for good cause** for one year (to June 2026) the probation on financial resources, as the school has demonstrated sufficient progress since the time the school was put on probation for finances two years ago. Progress has been made in the areas of strategic planning, cost-cutting measures, increased enrollment strategies, and increased donations but some of the initiatives still need to come to fuller fruition. The school must submit a report by the 1st of April 2026, demonstrating 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 2024 and FY 2025 audit reports, the school's analysis of its FY 2025 and FY 2026 operating revenues and expenditures, and a financial projection for FY 2027-2029 consistent with the school's strategic plan. The report should include a narration of the school's progress toward financial sustainability. Failure to meet the Standard at the end of the one-year Extension for Good Cause may lead to the Board withdrawing the school's accreditation (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.I).
3. To authorize a focused visit in spring of 2026, to make a recommendation regarding whether the Board of Commissioners should remove probation or take an adverse action, i.e., withdrawal of accreditation (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.J).

Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America of California Prestige University - Santa Fe Springs, CA

1. To receive the report required in June 2023 regarding the warning related to Standards 9.6-8 on shared governance, specifically as it relates to the delegation of the governing body to the faculty appropriate authority to oversee, design, implement, evaluate, and improve the school's educational programs and policies in collaboration with other appropriate parties.
2. To remove the warning related to Standards 9.6-8.
3. To receive the report required in June 2023 regarding the warning related to Standards 2.6-7 on educational evaluation.
4. To remove the warning related to Standards 2.6-7 [i.e., the school is accredited in good standing].

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

1. To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee (spring 2025) and the interim report required by the Board in June 2023 related to the probation on resources (financial).
2. To **extend for good cause** for one year (to June 2026) the probation on financial resources, as the school has demonstrated sufficient progress since the time the school was put on probation for finances two years ago. Progress has been made in areas leading to initiatives for the generation of new income but some of them are still to come to fuller fruition. The school must submit a report by the 1st of November 2025, containing the audited report for FY 2024, demonstrating continual improvement toward financial sustainability. The report should also include the most recent FY 2025 budget vs. actual statement and the school's analysis of its FY 2025 operating revenues and expenditures, demonstrating diminishing dependency on non-recurring revenue sources and increased dependency on stable, recurring revenue sources (see Standard 10.3). Failure to meet the standard at the end of the one-year Extension for Good Cause may lead to the Board withdrawing the school's accreditation (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.I).
3. To authorize a focused visit in spring of 2026, to make a recommendation regarding whether the Board of Commissioners should remove probation or take an adverse action, i.e., withdrawal of accreditation (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.J).

Report prepared: June 12, 2025

Leah K. Wright | Accrediting Records Coordinator

The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

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Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: June 2025

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 June 2-3, 2025, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the actions below with an effective date of **June 3, 2025**—unless otherwise noted.

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

Interdenominational Theological Center - Atlanta, GA

1. To accept the teach-out plan required by the Board in February 2025.
 2. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2025).
 3. To impose probation for a period of 24 months (June 2025 to June 2027), as a result of the school not meeting the following Commission *Standards* (per *Policies and Procedures*, III.H): Standards 10.3, 10.5, and 10.7. The school does not have “sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” The school has not practiced protection and preservation endowed funds “including prudent endowment draws.” The school has not employed “qualified persons sufficient in number to manage well its financial affairs.” The school must submit the following reports:
 - a. a report by the 1st of April 2026, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, including a financial plan that is “realistic, wholistic, and sustainable” (see Self-Study Ideas for Standard 10.3 for additional guidance). The report must include: audits for FY 2024 and FY 2025, along with any management letters, budget to actual financial statements for FY 2026, projected budgets for FY 2027 and FY 2028, evidence of staffing appropriate for correction of deficiencies in internal controls, enrollment numbers for the previous two years, the current year, and projections for the next two years.
 - b. a report by the 1st of April 2027, documenting that the school has achieved financial sustainability. The report must include: the school’s audit for FY 2026, along with any management letter, budget to actual financial statements for FY 2027, projected budgets for FY 2028 and FY 2029, fundraising through the ITC Foundation, the school’s endowment spending policy, and the revised Consortium Agreement.
 4. To affirm that the previously accepted teach-out plan meets the requirement for a school placed on probation.
 5. To authorize a focused visit prior to the end of the period of probation (spring 2027) to make a recommendation regarding whether the Board of Commissioners should remove probation or take an adverse action, i.e., withdrawal of accreditation (*Policies and Procedures*, III.J).
- [Actions #3-5 effective June 20, 2025, 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]

Report prepared: June 23, 2025

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