



Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: January–February 2026

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 2-3, 2026*, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **February 3, 2026**—unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Earlham School of Religion - Richmond, IN

To approve an additional one-semester *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* fall 2026 to spring 2027) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (i.e., to expire July 31, 2027).

GETS Theological Seminary - Covina, CA

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of five 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 Arts in Christian Studies (to be clarified, see 5.a)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary - South Hamilton, MA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - MA in Christian Counseling
 - MA in Christian Ministries
 - MA in Counseling
 - MA in Theological Studies
 - Master of Theology
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - PhD in Theological Studies

The following degrees are in Commission approved teach-out phase, and thus were not examined:

- MA (Biblical Languages) (in teach-out)
- MA (Biblical Studies) (in teach-out)
- MA (Christian Studies) (in teach-out)
- MA (Christian Thought) (in teach-out)
- MA (Old Testament) (in teach-out)
- MA (Religion) (in teach-out)
- MA (Theology) (in teach-out)
- MA in Christian Leadership (in teach-out)
- MA in Global Leadership (in teach-out)
- MA in Intercultural Studies (in teach-out)
- MA in Spiritual Formation (in teach-out)
- MA in Urban Ministry Leadership (in teach-out)

- b. Distance education: Comprehensive
- c. Additional locations:
 - 90 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA (100 percent degree location for master's and DMin degrees)
 - 14542 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC (100 percent degree location for master's and DMin degrees)
 - Salem Centre, Jacksonville, FL (100 percent degree location for master's degrees) (Before the visit to this location could take place, staff were informed that the seminary is reducing the location to less than 50 percent; see the separate Board action below)

Grand Canyon Theological Seminary at Grand Canyon University - Phoenix, AZ

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Urban Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Youth and Family Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Theology
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of three 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 in Christian Ministry
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Payne Theological Seminary - Wilberforce, OH

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Religious Leadership
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology - Wickliffe, OH

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Diaconal Ministry
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: None
 - c. Additional locations: None

Seminario Teológico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of five 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 Studies) (academic)
 - Master of Professional Studies (professional)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

University of the South School of Theology - Sewanee, TN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2035.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts (Theology)
 - Master of Sacred Theology (STM)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).
2. To *exempt* the school from a focused evaluation visit since this new degree is in a category for which the school is already approved (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.1).

Grand Canyon Theological Seminary at Grand Canyon University - Phoenix, AZ

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2025), confirming that the school has sufficient resources to offer the Doctor of Ministry degree program.
2. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 5.1-6).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION

GETS Theological Seminary - Covina, CA

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

Seminario Teológico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

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

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Central Baptist Theological Seminary - Overland Park, KS

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at 2400 S. 240th Street, Des Moines, WA 98198, as of May 12, 2026, previously approved to offer complete master's-level 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.

Drew University Theological School - Madison, NJ

To receive the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2025) and confirm that resources are available and appropriate to offer 100 percent of the Master of Arts (Religion) degree at East Jersey State Prison

(1100 Woodbridge Road, Rahway, NJ 07065) as an additional location of Drew University Theological School.

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary - South Hamilton, MA

1. To approve the reduction of the seminary's course offerings to less than 50 percent of a master's degree program at the additional location at 7235 Bentley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256.
2. To acknowledge that all students will continue to be able to complete their programs through the "Net-Ed" online courses thus meeting teach-out requirements.

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

Bexley Hall Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Federation, Inc. - Chicago, IL

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location at 1407 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637 about nine miles *to* 65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, effective December 1, 2025.
2. To note that all teach-out provisions have been met per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at 65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: spring 2026)

Grace School of Theology - The Woodlands, TX

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2025) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the new main campus located at 2700 Technology Forest Blvd, Suite 225, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Graduate School of Theology and Ministry in Puerto Rico, St. Albert the Great - Bayamon, PR

1. To approve the school's request for a change in governing and operational control resulting from the formal transfer of all assets and liabilities of the Universidad Central de Bayamón (in which the accredited entity is embedded) to the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, effective May 24, 2025.
2. To acknowledge that the need for a teach-out plan has been met.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change in governing control to verify that the school continues to meet applicable Commission *Standards*. (Visit anticipated: summer 2026)

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

1. To receive the school's petition to close, effective June 30, 2026.
2. To receive the school's teach-out plan and accompanying agreement.

The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology - Seattle, WA

To receive the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2025) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the new main campus located at 1130 Rainier Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98144.

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

To receive the school's teach-out plan required in June 2025.

Wesley Seminary - Marion, IN

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location at 4412 S Landess Street, Marion, IN 46953 about one mile *to* 1900 W 50th Street, Marion, IN 46953, effective November 14, 2025.
2. To note that all teach-out provisions have been met per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To acknowledge notification that the school has been placed on probation by WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC), effective July 11, 2025.
2. To take no action at this time in light of the Board's own independent actions taken during its February 2026 meeting.

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

1. To acknowledge notification that the school has been placed on warning by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), effective June 26, 2025.
2. To take no action at this time in light of the Board's own independent actions taken during its February 2026 meeting.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - Fort Worth, TX

1. To acknowledge notification that the school has been continued on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), effective June 12, 2025, due to concerns related to financial resources and financial responsibility.
2. To take no further action at this time in light of the school's November 2026 report required by the Commission documenting continued progress toward financial sustainability.

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

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To impose probation for a period of 24 months (February 2026 to February 2028), as a result of the school not meeting the following Commission *Standard* (per *Policies and Procedures*, III.H). [Effective February 20, 2026 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. The school has not demonstrated 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 2027, documenting significant progress toward financial sustainability, including progress in implementing the recently submitted financial plan that is "realistic, holistic, and sustainable." The school's most recent audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report. In addition, the report should include updated budget projections for FY 2028, FY 2029, and FY 2030.
2. To require the school to submit a teach-out plan by the 1st of July 2026, given that probation has been imposed. This teach-out plan must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.
3. To authorize a focused visit prior to the end of the period of probation (fall 2027) 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).

John Leland Center for Theological Studies - Arlington, VA

To *uphold* the warning issued by the Board in June 2025 until June 2027, 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 must address this warning adequately and immediately, or the Board will take appropriate action as described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J:

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 before the 1st of April 2027, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, resulting in balanced budgets and eliminating operating deficits, including a financial plan that is "realistic, holistic, and sustainable." The school's FY 2026 audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report. The reports should also include information regarding current and projected enrollment numbers as well as information on the status of its rental property (see Standard 10.3).

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

To impose probation because the school does not meet the following Standard.

[Effective February 20, 2026 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 does not have 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 2027, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, including a financial plan that is realistic, holistic, and sustainable. The school's most recent audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report. The school has two years to meet the Standard, or the Board will take other appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.H-J.

- a. To require a teach-out agreement(s) by the 1st of April 2026, given that the school has been placed on probation by the Board (*Policies and Procedures*, III.L.1). This teach-out agreement(s) must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.
- b. To authorize a focused visit prior to the end of the period of probation (fall 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).

Report prepared: February 23, 2026

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