



Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: May–June 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 [June 1-2, 2026](#), the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **June 2, 2026**—unless otherwise noted.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

Aquinas Institute of Theology - St. Louis, MO

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

Catholic University of America School of Theology and Religious Studies - Washington, DC

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

Chicago Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL

To approve an additional one-semester *delay* (equaling one-year total delay) of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* spring 2027 *to* fall 2027) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (i.e., to expire March 31, 2028).

Christian Theological Seminary - Indianapolis, IN

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2036.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Philosophy (African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric)
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

International Reformed University and Seminary - Los Angeles, CA

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of five years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
Rationale if less than maximum period: While the school has made significant improvement in its financial condition, continued attention to sustainability as well as internal staffing and processes is

- warranted. The school anticipates other significant institutional changes including the start of an English language track and a major relocation in the next five years (see Standards 2.2 and 10.3).
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Christian Studies (professional)
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: First Baptist Church at the Fields (1401 Carrollton Pkwy, Carrollton, TX 75010) to offer complete master's-level degrees and the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Lexington Theological Seminary - Lexington, KY

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2036.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master in Pastoral Studies
 - Master of Theological Studies
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - b. Distance Education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Loyola University Chicago Institute of Pastoral Studies - Chicago, IL

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2033, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2033.

Rationale if less than maximum period: The Institute was issued a warning in February 2025 by the Board of Commissioners related to Standards 2.6-7. The IPS has made significant progress since that time, completing its evaluation plan in fulfillment of Standard 2.7. It has made some progress toward fulfillment of Standard 2.6 by “identifying key educational and institutional outcomes” and beginning to gather evidence “systematically and regularly” for each outcome. Additional time is needed, however, to fulfill the remainder of Standard 2.6 having to do with “engagement of stakeholders for analysis and reflection on the evidence” of achieving learning outcomes and use of the “analyses and reflections for educational and institutional improvement.”
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling
 - Master of Arts in Counseling for Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality
 - Master of Arts in Social Justice
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Memphis Theological Seminary - Memphis, TN

1. To acknowledge the school's *voluntary withdrawal* from accredited membership in the Commission, effective July 31, 2026.
2. To *rescind* the two reports required February 2026 and due September 2027 and November 2028.
3. To *rescind* the focused visit scheduled for fall 2027 and the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for fall 2028.
4. To *rescind* the probation imposed February 2026.
5. To acknowledge the school's teach-out plan (previously approved in February 2026) since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2. This teach-out plan has been made with the following institution for the following programs:
 - Perkins School of Theology of Southern Methodist University: MDiv, MTS, MACM, DMin
 - An additional transfer of credit understanding with Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary is in place for the Master of Theological Studies.

Mount Angel Seminary - Saint Benedict, OR

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

Portland Seminary of George Fox University - Portland, OR

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2036.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Theological Studies
 - Master of Arts in Leadership and Culture (in teach-out)
 - Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Leadership
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: Cannon Beach Conference Center (289 N Spruce St, Cannon Beach, OR 97110) as a complete degree offering site for the Doctor of Ministry (Spiritual Formation track) degree only.

Reformed Episcopal Seminary - Oreland, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 July 2033, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2033.

Rationale if less than maximum period: The recommendation of a warning due to the school being at risk of not having sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability leads to the recommendation of a seven-year period of initial accreditation.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies - Jacksonville, FL

1. To acknowledge the school's *voluntary withdrawal* from accredited membership in the Commission, effective June 30, 2026.
2. To *rescind* the comprehensive evaluation visit scheduled for fall 2027.

Saint Vincent Seminary - Latrobe, PA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2036.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies)
 - Master of Arts in Ecclesial Ministry
 - Master of Arts in Ministry
 - b. Comprehensive distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

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

1. To approve the request to move the school's next comprehensive visit for reaccreditation *from* spring 2035 *to* spring 2032.
2. To *deny* the request to place the school on an eight-year ATS cycle moving forward and recommend that the school request a change in the date of the accreditation period after the spring 2032 visit if desired.

Stark Seminary of Stark College and Seminary - Corpus Christi, TX

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 25 March 2026 and continuing until 31 July 2033, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2033.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity (up to 49 percent by CBTE)
 - Master of Arts in Ministry (professional)
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None

Talbot School of Theology of Biola University - La Mirada, CA

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2036, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2036.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts
 - Master of Arts (Christian Apologetics)
 - Master of Arts (Classical Theology)
 - Master of Arts (Science and Religion)
 - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry and Leadership
 - Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies
 - Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy
 - Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care
 - Doctor of Ministry
 - Doctor of Education in Educational Studies (pending acceptance of the report outlined in 5a)
 - Doctor of Intercultural Studies
 - Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Studies
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations:
 - Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, 1974 Coney Island Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11223, where two-thirds of the MDiv may be earned.
 - Kyiv Theological Seminary, 75 Gorlivska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine 02091, where the complete MA (Biblical and Theological Studies) may be earned. Due to the war in Ukraine, this location is currently offering courses only in an online modality and will receive an evaluation visit as soon as it is safe to do so.

Trinity Graduate School at Trinity Bible College - Ellendale, ND

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of five years, until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.

Rationale if less than maximum period: While the nascent Graduate School is clearly an accreditable entity aligning with the Standards of Accreditation as demonstrated in the self-study and onsite findings, it is a young and maturing school with much room for improvement as illustrated by the issues needing special attention and substance of the reports below and the evaluation committee's suggestions for improvement in the committee's narrative.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Arts Bible and Theology (MABT) (professional and academic)
 - Master of Arts Global Theology (MAGT) (professional and academic)
 - Master of Arts Missional Leadership (MAML) (professional and academic)
 - Master of Arts Rural Ministries (MARM) (professional and academic)
 - Doctor of Contextual Leadership (DCL)

Doctor of Philosophy (As an experiment with an exception to Standard 5.15. See separate Board action.)

- b. Distance education: Comprehensive
- c. Additional locations: None

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL

Anderson University School of Theology - Anderson, IN

- 1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026), 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).

Holy Apostles College and Seminary - Cromwell, CT

- 1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026), confirming that the school has sufficient resources to offer the Doctor of Philosophy degree program.
- 2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).

Oakwood University School of Theology Graduate Department - Huntsville, AL

To grant approval for the extension of the period of approval of the Doctor of Ministry, *from* June 2026 *to* June 2027.

Southeastern University School of Divinity - Lakeland, FL

- 1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026).
- 2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION

International Reformed University and Seminary - Los Angeles, CA

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

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

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

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

To grant approval for limited distance education (less than half of any approved degree).

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

To grant approval for limited distance education (less than half of any approved degree).

Stark Seminary of Stark College and Seminary - Corpus Christi, TX

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

Trinity Graduate School at Trinity Bible College - Ellendale, ND

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

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Moravian University School of Theology - Bethlehem, PA

- 1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026).
- 2. To confirm that resources, facilities, and personnel are available and appropriate to offer full master's degrees and the Doctor of Ministry at 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Talbot School of Theology of Biola University - La Mirada, CA

- 1. To grant approval for a new additional location at 7901 E Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 to offer complete master's-level degrees and the Doctor of Ministry.
- 2. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at 7901 E Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: fall 2026)

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

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

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the school's new main campus located at 65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Church Divinity School of the Pacific - Castro Valley, CA

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 2450 Le Conte Avenue Berkeley, CA 94709 *to* 20070 Redwood Road Suite B, Castro Valley, CA 94546, effective May 1, 2026.
2. To authorize a focused visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation. (Visit anticipated: fall 2026)
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan in which the school assumes responsibility to complete the instruction for each student since it has the capacity and this meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

John Leland Center for Theological Studies - Arlington, VA

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location at 1306 North Highland Street, Arlington, VA 22201, *to* Baptist World Alliance (405 North Washington Street, Falls Church, VA 22046), by June 30, 2026.
2. To note that all teach-out provisions have been met as per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2., as the school is teaching out its own students.
3. To authorize a focused visit within six months of approval of relocation as per *Policies and Procedures*, IV.E.2.

Phoenix Seminary - Scottsdale, AZ

1. To receive the school's petition to close (anticipated no later than the end of August 2026).
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan pending receipt of the final agreements for students enrolled in the Master of Theology program and the Master of Arts in Counseling program, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2. This teach-out plan has been made with the following institutions for the following programs:
 - Talbot School of Theology of Biola University [MDiv, MA (Biblical and Theological Studies), MA in Ministry, DMin]
 - Reformed Theological Seminary (Orlando campus) [Master of Theology] *forthcoming*
 - Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary [Master of Theology] *forthcoming*
 - Ottawa University [MA in Counseling] *forthcoming*

Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies - Jacksonville, FL

1. To receive the school's petition to close, effective June 30, 2026.
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. This teach-out plan has been made with the following institutions for the following programs:
 - Fuller Theological Seminary [DMin]
 - Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary [Master of Arts in Worship Leadership; Doctor of Worship Studies]

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

1. To receive the report required in February 2026 regarding (1) confirmation of individualized teach-out plans for all remaining students not addressed in the current teach-out plan (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2); (2) documentation of any additional charges that students may incur as a result of the closure (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2); and (3) confirmation that the school has received ATS/COA approval pending notification of the planned reduction of the three PhD programs from 60 credits to 45 credits (see *Policies and Procedures*, IV.D.1).
2. To require a report by the 1st of September 2026, regarding confirmation of individualized teach-out plans for the remaining students not yet addressed in this report (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2). Failure to submit a satisfactory report may result in the issuing of a warning.

ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING

The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology - Seattle, WA

1. To acknowledge notification that the school has been placed on probation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, effective February 6, 2026.
2. To take no further action in light of the recent focused visit (fall 2025) and the required reports on finances (November 2026) and strategic planning (April 2027).

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

Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA

1. To receive the teach-out plan required by the Board in February 2026.
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. This teach-out plan includes agreements made with the following institutions for the following programs:
 - Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley (MA, PhD in Practical Theology, PhD in Religion)
 - Iliff School of Theology (MDiv, MA in Ministerial Leadership and Service, MTS, Doctor of Professional Counseling, Doctor of Spirituality, DMin)

International Theological Seminary - West Covina, CA

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026) and the interim report required by the Board in June 2025 related to the probation on financial resources.
2. To issue a Show Cause Order. The school should submit a report no later than the 1st of April 2027, demonstrating why accreditation should not be withdrawn. This report should demonstrate 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 2025 and FY 2026 audited financial statements prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for non-profit higher education institutions with management letters (if available), the school's analysis of its FY 2025 and FY 2026 operating revenues and expenditures, and a statement of year-to-date budgeted vs. actual operating revenues and expenditures for FY 2027 as of the most recent date available and including projected/forecasted end of year operating revenues and expenditures. Failure to submit a satisfactory report will lead to withdrawal of accreditation (*Policies and Procedures*, III.J).
3. To require a report by the 1st of September 2026, regarding an updated teach-out plan, including signed agreements with institutional partner(s) that have comparable offerings and are accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to address the program completion needs of all students. The teach-out agreement(s) must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico - San Juan, PR

1. To receive the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2026) and the interim report required by the Board in June 2025 related to the probation on financial resources.
2. To issue a Show Cause Order (*Policies and Procedures*, III.I). Despite an extension of probation for good cause in 2025, the school has not met Standard 10.3. The school should submit a report no later than the 1st of April 2027, demonstrating why accreditation should not be withdrawn. This report should demonstrate 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 2025 and FY 2026 audited financial statements, the school's analysis of its FY 2027 operating revenues and expenditures compared to budget, and projected operating revenues and expenditures for FY 2028 and FY 2029. Failure to submit a satisfactory report will lead to withdrawal of accreditation (*Policies and Procedures*, III.J).
3. To require a report by the 1st of September 2026, regarding an updated teach-out plan, including signed agreements with institutional partner(s) that have comparable offerings and are accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to address the program completion needs of all students. The teach-out agreement(s) must address each of the five criteria included in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Report prepared: June 15, 2026

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: June 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 June 1-2, 2026, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the actions below with an effective date of **June 19, 2026**—unless otherwise noted.

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

Reformed Episcopal Seminary – Oreland, PA

To issue the following warning(s) because the school, while substantially meeting the standards as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standard(s). The school has two years to address this warning adequately, or the Board will take other appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J, which usually means imposing probation.

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. It must submit a report by the 1st of April 2028 that documents progress, including a financial plan that is realistic, holistic, and sustainable (see Self-Study Ideas for Standard 10.3 for additional guidance). The school's most recent audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report.

Report prepared: June 22, 2026

Leah K. Wright | Accrediting Records Coordinator

The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting

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