

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the present report abstracts from all final actions taken by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS), effective June 2017. Documentation referenced below can be found in the following [compendium of accrediting documents](#).

*At its semiannual meeting, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions—with an effective date of **June 2, 2017** (unless otherwise noted).*

ACTIONS RELATED TO EVALUATION VISITS AND ACCREDITING STATUS

Comprehensive Evaluation Visits — Board voted to reaffirm accreditation of the following schools:

- [Biblical Theological Seminary](#) (Hatfield, PA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Catholic University of America School of Theology and Religious Studies](#) (Washington, DC) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Ecumenical Theological Seminary](#) (Detroit, MI) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022
- [Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan](#) (Johnson City, TN) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2027
- [George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University](#) (Waco, TX) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Graduate Theological Union](#) (Berkeley, CA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Grand Rapids Theological Seminary of Cornerstone University](#) (Grand Rapids, MI) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2027
- [Houston Graduate School of Theology](#) (Houston, TX) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022
- [International Theological Seminary](#) (El Monte, CA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022
- [Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago](#) (Chicago, IL) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Moody Theological Seminary](#) (Chicago, IL) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2027, to include the complete degree-granting extension site in Plymouth, MI
- [Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#) (Pittsburgh, PA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2027
- [United Theological Seminary](#) (Dayton, OH) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024

Initial Accreditation Visits — Board voted to grant initial accreditation to the following schools:

- [B. H. Carroll Theological Institute](#) (Irving, TX) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Georgia Christian University School of Divinity](#) (Atlanta, GA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022
- [Grace School of Theology](#) (The Woodlands, TX) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2024
- [Holy Apostles College and Seminary](#) (Cromwell, CT) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022
- [Neal T. Jones Seminary of Washington University of Virginia](#) (Annandale, VA) -- accreditation expires on July 31, 2022

Other Actions Related to Evaluation Visits (select list)

- [Saint Paul School of Theology](#) (Overland Park, KS) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to acknowledge notification by the school that it has been placed on probation by the Higher Learning Commission, effective February 23, 2017, and (2) to authorize a focused evaluation visit by fall 2017 to determine if the Board should consider an adverse action against the school.

ACTIONS RELATED TO PETITIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS

Educational Exceptions Related to Residency — *Changes must be implemented within one year:*

[Carey Theological College](#) (Vancouver, BC) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted to grant (1) an exception to the residency requirement for the MDiv degree, allowing it to be completed entirely online, and (2) an exception to the residency requirement for the MA in Spiritual Formation degree, allowing the 12-15 credits of required retreat-based courses held at various locations, rather than on campus, to fulfill the residency requirement.

[Dallas Theological Seminary](#) (Dallas, TX) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted to grant an exception to the residency requirements for the DMin and DEdMin degrees, allowing the residency requirements for international students to be met through intensive, hybrid courses offered at various international locations.

[Iliff School of Theology](#) (Denver, CO) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted to grant approval for an exception to Educational Standard, ES.4.2.19, in order to allow Iliff School of Theology to continue deploying its existing formula for calculating credits in its hybrid courses that may count toward the fulfillment of the residency requirement in the “Journey” MDiv program.

[Grace Theological Seminary](#) (Winona Lake, IN) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted to grant an exception to admission requirements specifically for students (1) without a baccalaureate degree who are (2) enrolled in the school’s blended BA/MDiv program or blended BA/professional MA programs. This educational exception remains **contingent** on submission to ATS Commission staff of a brief report that outlines the curriculum and describes how the blended curriculum is designed to meet the relevant master’s program outcomes. The member school page, accessible via the above link, will list this exception only when the contingency has been met.

[Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (Wake Forest, NC) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted to grant an exception to the residency requirements for the newly-approved MA in Christian Ministry degree [see next section below], allowing the degree program to be completed entirely online. This educational exception remains **contingent** on submission of a report to ATS Commission staff clarifying how this degree ensures a community of learning (Educational Standard, section ES.4.2.3, and Standard B, section B.3.1.1) and describing how field instructors are trained and evaluated (Standard B, section B.2.5.2), including a discussion of the role of “professors of record” as appropriate.

New Degree Programs

[Catholic Theological Union](#) (Chicago, IL) -- Master of Theology

[Christian Witness Theological Seminary](#) (San Jose, CA) -- Master of Theology

[Concordia Theological Seminary](#) (Fort Wayne, IN) -- Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies

[Covenant Theological Seminary](#) (St. Louis, MO) -- Master of Arts in Missional Leadership [*to coincide with its assumption of operations at the erstwhile Redeemer Theological Seminary Phoenix, AZ extension site; see below*]

[Franciscan School of Theology](#) (Oceanside, CA) -- Master of Arts [*cf. ATS Degree Program Standard D: advanced academic*]

[Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary](#) (Evanston, IL) -- Master of Arts in Public Ministry

[Logos Evangelical Seminary](#) (El Monte, CA) -- Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

[Methodist Theological School in Ohio](#) (Delaware, OH) -- Master of Arts in Social Justice

[Neal T. Jones Seminary of Washington University of Virginia](#) (Annandale, VA) -- Doctor of Clinical Pastoral Counseling [*excluded from initial accreditation action (see above); formal petition was thus required; cf. ATS Degree Program Standard G: advanced professional*]

[New York Theological Seminary](#) (New York, NY) -- Doctor of Education

[Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (Wake Forest, NC) -- (1) Master of Arts in Christian Ministry; (2) Master of Arts in Christian Marital, Family, and Individual Counseling

[Southern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (Louisville, KY) -- Master of Arts (Apologetics)
[St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary](#) (Boynton Beach, FL) -- Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies)
[Western Seminary](#) (Portland, OR) -- Doctor of Education

New Complete-Degree Sites

[Covenant Theological Seminary](#) (St. Louis, MO) -- To coincide with the assumption of operations at the Phoenix, AZ extension site of the erstwhile Redeemer Theological Seminary, the ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to approve a new, complete-degree site at three locations—Redemption Church-Gilbert, 1820 W Elliot Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85223; Redemption Church-Tempe, 2050 E Southern Ave, Tempe, AZ 85282; and 3717 S Cottonwood Dr, Tempe, AZ, 85282—where the MA in Missional Leadership can be earned and (2) to authorize focused evaluation visit(s) within six months of the start of classes at the Phoenix, AZ extension site (anticipated Fall 2017, in conjunction with Covenant Theological Seminary’s next comprehensive evaluation visit).

[George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University](#) (Waco, TX) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to grant approval for a new, complete-degree extension site at Tallowood Baptist Church (555 Tallowood Rd, Houston, TX 77024) at which the complete MA in Christian Ministry and the Master of Theological Studies can be earned, and (2) to authorize a focused evaluation visit—anticipated for fall 2017—as prescribed by the Board of Commissioners’ *Policies and Procedures* (section VII.B.1.c). The approval remains *contingent* on submission to ATS Commission staff of evidence that formal agreements with Tallowood Baptist Church, as well as appropriate state authorization, are properly executed.

[Northern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (Lombard, IL) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to grant approval to offer the complete MA in Urban Leadership at a new, complete-degree extension site located at Hirsch High School, in partnership with New Life Covenant Church Southeast (7740 S Ingleside Ave, Chicago, IL 60619), and (2) to authorize a focused visit within six months of the start of classes at this extension site.

Campus Closures (Complete-Degree Sites)

[Lincoln Christian Seminary](#) (Lincoln, IL) -- *closed*: 6531 N 600 W, McCordsville, IN 46055
[Nazarene Theological Seminary](#) (Kansas City, MO) -- *to close*: 333 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37210

Main Campus Relocation

[Northern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (IL) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to approve the relocation of the school’s main campus *from* 660 E Butterfield Rd, Lombard, IL 60148 *to* 410 Warrenville Rd, Lisle, IL 60532—effective August 25, 2017; and (2) to authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus within six months of the relocation.

[Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University](#) (CA) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to approve the relocation of the school’s main campus *from* 2770 Marin Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708 *to* 2000 Center St, Berkeley, CA 94704—effective August 1, 2017; and (2) to authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus within six months of the relocation.

[Phoenix Seminary](#) (AZ) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to approve the relocation of the school’s main campus *from* 4222 E Thomas Rd, Ste 400, Phoenix, AZ 85018 *to* 7901 E Shea Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ 85260—effective August 21, 2017; and (2) to authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus within six months of the relocation.

Changes in Governance

[Trinity Lutheran Seminary](#) (Columbus, OH) -- The ATS Board of Commissioners voted (1) to approve the seminary’s request for a change in governing control through a formal Asset

Transfer Agreement for the “[r]eunion of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary”—effective January 1, 2018; and (2) to authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change in governing control to verify that the seminary continues to meet applicable ATS Commission Standards.

ACTIONS RELATED TO REPORTS IMPOSED PREVIOUSLY BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Affecting Membership Status — Board *accepted* below reports and voted upon attendant outcomes:

[Ambrose Seminary of Ambrose University](#) (Calgary, AB) -- *removal of Notation N8.b*
[Concordia Lutheran Seminary](#) (Edmonton, AB) -- *removal of Notation N8.c*
[Episcopal Divinity School](#) (Cambridge, MA) -- *withdrawal from ATS Commission membership*
[Interdenominational Theological Center](#) (Atlanta, GA) -- *removal of Notation N8.c*

Not Affecting Membership Status — Board voted to *accepted* reports from the following schools:

[American Baptist Seminary of the West](#) (Berkeley, CA)
[Claremont School of Theology](#) (Claremont, CA)
[Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School](#) (Rochester, NY)
[Interdenominational Theological Center](#) (Atlanta, GA)
[Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia](#) (Philadelphia, PA)
[New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (New Orleans, LA)
[New York Theological Seminary](#) (New York, NY)
[Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University](#) (Berrien Springs, MI)
[Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) (Fort Worth, TX)
[Taylor College & Seminary](#) (Edmonton, AB)
[Vancouver School of Theology](#) (Vancouver, BC)

Report prepared July 3, 2017

Christopher The, MAR, MDiv, PhD Candidate | Director, Commission Information Services
The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting
10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 253 | the@ats.edu | www.ats.edu

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions for June 2017, addendum

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the present report abstracts from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS). Documentation referenced below can be found in the following [compendium of accrediting documents](#).

ACTIONS RELATED TO NOTATIONS

A *notation* is a warning that a school partially meets a Standard and must meet it fully within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

Extension of imposed notation

[Mount Saint Mary's Seminary](#) (Emmitsburg, MD)

At its semiannual meeting in June 2017, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted to extend for cause for one year (to June 2018; originally imposed June 2015) Notation N7.a: “*The institution does not adequately or appropriately define, exercise, or implement the roles, responsibilities, and structures of authority and governance.*” Effective: **June 2, 2017**.

Public show cause order and focused visit authorization

[Lutheran Theological Seminary](#) (Saskatoon, SK)

At its semiannual meeting in June 2017, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted to issue a public *Show Cause Order* as to why accreditation should not be withdrawn—since the school has failed to address adequately Notation N8.b (originally imposed June 2014; extended June 2016): “*The institution’s financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.*” The Board subsequently authorized a focused visit concerning the public *Show Cause Order* for fall 2017. (See ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.I.2.) Effective: **June 2, 2017**.

OTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

[Episcopal Divinity School](#) (Cambridge, MA)

During its teleconference meeting in June 2017, the Officers Committee of the COAATS Board of Commissioners voted to approve a change in date of the school’s voluntary withdrawal from membership in the Commission, *from* June 30, 2017, *to* August 31, 2017. Effective: **June 16, 2017**.

[Holy Apostles College and Seminary](#) (Cromwell, CT)

During its teleconference meeting in June 2017, the Officers Committee of the COAATS Board of Commissioners voted, concerning the MA in Pastoral Studies, to allow a one-time exception to Educational Standard, section ES.1.1.4, until an ongoing exception can be addressed by the full Board at its February 2018 meeting. Effective: **June 16, 2017**.

[Taylor College and Seminary](#) (Edmonton, AB)

During its teleconference meeting in June 2017, the Officers Committee of the COAATS Board of Commissioners voted to acknowledge notification that Taylor College and Seminary does business as (DBA) Taylor Seminary. Effective: **June 16, 2017**.

Report prepared August 1, 2017

Christopher The, MAR, MDiv, PhD Candidate | Director, Commission Information Services
The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting
10 Summit Park Drive | Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1110 | 412-788-6505, ext. 253 | the@ats.edu | www.ats.edu

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At its semiannual meeting in June 2017, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **July 15, 2017**—thereby allowing for a period of appeal. The appeal period has since expired; these actions are now final.

ACTIONS RELATED TO NOTATIONS

A [notation](#) is a warning that a school partially meets a Standard and must meet it fully within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation (see ATS Commission [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

Imposition of notation — Board voted to impose Notations for the following schools:

[Ecumenical Theological Seminary](#) (Detroit, MI)

Notation N8.b: “The institution’s financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.”

Notation N1.b: “The institution’s planning processes are insufficient or ineffective.”

[George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University](#) (Waco, TX)

Notation N1.b: “The institution’s planning processes are insufficient or ineffective.”

[Houston Graduate School of Theology](#) (Houston, TX)

Notation N8.b: “The institution’s financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.”

[Starr King School for the Ministry](#) (Berkeley, CA)

Notation N8.b: “The institution’s financial resources are not adequate for long-term institutional vitality and there is no credible plan to address this issue in a timely and effective manner.”

Report prepared August 1, 2017

Christopher The, MAR, MDiv, PhD Candidate | Director, Commission Information Services

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