

## **Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: February 2018**

*Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts substantive changes only 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](#).*

*At its semiannual meeting February 1-2, 2018, in Pittsburgh, PA, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions (only U.S. member schools displayed) with an effective date of **February 2, 2018**, unless otherwise noted.*

### **ACTIONS RELATED TO VISITS FOR REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION**

#### **Campbell University Divinity School - Buies Creek, NC**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Campbell University Divinity School for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

#### **Covenant Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Covenant Theological Seminary for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2024, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2025.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Counseling
  - Master of Arts in Educational Ministries
  - Master of Arts in Missional Theology
  - Master of Arts in Religion and Culture
  - Master of Arts (Exegetical Theology)
  - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
  - Doctor of Ministry
  - Master of Theology [Advanced Academic]
3. To approve the following extension sites:
  - A complete-degree site located at the three locations of: 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, at which the complete MA in Missional Theology can be earned.
  - An ongoing course-offering site at the Christ Presbyterian Church complex, 2323 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, TN 37215, at which less than 50 percent of the MA(TS) can be earned.

#### **Hazelip School of Theology of Lipscomb University - Nashville, TN**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Hazelip School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Master of Theological Studies
  - Doctor of Ministry

3. To approve the following extension sites: None

### **HMS Richards Divinity School Division of Graduate Studies of La Sierra University - Riverside, CA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of HMS Richards Divinity School Division of Graduate Studies for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Religion)
  - Master of Theological Studies
3. To approve the following extension site: *[See entry below, under ACTIONS RELATED TO NEW (OR EXPANDED) EXTENSION SITES]*

### **James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University - Atlanta, GA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site: None

### **North Park Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of North Park Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Formation
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
  - Doctor of Ministry\*

*\*NOTE: The Doctor of Ministry in Preaching is approved by virtue of affiliation with the Association of Chicago Theological Schools, and the Doctor of Ministry in Urban Ministry is approved as a consortial program with Fuller Theological Seminary.*
3. To approve the following extension site:

The extension site at New Zion Covenant Church (14200 Chicago Road, Dolton, IL 60419) as a site offering less than half of these degrees: MDiv, MA in Christian Formation, MA in Christian Ministry, and MA (Theological Studies).

### **Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College - Rochester, NY**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Theology and Social Justice
  - Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership
  - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
  - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension sites:

Buffalo, NY (6400 Sheridan Dr, Ste 214, Williamsville, NY 14221) as an ongoing course-offering site approved to offer half or more of any basic degree program oriented toward ministerial leadership and any basic program oriented toward general theological studies already approved.

Albany, NY (Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenburg Ave, Troy, NY 12180) as an ongoing course-offering site approved to offer less than half of any basic degree program oriented toward ministerial leadership and any basic program oriented toward general theological studies already approved.

Syracuse, NY (LeMoyne College, 1419 Salt Springs Rd, Syracuse, NY 13214) as an ongoing course-offering site approved to offer less than half of any basic degree program oriented toward ministerial leadership and any basic program oriented toward general theological studies already approved.

### **Northern Baptist Theological Seminary - Lisle, IL**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028. *[NOTE: this comprehensive evaluation visit also served to confirm that resources are available and appropriate at the school's new main campus location, at 410 Warrenville Rd, Lisle, IL 60532, as required by the Board of Commissioners in June 2017.]*
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
  - Master of Arts in Worship
  - Master of Arts in Urban Leadership
  - Master of Arts (Theology and Mission)
  - Master of Arts (New Testament)
  - Doctor of Ministry
3. To approve the following extension site(s):
  - Hirsch High School in partnership with New Life Covenant Church Southeast (7740 S Ingleside Ave, Chicago, IL 60619) as a complete degree-granting site for the Master of Arts in Urban Leadership only. *[NOTE: this comprehensive evaluation visit also served to confirm that resources are available and appropriate to offer the complete Master of Arts in Urban Leadership at this site, as required by the Board of Commissioners in June 2017.]*
  - Lawndale Community Church (3827 W Ogden Ave, Chicago, IL 60623) as an ongoing course site approved to offer less than half of any basic degree program oriented toward ministerial leadership already approved (e.g., MDiv, MACM, MAW, MA-UL).

### **Pacific School of Religion - Berkeley, CA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Pacific School of Religion for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts (Social Transformation) (\*see 7a below)
  - Master of Theological Studies
  - Doctor of Ministry*[NOTE: The school also participates in the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees offered through the Graduate Theological Union]*
3. To approve the following extension site:
  - Office of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ (1848 Nu'uuanu Ave, Honolulu, HI 96817), as a complete degree-granting site for the Doctor of Ministry degree.

### **Regent University School of Divinity - Virginia Beach, VA**

1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Regent University School of Divinity for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality and Formation
  - Master of Arts in Practical Theology
  - Master of Theological Studies

- Doctor of Ministry
- Master of Theology
- Doctor of Philosophy (Renewal Theology)
- 3. To approve the following extension site(s): None

**Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University - Richmond, VA**

- 1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
- 2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Christian Education
  - Doctor of Ministry
- 3. To approve the following extension site: None

**St. John's Seminary - Brighton, MA**

- 1. To reaffirm the accreditation of St. John's Seminary (MA) for a period of seven years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2024, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2025.
- 2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Ministry
  - Master of Arts
  - Master of Theological Studies
- 3. To approve the following extension site:
  - The new location for the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization as a complete degree-granting site for the MA in Ministry and the Master of Theological Studies in the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston (66 Brooks Dr, Braintree, MA 02184).

**St. John's University School of Theology - Seminary - Collegeville, MN**

- 1. To reaffirm the accreditation of St. John's University School of Theology and Seminary (MN) for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
- 2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts in Ministry
  - Master of Arts in Liturgical Music [Standard C]
  - Master of Theological Studies
  - Master of Theology (ThM)
- 3. To approve the following extension site: None

**Union Theological Seminary - New York, NY**

- 1. To reaffirm the accreditation of Union Theological Seminary for a period of ten years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2027, one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2028.
- 2. To approve the following degree programs:
  - Master of Divinity
  - Master of Arts
  - Doctor of Ministry
  - Master of Sacred Theology
  - Doctor of Philosophy

*[NOTE: The seminary has for decades awarded the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree to doctoral students who successfully complete their coursework and doctoral comprehensive examinations. The ATS Commission on Accrediting does not have a standard for that degree, so it has been effectively and historically considered an exception by the Board of Commissioners.]*
- 3. To approve the following extension site: None

## ACTIONS RELATED TO VISITS FOR INITIAL ACCREDITATION

N/A

## OTHER ACTIONS RELATED TO PERIODS OF ACCREDITATION

### **Eastern Mennonite Seminary of Eastern Mennonite University - Harrisonburg, VA**

To approve the *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit *from* spring 2020 *to* fall 2020, and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2021].

### **Nashotah House - Nashotah, WI**

To approve an additional *delay* of one year of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* fall 2018 *to* fall 2019), and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire on March 31, 2020].

### **Oral Roberts University College of Theology and Ministry - Tulsa, OK**

To approve the *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit *from* fall 2018 *to* spring 2019, and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire on July 31, 2019].

### **Reformed Episcopal Seminary - Blue Bell, PA**

To approve the *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit *from* fall 2018 *to* spring 2019, and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire on July 31, 2019].

### **St. Patrick's Seminary and University - Menlo Park, CA**

As outcome of the recent focused visit, to extend the period of accreditation of St. Patrick's Seminary and University for an additional five years, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall of 2024—one term before the period of accreditation expires on March 31, 2025.

## ACTIONS RELATED TO NEW (OR REVISED) DEGREES

### **Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University - Columbia, SC**

To approve the Master of Arts (Missiological Studies) as a Standard D academic degree program (as a revision, renaming, and reclassification of the MA in Global Studies [Standard B professional degree program]).

### **Covenant Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO**

4. To approve the Master of Arts in Ministry as a Standard B professional degree program.
5. To approve the Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies) as a Standard D academic degree program.

### **Eden Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO**

To approve the Master of Community Leadership as a Standard B professional degree program.

### **Evangelical Theological Seminary - Myerstown, PA**

To approve the Doctor of Theology as a Standard J advanced academic degree program.

### **Fuller Theological Seminary - Pasadena, CA**

1. To (re)approve the Doctor of Missiology as a Standard G advanced professional degree program.
2. To grant temporary permission to offer the alternate nomenclature of Doctor of Intercultural Studies (instead of Doctor of Missiology).

### **HMS Richards Divinity School Division of Graduate Studies of La Sierra University - Riverside, CA**

4. To approve the Master of Arts (Near Eastern Archaeology) as a Standard D, academic degree program.

### **Holy Apostles College and Seminary - Cromwell, CT**

To approve the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies as a Standard B professional degree program.

### **James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University - Atlanta, GA**

4. To approve the Master of Theological Studies as a Standard D academic degree program.

### **Moody Theological Seminary - Chicago, IL**

To approve the Master of Arts (TESOL) as a Standard D academic degree program.

### **Pentecostal Theological Seminary - Cleveland, TN**

To approve the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) as a Standard D academic degree program.

### **Phoenix Seminary - Scottsdale, AZ**

To approve the Master of Theology as a Standard I advanced academic degree program.

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

1. To approve the Master of Arts (Christian Apologetics) as a Standard D academic degree program.
2. To approve the Master of Arts (Science and Religion) as a Standard D academic degree program.

### **Union Presbyterian Seminary - Richmond, VA**

To approve the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) as a Standard D academic degree program.

## **ACTIONS RELATED TO NEW (OR EXPANDED) EXTENSION SITES**

### **Baptist Seminary of Kentucky - Georgetown, KY**

To grant approval for a new, complete-degree site located at Simmons College, 1018 S 7th St, Louisville, KY 40203 (mailing address: 1000 S 4th St, Louisville, KY 40203), to offer the complete Master of Divinity.

### **HMS Richards Divinity School Division of Graduate Studies of La Sierra University - Riverside, CA**

5. To grant approval to expand the extension site located at Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SDA) Headquarters, 2820 Willow Ave, Clovis, CA 93612, to offer the complete Master of Theological Studies.

### **Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary of Andrews University - Berrien Springs, MI**

1. To grant approval for a new, complete-degree site located at Universidad Adventista del Plata (River Plate Adventist University), Facultad de Teología, 25 de mayo #99, Libertador San Martin 3103, Entre Rios, Argentina, to offer the complete Doctor of Ministry.
2. To grant approval for a new, complete-degree site located at Newbold College of Higher Education, St. Mark's Road, Binfield, Bracknell, United Kingdom, RG42 4AN, to offer the complete Doctor of Ministry.

## **ACTIONS RELATED TO CLOSING FULL-DEGREE EXTENSION SITES**

### **Fuller Theological Seminary - Pasadena, CA**

3. To grant approval to terminate, effective September 30, 2019, all ATS Commission-approved degrees offered at the Fuller Arizona full-degree extension site, located at 1110 E. Missouri Ave, Ste 530, Phoenix, AZ 85014. This site will be removed from the list of extension sites approved by the ATS Board of Commissioners.
4. To approve the school's teach-out plan for the Phoenix site, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
5. To grant approval to close the Fuller Orange County site, located at 17744 Skypark Cir, Ste 150, Irvine, CA 92614, effective September 30, 2019, where the complete MDiv, MATM, MAT, MAICS, and MACL degrees are currently being offered.
6. To approve the school's teach-out plan for the Irvine site, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
7. To grant approval to close the Fuller Bay Area site, located at 320 Middlefield Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025, effective September 30, 2019, where the complete MDiv, MATM, MAT, MAICS, and MACL degrees are currently being offered.
8. To approve the school's teach-out plan for the Menlo Park site, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.
9. To grant approval to close the Fuller Northwest site, located at 9725 Third Ave 110, Seattle, WA 98115, effective September 30, 2019, where the complete MDiv, MATM, MAT, MAICS, and MACL

degrees are currently being offered.

10. To approve the school's teach-out plan for the Seattle site, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in the Board of Commissioners' *Policy Manual*, Appendix 5.

## **ACTIONS RELATED TO CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE**

N/A

## **ACTIONS RELATED TO THE REMOVAL OF NOTATION**

A notation is a warning, i.e., negative action, to denote that a school partially meets a given Standard, which it must fully meet within two years or face withdrawal of accreditation, i.e., adverse action (see [Policies and Procedures](#), VII.E).

### **St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - Crestwood, NY**

1. To receive the report required in February 2016 regarding 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."
2. To remove Notation N8.b.

## **ACTIONS RELATED TO WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION**

### **Cincinnati Bible Seminary of Cincinnati Christian University - Cincinnati, OH**

*Voluntary withdrawal of accreditation:*

To accept the school's notification of its withdrawal from membership in the Commission, effective June 30, 2018.

### **Shepherd University School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA**

*Withdrawal of accreditation due to permanent closure:*

To acknowledge the school's notification of its permanent closure, effective December 22, 2017.

*Report prepared February 27, 2018*

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