

NOBTS AND LEAVELL COLLEGE

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OUTCOMES AND GOALS

2023-2024

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to our mission, the nature of the students we serve, and the kinds of programs we offer. NOBTS uses the following criteria for student achievement: graduation rates, retention rates, course completion rates, and placement rates.

DEFINITIONS OF MEASURES OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Graduation Rate

NOBTS defines graduation rate as the percentage of students completing their degree programs within 200% of the expected time frame (see Table 1 below). Data is gathered via IPEDS reports, ATS reports, and internal reports generated by the registrar's office. This measure is our Key Student Completion Index (KSCI) as reported to and required by SACSCOC. Additionally, this measure aligns with strategic initiative 1.1 (a, b, and c) in the NOBTS 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

Table 1

Graduation Rates by Expected Completion Time and 200% Time

Program	Expected Completion Time	200% Completion Time
Undergraduate		
Associate of Arts (AA)	2 years	4 years
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	4 years	8 years
Graduate		
Master of Arts (MA)	2 years	4 years
Master of Divinity (MDiv)	3 years	6 years
Advanced		
Master of Theology (ThM)	2 years	4 years
ProDoc (DMin, DEdMin)	2 years	4 years
Doctor of Education (EdD)	3 years	6 years
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)	3 years	6 years
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	4 years	8 years

Retention Rate

NOBTS defines retention rate as the percentage of matriculated students from the previous fall cohort who re-enrolled in the reporting year fall semester (fall-to-fall comparison). Data is gathered via IPEDS reports and internal reports generated by the registrar's office. This measure aligns with strategic initiatives 1.1 (a, b, and c), 2.1 (a, b, and c), and 2.2 (a and b) in the NOBTS 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

Course Completion Rate

NOBTS defines course completion rate as the percentage of courses completed with a passing grade. For the undergraduate and graduate programs, passing grades are A, B, C, D, I, or P. For advanced programs, passing grades are A, B, I, and P. Data is gathered via internal reports generated by the registrar's office. This measure aligns with strategic initiatives 1.1 (a, b, and c), 2.1 (a, b, and c), and 2.2 (a and b) in the NOBTS 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

Placement Rate

NOBTS defines placement rate as the percentage of graduates who entered vocational ministry, whether paid or unpaid, at or upon graduation. Data is gathered via an internal graduate ministry survey given to all graduates during the semester of their graduation and thus relies on self-reported data. This measure aligns with strategic initiatives 1.1 (a, b, and c), 1.2 (a and b), 3.2 (a and b) in the NOBTS 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

2023-2024 Results

The results below represent the aggregate results for the four student achievement measures. For graduation rate and retention rate results disaggregated by program, gender, and race/ethnicity (and by Pell Grant status for undergraduate students), please click [here](#) to be taken to a real-time dashboard. For a full discussion of the results along with action plans for improvement, click [here](#).

In the charts below, the “NA” designation means that no students were in the cohort. Thus, we had no ThM students in the cohort that graduated in 2023-2024. A designation of 0% means that students were in the cohort but did not graduate within the 200% timeframe. Thus, we had AA students who began with the cohort but did not graduate within the four-year (200%) timeframe for that program.

Table 2
2023-2024 200% Graduation Rates (cohort based)

Program	Graduation Rate	Grad Rate Threshold	+/- Threshold	Grad Rate Goal
Undergraduate				
AA	0%	30%	-30%	40%
BA	55%	30%	+25%	40%
Graduate				
MA	55%	50%	+05%	55%
MDiv	47%	50%	-03%	55%
Advanced				
ThM	NA	55%	NA	60%
DMin	40%	40%	even	50%
DEdMin	NA	40%	NA	50%
EdD	NA	55%	NA	60%
DMA	0%	55%	-55%	60%
PhD	50%	55%	-05%	60%

Table 3

2023-2024 Retention Rates (cohort based)

Program	Retention Rate	Ret Rate Threshold	+/- Threshold	Ret Rate Goal
Undergraduate				
AA	100%	75%	+25%	85%
BA	88%	75%	+13%	85%
Graduate				
MA	73%	75%	-02%	85%
MDiv	79%	75%	+04%	85%
Advanced				
ThM	NA	75%	NA	85%
DMin	100%	75%	+25%	85%
DEdMin	NA	75%	NA	85%
EdD	NA	75%	NA	85%
DMA	0%	75%	-75%	85%
PhD	90%	75%	+15%	85%

Table 4

2023-2024 Course Completion Rates (non-cohort based)

Program	Course Completion Rate	Course Comp Rate Threshold	+/- Threshold	Course Comp Rate Goal
Undergraduate				
AA	86%	85%	+01%	90%
BA	88%	85%	+03%	90%
Graduate				
MA	92%	85%	+07%	90%
MDiv	89%	85%	+04%	90%
Advanced				
ThM	90%	85%	+05%	90%
DMin	92%	85%	+07%	90%
DEdMin	92%	85%	+07%	90%
EdD	96%	85%	+11%	90%
DMA	94%	85%	+09%	90%
PhD	94%	85%	+09%	90%

Table 5

2023-2024 Placement Rates (non-cohort based)*

Program	Placement Rate	Place Rate Threshold	+/- Threshold	Place Rate Goal
Undergraduate				
AA	50%	75%	-25%	85%
BA	79%	75%	+04%	85%
Graduate				
MA	82%	75%	+07%	85%
MDiv	86%	75%	+11%	85%
Advanced				

ThM	68%	75%	-07%	85%
DMin	91%	75%	+16%	85%
DEdMin	100%	75%	+25%	85%
EdD	NA	75%	NA	85%
DMA	0%	75%	-75%	85%
PhD	92%	75%	+17%	85%

**The data for this table come from a new survey given to graduating students during the semester of their graduation. Previously, placement rate data were gathered 12-18 months post-graduation and yielded low returns. Having graduates complete the survey as part of their requirements to graduate results in much higher returns, thus making the information more representative of the placement rates of our students. These results are self-reported. Since churches in the Southern Baptist Convention hire their own ministers, such self-reported data is the most viable option for gathering information on ministerial placement, whether vocational or non-vocational, since no official mechanism exists in the SBC for such data to be gathered.*

Previous Years' Results

The results from previous years look different from the results now being presented. At the end of the 2021-2022 academic year, a committee comprised of the Director of Assessment, the Registrar, and the Associate Vice-President for Accreditation and Assessment met to discuss a revision to the means by which we measure student success. We selected measures used by many like schools, measures that we feel will help us as we compare our results with those schools.

The one measure that stayed consistent from previous years' reports is the *graduation rate of 200%*, which is our key student completion indicator as required by SACSCOC and thus could not be changed. Furthermore, we have aligned our definition of *retention rate* with the IPEDS definition of retention for ease in comparing our results with like schools. Also, we had been reporting *placement rates* using self-reported data gathered from alumni 12-18 months post-graduation, but we now collect that data the semester of graduation, which has resulted in higher return rates and, we believe, more accurate data.

Click on one of the links below to open that year's student achievement data.

2022-2023 Student Success

2021-2022 Student Success

2020-2021 Student Success

2019-2020 Student Success

2018-2019 Student Success