**Master of Theological Studies (MTS)**

**Fall 2023 Jury**

ATS Degree Program Goals for Standard D Degrees – The goals an institution adopts for these degree programs should include the attainment of a survey knowledge of various theological disciplines, or focused knowledge in a specific discipline, or interdisciplinary knowledge. Achievement of student learning outcomes for these degrees shall contribute to meeting these programmatic goals.

# Student Learning Objective 1: Students will demonstrate biblical, theological, and historical knowledge.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measures** | **Baseline** | **Results Last Faculty Jury** *(2015*  *2018)* | **Results Last Year/ Improvement** | **Current Benchmarks** *(set Spring 2020)* **/**  **New Benchmarks** *(TBD during 2023 juries)* | **Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark**  *(TBD during August 2023 juries)* |
| **DIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Embedded Assignments*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Systematic Theology 1 | * 3.20 out of 4.0 | * 2.94 (2015) * 3.49 (2018) * 3.25 (2020) | Spring 21: 3.4 (10 students)  Fall 21: 3.52 (18 students)  Spring 22: 3.17 (6 students)  Fall 22: 2.98 (16 students)  Spring 23: 3.30 (10 students)  **Avg. 3.28 (60 students)** | * 3.20/NA   (This embedded assignment will no longer be used as a direct measure. See action plan) | * The Summative Assessment will become the only Direct measure. It reflects better the learning objective, providing better data to indicate how students in the MTS are doing at the end of their program. * Investigate how Canvas can disaggregate data so that student success in individual disciplines/classes can be assessed, thereby learning which classes might need attention. |
|  |  |  | **(+.08)** |  |  |
| History of Christianity | * 3.35 out of 4.0 | * 3.52 (2015) * 3.08 (2018) * 3.32 (2020) | * X (2020)\* * 3.24 (2021; 26 stdnts) * No remaining data * **(-.11, with limited data)**   Note: New Embedded Assignment now in Baptist Heritage  Data for History of Christianity taught in 2020 is unavailable. In the new curriculum, Baptist Heritage will house a history embedded assignment. | * 3.35/NA   **(**This embedded assignment has been discontinued and moved to Baptist Heritage. See action plan) | * Remove Embedded Assignments for Systematic Theology. * History of Christianity no longer houses an Embedded Assignment (consider EA in Baptist Heritage * Revise Summative Assessment Exam to reflect curriculum changes following degree program revisions implemented in the Fall 2022 semester. Revision should reflect better the most important content in the major fields of study. * Change measure percentage of students who pass on the first attempt (70%) |
| * Hermeneutics |  |  | Hermeneutics is no longer a course in the new curriculum. Data was discontinued | * Discontinued; No Data   (This embedded assignment has been discontinued) |  |
| ***MTSA6100 Summative*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Assessment (Core Exam)***   * First Attempts | * 61% | * 66.64% (2015) * 69.60% (2018) * 67.93% (2020)   Avg 68.06% | * 69.33% (2020-9 Stdnts) * 68.50% (2021-2 Stdnts) * 82.73% (2022- 15 Stdnts)   Avg **73.52%** (26 Stdnts)  **(+11.52)** | * 62%/70%: New measure for how many pass the exam on the first attempt   **(See action plan)** |  |
| * Last attempts | * 71% | * 78.25% (2015) * 76.68% (2018) * 76.76% (2020)   Avg 77.23% | * 79.40% (2020) * 81.50% (2021) * 83.93% (2022)   Avg **81.6 %** (represents final  average of all students)  **(+9.6)**  % of total who failed first attempt:  2020: 44.4% (4/9)  2021: 50% (½)  2022: 6.6% (1/15)  Gaps in data in 2020 and 2022 due to changes from Blackboard Original to Blackboard Ultra and then from Ultra to Canvas. | * 72%/NA   (See action plan for better way to interpret data) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **INDIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Student Evaluations***   * Questions 2, 6, 7 (combined average from MTS core courses Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) | * 86% overall average | * N/A (2015) * 89.21% (2018) * 91% (2020) | * Overall, 94% (+3%) * Spring 2020: 96% * Fall 2020: 94% * Spring 2021: 94% * Fall 2021: 94% * Spring 2022: 94% * Fall 2022: 94% | 87%/ (see MDiv ) | * Evaluate more closely the student evaluation questions to determine applicability for this SLO. If retained, limit courses used. * Adopt for the Indirect Measure select data from the ATS Student Questionnaire (Revision E, Fall 2020) and the NOBTS Graduation Ministry Survey, if applicable. * The baseline will reflect the MDiv baseline for related questions. |

\* A disaggregated summary of the evaluation of History of Christianity Embedded Assignments for 2020-2021 show the following results: Overall: 3.38; In Class: 3.48

Internet: 3.03; Extension: 3.69; Hybrids: 3.5; NOLA2U Live: 3.42

***Student Learning Objective 2: Students will communicate their understanding of cultural and historical contexts.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measures** | **Baseline** | **Results Last Faculty Jury** | **Results Last Year/ Improvement** | **Current Benchmarks** *(set Spring 2020)* **/**  **New Benchmarks** *(TBD during 2023 juries)* | **Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark**  *(TBD during May 2018 juries)* |
| **DIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Embedded Assignments***   * History of Christianity (combined average Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) * Christian Ethics | * 3.35 out of 4.0 * 3.10 out of 4.0 | * 3.52 (2015) * 3.08 (2018) * 3.32 (2020) * 2.53 (2015) * 3.13 (2018) * 2.95 (2020)   Avg 2.87 | * X (2020) * 3.24 (2021; 26 stdnts) * No remaining data * **(-.11, with limited data) ￼**   Data for History of Christianity taught in 2020 is unavailable. In the new curriculum, Baptist Heritage will house a history embedded assignment.   * X (2020) * 2.65 (2021) * 3.00 (2022)   Avg (2 yrs): **2.83**  **(-.04)**  Although students appear to be underperforming overall raw data and upward trends indicate improvement. We should also see improvements following the Fall 2022 revision of the internet course. | * 3.35/NA   (This embedded assignment has been discontinued and moved to Baptist Heritage. See action plan)   * 3.10/3.10 | * Remove History Embedded Assignment, which is no longer house in History of Christianity I. * Take a close look at the history embedded assignment housed in Baptist heritage to see if it could be used to measure this SLO. * The Christian Ethics embedded assignment will be used as the only Direct Measure. Evaluate the rubric; keep the baseline the same but trace the effects of the significant changes made in the internet course with the adoption of Canvas (Fall 2022) |
| **INDIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Student Evaluations***   * Questions 6, 9 (combined average from MTS core courses Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019)   ***Degree Program Survey***   * Core Competencies: Christian Theological Heritage (Fall/Spring 2018- 2019) | * 86% overall average * 81% respond with 4-5 on Likert scale | * N/A (2015) * 89.14% (2018) * 91.5% * N/A (2015) * 83.7% (2018) * 89.5% (2020) | * **Overall 94% (+2.5%)** * Spring 2020: 96% * Fall 2020: 94% * Spring 2021: 94% * Fall 2021: 96% * Spring 2022: 94% * Fall 2022: 94%   The institution no longer utilizes the Degree Program Survey, so data was discontinued | * 87%/87, if retained * 82%/ NA | * Evaluate more closely the student evaluation questions to determine applicability for this SLO. If retained, limit courses used. * Adopt for the Indirect Measure select data from the ATS Student Questionnaire (Revision E, Fall 2020) and the NOBTS Graduation Ministry Survey, if applicable. * A baseline will be adopted that reflects the MDiv baseline for related questions. |

***Student Learning Objective 3: Students will be able to demonstrate ability to apply theological truths to ministry context.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Measures** | **Baseline** | **Results Last Faculty Jury** | **Results Last Year/ Improvement** | **Current Benchmarks** *(set Spring 2020)* **/**  **New Benchmarks** *(TBD during 2023 juries)* | **Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark**  *(TBD during May 2018 juries)* |
| **DIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Embedded Assignments***   * Christian Ethics (combined average Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) | * 3.10 out of 4.0 | * 2.53 (2015) * 3.13 (2018) * 2.95 (2020)   Avg 2.87 | * X (2020) * 2.65 (2021) * 3.00 (2022)   Avg (2 yrs): **2.8 (-.04)**  Although students appear to be underperforming overall raw data and upward trends indicate improvement. Should also see improvements following Fall 2022 revision of internet course. | * 3.10/ (see MDiv)   (This is a new embedded assignment and has been adopted for the MDiv, will use the MDiv benchmark) | * Adopt the embedded assignment in Discipleship and Spiritual Formation to better measure application of theological truths in ministry context. Set the baseline based on the MDiv Map. * Remove Christian Ethics as the direct measure for this SLO. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **INDIRECT MEASURES** | | | | | |
| ***Student Evaluations***   * Questions 6, 7, 9   (combined average from MTS core courses Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) | * 86% overall average * 6.41 * 81% respond with 4-5 on Likert scale | * N/A (2015) * 88.7% (2018) * 90.7% (2020) | * Overall 94% (+3.3%) * Spring 2020: 96% * Fall 2020: 92% * Spring 2021: 94% * Fall 2021: 94% * Spring 2022: 96% * Fall 2022: 94% | * 87%/ (see MDiv) | * Evaluate more closely the student evaluation questions to determine applicability for this SLO. If retained limit courses used. * Adopt for the Indirect Measure select data from the ATS Student Questionnaire (Revision E, Fall 2020) and the NOBTS Graduation Ministry Survey, if applicable. * A baseline will be adopted that reflects the MDiv baseline for related questions.   Remove: the institution no longer utilizes the Noel-Levitz survey.  Remove: the institution no longer utilizes the Degree Program Survey |
| ***Noel-Levitz***   * Question 62   (combined average from MTS core courses Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) | * 6.38 (2015) * 6.49 (2018) * 6.42 (2020) | **Discontinued. No Data** | * 6.41/NA |
| ***Degree Program Survey*** Core Competencies: Spiritual/Character Formation (combined average from MTS core  courses Spring, Summer, Fall 2018-2019) | * N/A (2015) * 87.1% (2018) * 88.8 (2020) | **Discontinued. No Data** | * 82%/NA |

Reflections:

In the last three years, much has happened to effect theological education at NOBTS—all challenging, but much that benefited academic programs. The common challenge in 2020 for every institution was Covid, which forced innovation and reflection on how best to deliver theological education. In the 2021 academic year, the institution initiated the revision of every degree program, updated technology used to deliver live courses to distance students, and changed the web-based learning management system from Bluejeans to Canvas; all of which initiated major revisions in the content of Internet based courses. Implementation started effectively in the 2022 academic year. During the challenges and changes, faculty, administrators, and staff sought to incorporate best practices to benefit students. On the academic side, the student-learning outcomes and environment were high on the agenda. We expect to see the benefits accrue for students in future assessments. To do so, however, assessment tools also needed to be revised, which is reflected in the action plans recommended in the MTS Assessment Map above. The revisions are necessary primarily because of the degree revisions.

The most significant action following this assessment is to revise the entire MTS Assessment Map, particularly to incorporate changes to the MTS degree program, additions and deletions of embedded assignments, and a revision of the Summative Assessment for the MTS. The Program Supervisor will work Dr. Wang, Institutional Effectiveness, to utilize new IE software and simplify the gathering and storing of artifacts.

Overall, the MTS degree program is healthy and recent changes, particularly in technology, lead us to expect healthier learning environments, which will reflect in the degree program outcomes.