ThM Program
January 2025

Assessment Team: Drs. Terry Iles, Preston Nix, Brooke Osborn
Term Assessed: Spring 2024

PLO 1:
The student demonstrates advanced knowledge of a theologically-related discipline at a level appropriate to preparation for PhD Studies.

Aligns with ATS Degree Program Goal 4.10:
"…This degree prepares people to study more deeply a theologically related discipline, often in preparation for doctoral studies…"

Measures (means of program assessment)	**Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)**	**Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester**	**Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle's plans)**
Direct Measures 1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Rubric Question 2 • Do the documents demonstrate advanced knowledge in the discipline at a level appropriate to preparation for PhD studies? ***Indirect Measures***	___% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale	100% of students scored a 3 or 4 (12 of 12)	-No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions related to the ThM. For future assessment, new and more specific criteria need to be set: -70% score 4 on 1–4 scale -90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale

1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Student Assessment Question 6 • On a scale of 1–5, how well do you believe the ThM has prepared you for PhD Studies?	___% report 4 or 5 on 1–5 scale	100% of students reported a 4 or 5 (12 of 12)	-No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions related to the ThM. For future assessment, two changes to criteria are recommended: (1) Revise scale on Student Assessment from a scale of 1–5 to a scale of 1–4 for consistency with the scale being used in the Rubric Questions. Completed. (2) Set new, more specific criteria: (3) 70% score 4 on 1–4 scale (4) 90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale

PLO 2:
The student exhibits growth and development in knowledge, research, writing, and critical thinking skills consistent with PhD quality work.

Aligns with ATS Degree Program Goal 4.10:
"…This degree prepares people to study more deeply a theologically related discipline, often in preparation for doctoral studies…"

Measures (means of program assessment)	**Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)**	**Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester**	**Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle's plans)**
Direct Measures	___% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale	100% of students scored a 3 or 4 (12 of 12)	-No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions

1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Rubric Question 5 • Do the documents give evidence of growth and development of the student's critical thinking, research, writing, and knowledge of his/her discipline consistent with PhD quality work? ***Indirect Measures*** 1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Student Assessment Question 1 • On a scale of 1–5, how much have you developed during your ThM studies regarding your knowledge of your field?	___% report 4 or 5 on 1–5 scale ___% report 4 or 5 on 1–5 scale	100% of students reported a 4 or 5 (12 of 12) 100% of students reported a 4 or 5 (12 of 12)	related to the ThM. For future assessment, new and more specific criteria need to be set: -70% score 4 on 1–4 scale -90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale -Rubric Question 4 needs to be added as an additional Direct Measure, with criteria for success set at the same number as Rubric Question 5. Completed. - No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions related to the ThM. For future assessment, two changes to criteria are recommended: (1) Revise scale on Student Assessment from a scale of 1–5 to a scale of 1–4 for consistency with the scale being used in the Rubric Questions. Completed. (2) Set new, more specific criteria: (3) 70% score 4 on 1–4 scale (4) 90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale (5) No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions

2. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation – Student Assessment Question 2 • On a scale of 1–5, how much have you developed during your ThM studies regarding your research skills?			related to the ThM. For future assessment, two changes to criteria are recommended: (1) Revise scale on Student Assessment from a scale of 1–5 to a scale of 1–4 for consistency with the scale being used in the Rubric Questions. Completed. (2) Set new, more specific criteria: (3) 70% score 4 on 1–4 scale (4) 90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale

PLO 3:
The student produces a body of writing demonstrating original academic research and writing consistent with scholarly standards in a specific area of study.

Aligns with ATS Degree Program Goal 4.11:
"…The program typically culminates in a thesis demonstrating scholarly research."

Measures (means of program assessment)	**Criteria for Success (benchmark set last cycle)**	**Results (report, summarize, reflect)—disaggregate by location and semester**	**Use of Results (make action plan to reach criteria, set new criteria if needed, AND discuss success of previous cycle's plans)**
Direct Measures 1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Rubric Question 1	___% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale	100% of students scored a 3 or 4 (12 of 12)	-No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions related to the ThM. For future assessment, new and more

• Does the portfolio include a comprehensive representation of the student's work during his/her ThM Studies?			specific criteria need to be set: -70% score 4 on 1–4 scale -90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale -Rubric Question 3 needs to be added as an additional Direct Measure, with the criteria for success set the same as Rubric Question 1. Completed.
Indirect Measures 1. ThM Portfolio Rubric and Evaluation Form – Student Assessment Question 3 • On a scale of 1–5, how much have you developed during your ThM studies regarding your writing skills?	___% report 4 or 5 on 1–5 scale	92% of students reported a 4 or 5 (11 of 12)	-No benchmark had been set due to curriculum revisions related to the ThM. For future assessment, two changes to criteria are recommended: (1) Revise scale on Student Assessment from a scale of 1–5 to a scale of 1–4 for consistency with the scale being used in the Rubric Questions. Completed. (2) Set new, more specific criteria: (3) 70% score 4 on 1–4 scale (4) 90% score 3 or 4 on 1–4 scale

Executive Summary:
Evaluating the ThM is relatively new due to program changes, which include: (1) the creation and implementation of the ThM Portfolio in the part of the program sequence previously occupied by Qualifying Exams and (2) the introduction of the Standalone ThM. Due to office turnover in the ThM/PhD Office, data is available only for Spring 2024. In order to obtain more informative results on future assessments, the following revisions are recommended:

1. An explicit number scale needs to be added for scoring the ThM Portfolio Rubric & Evaluation Rubric Questions. The results in this report are calculated based on counting “Poor” as 1, “Fair” as 2, “Good” as 3, and “Excellent” as 4. However, these numerical values are not actually included in the Rubric. Thus, the Rubric needs to be revised to indicate these numerical values.
2. The ThM Portfolio Rubric & Evaluation Rubric Questions have an implicit scale of 1–4. However, the Student Assessment uses a scale of 1–5. For consistency, the Student Assessment scale needs to be changed to 1–4.
3. To reduce the subjectivity of results, more details need to be added to the Rubric Questions and Student Assessment Questions.