VIRGINIA BEACH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2026–27 Academic Catalog

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1. General Information

1.1 Vision & Mission

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary opened its doors in the summer of 1996 with the vision of training pastors, missionaries, and skilled Christian workers in the context of the local church. Colonial Baptist Church has served as the gracious host of VBTS since its inception and provides an appropriate context for ministerial training. The interactive relationship between the seminary and Colonial Baptist Church enables students to observe the practical application of sound theology and a biblically informed philosophy of ministry.

The development and application of ministry philosophy is a key focal point for the seminary. VBTS is committed to the ministry principle that God accomplishes His work through the sufficiency of the biblical text. God displays His grace in the church by applying the Scripture to the conscience of the believer, empowering the believer to live for Christ, and enabling the believer to properly distinguish between the priorities of Scripture and the preferences of human traditions. This "grace philosophy of ministry" exalts the text of Scripture, the person of Christ, and the edification of His church.

The mission of Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is to equip each student for local church ministry and global missions through biblical academic training in a ministry-based environment. In so doing, the seminary seeks to honor the Lord Jesus Christ and to uphold His inerrant word. The seminary mission statement is conceptualized in the expression, "Sharpening Servants for Global Ministry."

The identity of the seminary is inseparably united with its affirmation of a dispensational hermeneutic, a pre-tribulational and pre-millennial view of the end times, and a Baptistic perspective of the church.

1.2 Philosophy of Education

The seminary's Philosophy of Education centers on four key elements: educational presuppositions, educational mission, faculty qualifications, and the educational process.

Educational Presuppositions

The seminary is committed to the direct method of presenting divine truth from the Bible, using its original languages as its primary foundation, which it views as the authoritative and exclusive revelation from God to man in this age of Grace. In addition, it rejects all forms of secular relativism, which deny the complete authority of the Holy Scriptures.

It believes that true scholarship is that which submits to the authority of Holy Scripture and in so believing rejects the exaltation of human intellect above the written Word of God.

The seminary emphasizes a biblical rather than a philosophic approach to education. It is not merely evangelical, but specifically Baptist in approach with an emphasis on creating a global biblical vision within each student. The normal (literal)-grammatical-historical-literary method of biblical interpretation is consistently applied to the text of Scripture. This hermeneutic governs our understanding of the progressive nature of biblical revelation. It also discerns a difference between the biblical terms "Israel" and "Church." Consequently, it follows a dispensational contour rather than a covenant or reformed expression of interpretation. In addition, it establishes the coming of Christ as both pretribulational and premillennial. Of necessity, the clear presentation of biblical revelation will include the gracious but firm refutation of theological error in the classroom experience.

Educational Mission

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a local church-based graduate school. It is the educational objective of the seminary as an independent Baptist institution to positively contribute to the larger body of Christ through the preparation of humble servant-scholars who can rightly divide the authoritative, infallible, inerrant Word of God, and passionately articulate the Gospel of the Grace of God. In order to fulfill its purpose to the greatest possible degree, the seminary makes theological education accessible to the local community through traditional resident education, as well as other communities by means of distance education.

Qualifications for the Faculty

The ultimate responsibility for training ministers of the gospel belongs to the local church (2 Tim 2:2). VBTS does not simply function in the context of a local church ministry; instead, it approaches the educational task in keeping with biblical ideals that pertain to the local church. Since teachers are integral to the teaching process, and since the biblical directive calls for qualified ministers to prepare the next generation of ministerial leadership, VBTS emphasizes the qualifications of its faculty as indispensable to its philosophy of education.

VBTS faculty members are expected to be Christian scholars committed to guarding truth, explaining truth, and proclaiming truth. Annually, faculty members affirm in writing their commitment to the seminary's Faith Statement. When each full-time faculty member, along with his family, actively participates in the ministries of Colonial Baptist Church, the educational distinctives of VBTS are publicly affirmed.

The faculty and staff of the seminary endeavor to demonstrate a sincere reliance upon the grace of God for the outworking of the will of God in every aspect of seminary life. This involves a commitment to being men and women of integrity so that the atmosphere of the VBTS campus demonstrates a biblical love for people and a reverential fear of the Lord (2 Pet 3:14-18).

The faculty of VBTS is entrusted by the board with the task of spiritual mentorship—the unique opportunity to prepare students for a ministry of the Word through both classroom and personal relationships (2 Tim 2:1-2). This sacred stewardship flows out of a "grace

philosophy of ministry" which emphasizes the centrality of Christ, the necessity of God's grace, the sufficiency of the biblical text, and the priority of the church. As such, the members of the faculty seek to motivate students to pursue a love for God, a love for the truth, a love for the church, and a burden for the lost.

Educational Process

As Christian scholars, the faculty are devoted to accurately handling the subjects assigned to them (2 Tim. 2:15-16). Since Christian scholarship must never be devoid of affection for the glory of God and His Word (Ps. 19:7-11), members of the faculty promote a positive classroom atmosphere. Truth is communicated enthusiastically, courageously, and creatively with the goal of exalting the person and work of Jesus Christ (Jn. 5:39). Although classroom instruction includes exposure to alternative views, it seeks to be constructive and affirmational to the larger Body of Christ, while avoiding speculations that are unproductive (Eph. 2:19-22; 4:11-16).

The teaching and learning process seeks to achieve higher orders of learning that are appropriate to graduate education. Learning outcomes are designed to emphasize the development of skills that equip students to engage course content at the analytical, evaluative, and application levels. Course content is designed to advance these learning outcomes. Residential course delivery combines various pedagogical approaches, including interactive lectures, student-directed discussions, group projects, and individual research assignments. Online courses are designed to advance the vision and values of the seminary by bringing students and faculty together through synchronous and asynchronous video, instructor-directed discussion boards, and interactive projects. Diverse and creative course delivery for both residential and distance learning is structured to facilitate higher orders of learning in a way that actively engages both teacher and student in the learning process. Finally, verification of learning is established by a variety of assessment devices at the course, program, and institutional levels. Each element of the learning process is informed by the Christian worldview of knowledge, reality, and ethics as expressed in the seminary's Faith Statement.

1.3 Educational Objectives

As a result of receiving a degree from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, the graduate will be able to:

A. *Exegete* the various portions of the biblical text in terms that account for its historical and literary contexts, with a view toward understanding the intention of the author.

B. *Correlate* the results of exegetical studies into theological expressions that are clear, coherent, historically informed, and culturally relevant.

C. *Communicate* the results of exegetical and theological studies in formats relevant to ministry and global mission.

D. *Serve* effectively in those ministry capacities for which the particular degree program was intended to provide preparation.

1.4 Facilities

VBTS is located on the campus of Colonial Baptist Church. Built in 2006, the two-story 50,000 square-foot seminary facility provides faculty and staff offices, classrooms, the library, and a coffee bar, along with personal and group study spaces for students.

1.5 Library

A strong theological library supports VBTS's educational programs. The Ernest D. Pickering Library consists of approximately 50,000 volumes and an expanding periodical collection. The library's goal is to consistently and aggressively expand holdings so that students have the tools to undertake credible theological research. In addition to the Pickering Library, students have special access privileges to the Regent University Library, located approximately 5 minutes from the VBTS campus.

1.6 Location

The mild climate of southeastern Virginia is an excellent place to prepare for the Lord's work. The seminary is located thirty minutes west of the Atlantic Ocean, fifty minutes south of historic Williamsburg, and three hours east of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains. Additionally, the world's largest naval base is within twenty minutes of our campus and provides many outreach opportunities.

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2. Faith Statement

Article 1. Concerning the Holy Scriptures

We believe and teach that the Bible, consisting of a total of sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments, is without error in the original manuscripts.[1] The author of the Bible was God the Holy Spirit who guided the human writers using their various personalities in such a way that the writings they produced were also the very words of God.[2] By His providence the Scriptures are being preserved so that we have the authentic word of God today.[3] We believe that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice,[4] and is fully sufficient for every spiritual need.[5]

[1]Ps. 19:7-9; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17. [2]II Pet. 1:20-21; II Tim. 3:16. [3]Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35. [4]Acts 17:11; I Cor. 10:6-12; Eph. 6:17; II Tim. 3:15-17; I Jn. 4:1. [5]Ps. 119:1-12; II Tim. 3:15-17; Jas. 1:21; I Pet. 1:23.

Article 2. Concerning the Tri-unity God

Article 2a. Concerning the True and Living God

We believe and teach that there is only one true and living God,[1] the eternal, self-existing, perfect Spirit,[2] who is to be worshipped, adored, and obeyed.[3] He is the Creator and Upholder of the universe, and as a personal Being cares for the smallest of all details within the world He has created.[4] Though one God, He exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.[5] These Persons are equal in essence and in every divine perfection,[6] but each has His own distinct work (ministry) to perform.[7]

[1]Deut. 6:4-5; Jer. 10:10; I Tim. 3:15. [2]Hab. 1:12; Jn. 4:24; Jas. 1:17. [3]Ps. 2, 8, 9, 100; Rev. 5:1-14. [4]Gen. 1:1-25; Lk. 12:6-7; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:3, 10. [5]Matt. 3:16; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14. [6]Jn. 10:30; 14:10; 17:5; I Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:5-6. [7]Jn. 14:26; 15:26; Eph. 1:3-4, 6-7, 13-14.

Article 2b. Concerning God the Father

We believe and teach that God the Father, the first Person of the Tri-unity, orders and administrates all things according to His gracious purpose.[1] As the holy, absolute, and omnipotent Ruler of the universe, He is sovereign in creation, history, and redemption and has decreed that all things come to pass for His own glory.[2] Within the Tri-unity, the Father directs the work and ministries of the Son and Spirit to accomplish that glory.[3]

[1]Ps. 19:1-3; 111:1-10; 115:1-3; 139:13-18; Rev. 4:11. [2]Isa. 6:1-3; 44:6-8; Eph. 1:11, 3:8-11; Rom. 11:33-36. [3]Jn. 1:14-18, 7:16, 28-29; 14:16-17, 26.

Article 2c. Concerning God the Son

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Tri-unity, is the eternal Son of God.[1] All things were created by Him and for Him, and He is supreme over all things visible and invisible.[2] At His incarnation (physical birth) His human body was miraculously conceived in the womb of a virgin[3] by the power of the Holy Spirit,[4] and He became the God-Man with two natures, divine (fully God) and human (fully human).[5] He lived a sinless life on earth, died on the cross as a substitute for sinners bearing the judgment of their sins, and was raised bodily from the tomb as a testimony to the sufficiency of His sacrifice and as a guarantee of His people's future resurrection.[6] Upon His resurrection, the Father seated Him at His right hand, put all things in subjection under Him, and made Him Head of the Church.[7] He now not only reigns in Heaven as King of kings and Lord of lords,[8] but also graciously serves as the great High Priest of His people.[9] He will soon return at the Rapture for His Church, and later to the earth to set up His Kingdom following the Tribulation Period.[10]

[1]Heb. 1:1-2; Jn. 10:30; Ps. 2. [2]Phil. 2:6-9; Col. 1:15-20. [3]Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25. [4]Lk. 1:26-38. [5]Jn. 1:1-2; Rom. 1:2-4. [6]Lk. 24:1-6; I Cor. 15:1-7, 23-26; I Pet. 2:21-24. [7]Eph. 1:20-22. [8]Phil. 2:10-11; Rev. 1:12-18; 19:14-16. [9]Heb. 2:17-18; 4:14-16. [10]Jn. 14:1-4; I Thess. 4:14-17; I Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 19:11-21.

Article 2d. Concerning God the Holy Spirit

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Tri-unity, is a divine Person, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son.[1] The Old Testament teaches that He was active in creation,[2] in the spiritual life of Israel,[3] in revealing the words and will of God to humanity (prophecy),[4] and active in the affairs of mankind.[5] The New Testament is also rich with truth about the Spirit, and explains His unique coming, ministries, and purpose upon the earth since the glorification of Jesus.[6] Those ministries, the New Testament explains, include convicting men of sin, of righteousness, and of future judgment.[7] In addition, He regenerates (gives spiritual life to the spiritually dead) those who believe the Gospel,[8] baptizes each believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of their salvation,[9] and permanently indwells each believer.[10] He also performs significant ministries through each believer such as sanctifying, empowering, and gifting.[11]

[1]II Cor. 13:14. [2]Gen. 1:1-2. [3]Isa. 63:10-14. [4]II Sam. 23:1-2; Isa. 61:1-3. [5]Ps. 139:7-12. [6]Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-39. [7]Jn. 16:8-11. [8]Jn. 3:1-16. [9]I Cor. 12:12-13. [10]I Cor. 6:19-20. [11]Acts 1:8; I Cor. 6:19-20; 12:4-7; II Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:13-14, 17; I Jn. 2:18-27.

Article 3. Concerning Creation

We believe and teach that the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not figuratively.[1] The six days of creation mentioned in Genesis chapter one were literal days, each being termed "evening and morning,"[2] and all animal and vegetable life follows God's law in multiplying "after their kind."[3]

We also believe and teach that the entire human race comes from one man, Adam, and one woman, Eve, literal people, who were directly created by God according to his likeness; meaning in part, they did not evolve from any lower form of life.[4]

[1]Gen. 1:1-2:25; Neh. 9:6; Ps. 33:6-9; Jn. 1:3; Heb. 11:3; Col. 1:16-17. [2]Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; Ex. 20:11; 31:17. [3]Gen. 1:11, 12, 21, 24, 25. [4]Gen. 1:26-27; 5:2; Rom. 5:12-21.

Article 4. Concerning Angels and Satan

We believe and teach in the existence of angels who are mighty spiritual beings that were created by God. They serve Him in various ways and are specially appointed to watch over and minister to God's people.[1]

We also believe and teach that at some time in the past a large number of angels, under the leadership of the angel called Satan (Literally: "the Adversary"), rebelled against God and were removed from His presence.[2] They now roam the universe and are especially active on earth, opposing God and His purposes and ruling over the spiritual darkness of this world.[3] Satan, also called the Devil (Literally: "the Slanderer"), is a real personality who has extraordinary power to deceive the nations and is the enemy of God's people.[4] He is destined to be punished by Christ at His return and finally to be eternally incarcerated in the Lake of Fire.[5]

[1]Heb. 1:5-14; Rev. 1:20. [2]Isa. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:11-19; II Pe. 2:4; Rev. 12:4. [3]I Tim. 4:1; Eph. 6:12. [4]Job 1-2; I Pet. 5:8-9; Rev. 13:1-18. [5]Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7-12; 20:1-3, 10.

Article 5. Concerning the Fall of Man and Sin

We believe and teach that man was originally created a sinless being.[1] By voluntary transgression he fell from that sinless state by rejecting God's word and submitting to the deception of Satan,[2] and as a result, all mankind are now sinners by nature and by conduct[3] and are justly under divine condemnation.[4]

[1]Gen. 1:27, 31; 2:16-17; Eccl. 7:29. [2]Gen. 3:6-7; Rom. 5:12, 19. [3]Ps. 51:5; Isa. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-18, 23; 5:15-19; Jas. 2:10. [4]Jn. 3:36; Rom. 1:20.

Article 6. Concerning Salvation

We believe and teach that God's plan of salvation is made available to all by the Gospel.[1] Salvation is initiated by God through election and is accomplished by grace apart from any human works.[2] It is man's responsibility to repent of his sin and accept the Gospel by personal faith in Jesus Christ.[3] All who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are forgiven (their sins are judicially imputed to Christ) and justified (Christ's perfect righteousness is judicially imputed to each believer).[4] The new life given to all believers at regeneration will be nurtured in spiritual growth and produce spiritual fruit (see Sections 7-8).[5] True believers are saved forever and can never be eternally lost. [6]

[1]Rom. 1:16-17; I Cor. 15:1-8; I Tim. 2:3-6. [2]Eph. 1:3-6; 2:1-10. [3]Lk. 24:45-47; Jn. 3:1-16; Acts 16:31. [4]Rom. 3:23-26; 5:1; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 3:21-22; 4:5-8; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:8-9. [5]Gal. 2:20; 5:16-24; I Pet. 1:23-25; II Pet. 3:18. [6]Jn. 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1-2, 31-39.

Article 7. Concerning Sanctification

We believe and teach that at salvation each believer is positionally sanctified, that is, he is set apart for God, and that throughout the believer's life the Holy Spirit works to progressively conform each believer into the image of Christ.[1] It is the believer's privilege and responsibility to work out his salvation being empowered and shaped by the Spirit, and

though the believer will never experience the eradication of his sinful nature in this life, he may presently enjoy victory over specific sins through the power of the Spirit.[2] The believer lives in anticipation of God's finalization of the sanctification process, that is, the glorification of his body, and this will take place either at the believer's death or when Christ comes for His own.[3]

[1]I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 3:18; I Thess. 5:23. [2]Rom. 6:12-14; 7:18-25; II Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 5:11-18; Phil. 2:12-13. [3]Rom. 8:23-25; I Thess. 5:23; Phil. 3:20-21.

Article 8. Concerning Personal Godliness and Marriage

We believe and teach that the result of the Spirit's work of conforming a believer's life into the image of Christ is a life of personal godliness.[1] Each believer learns to forsake worldliness and its patterns of life and thought[2] and to present himself as a living sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.[3] True believers must guard against the two extremes that holiness is produced by mere willful adherence to rules and regulations, or that life under grace permits the believer to indulge his flesh.[4] Each Christian is under a divine mandate to be holy, just as the Lord is holy.[5] A fruitful Christian life is produced through daily fellowship with the Lord and the control of the Holy Spirit.[6]

We also believe and teach that sexual intimacy outside the marriage bond is morally unacceptable.[7] The marriage bond is holy and defined by the Scriptures as a life-long union between a husband (male) and wife (female).[8] This marriage union will bring glory to Jesus Christ when the biblical roles of the husband and wife are fulfilled.[9]

[1]II Cor. 7:1; Tit. 1:1; II Pet. 1:3-8. [2]Tit. 2:11-12; I Jn. 2:15-17. [3]Rom. 12:1-2. [4]Rom. 6:1-2, 12-13; 8:5-13; Tit. 2:11-14. [5]I Pet. 1:16. [6]Gal. 5:16-24. [7]Gen. 2:24-25; Ex. 20:14; Lev. 18:20, 22, 23-29; Prov. 5:1-14; Rom. 1:26-27; Eph. 5:3, 5; I Cor. 6:9-11, 15-20; Heb. 13:4. [8]Gen. 2:22-25; Prov. 5:15-23; Mk. 10:1-12; Heb. 13:4. [9]Eph. 5:22-33; I Pet. 3:1-7.

Article 9. Concerning the Church

We believe and teach that the Church, the Body of Christ, is composed of all true believers who are placed into that Body by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation.[1] The Church is distinct from Israel having been formed by the grace of Christ beginning with the descent of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.[2]

The local, visible church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, associated together by a common faith and fellowship in the Gospel.[3] Such a church is to be governed by the Word of God,[4] and to observe the two ordinances of baptism (the immersion of true believers in water publicly identifying with the Father, Son, and Spirit) and the Lord's Table (a memorial celebration by true believers of the Lord's death, burial, resurrection, and coming again through the physical elements of the fruit of the vine and bread).[5] Its Scriptural officers are male believers referred to in Scripture as elders/pastors and deacons, and their qualifications are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.[6]

A local church is autonomous – not to be subject to the control of any outside persons or organizations – and, on all matters of membership, polity, government, missions, discipline,

and benevolence, the will of the congregation of the local church, being in accord with the Scriptures and exercised in grace and unity, is final.[7]

We also believe and teach that at the core of the church and its membership is a biblical theology of grace[8] which should be represented in the life of the local church through five New Testament grace essentials: Text (knowing Christ by learning God's Word and applying His truth through the power of the Spirit),[9] Community (showing Christ to one another through caring relationships, mutual accountability, and loving acts of service),[10] Equipping (serving Christ by equipping every member to mutually edify one another),[11] Worship (adoring Christ through God-exalting, Word-saturated, Spirit-led worship),[12] and Mission (proclaiming Christ to our generation from our neighborhoods to the nations).[13]

[1]Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23. [2]Acts 2; 11:15-17; Eph. 3:1-6. [3]Acts 2:41-42. [4]I Tim. 3:14-16; II Tim. 3:16-17. [5]Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 6:1-7; I Cor. 11:23-34. [6]I Tim. 3:1-16; Tit. 1:5-9. [7]Matt. 18:15-18; Acts 13:1-3; I Cor. 5:4-5, 13; I Tim. 3:15. [8]Eph. 2:1-3:12. [9]II Tim. 3:15-17. [10]Acts 2:42-47. [11]Eph. 4:11-16. [12]Col. 3:16-17. [13]Acts 1:8.

Article 10. Concerning the Corporate Gathering of the Church

We believe and teach that it is a New Testament pattern to set apart the first day of the week for spiritual purposes insofar as possible on the part of the individual believer.[1] It commemorates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and is a time for local believers to assemble for biblical worship, instruction, fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth.[2]

[1]Acts 20:6-7; Heb. 10:24-25. [2]Acts 2:41-42; 20:7-12; I Cor. 16:1-2.

Article 11. Concerning World Evangelization and the Church

We believe and teach that God has given a commission to every Christian to be a personal witness of the resurrected and living Christ. The unity and evangelistic aggressiveness of believers within a local church will best fulfill the commission mandates of Christ to His disciples as follows:[1]

A. The *strategy* of the commission is located in Matthew 28:19-20 and calls for the making of disciples of all nations through baptism and teaching.
B. The *substance* of the commission is outlined in Luke 24:44-48 as the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins based upon the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and this must be announced from Jerusalem to the nations (i.e. "from our neighborhoods to the nations").
C. The *submission* to the commission by each believer is explained in John 20:21 as following the pattern of Christ's submission to the will of the Father.
D. The *strength* of the commission is described in Acts 1:8 as reaching the present generation in all corners of the earth by relying upon the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this great task. As seen in Acts, this commission is most effective when the Spirit works through the united community of the believers in their local assemblies (e.g. 2:42-47; 9:31; 13:1-3).

[1]Matt. 28:19-20; Lk. 24:44-48; Acts 1:8.

Article 12. Concerning Theological Error

We believe and teach that the Word of God predicts widespread departure from the revealed Word of God in these last days before Christ returns,[1] and that the local church must practice separation from those who deny the faith, or who distort the faith either by their continual, personal disobedience or by their false beliefs and teaching.[2]

[1]I Tim. 4:1-3; II Pet. 2:1-3; I Jn. 4:1. [2]Rom. 16:17; II Cor. 6:14-17; I Tim. 1:3-8; II Tim. 3:1-5; Tit. 3:9-11; II Pet. 3:15-18.

Article 13. Concerning Miraculous Signs and Events

We believe and teach that the modern-day Pentecostal and Charismatic movements are theologically incorrect.[1] The miraculous signs and supernatural events occurring in the New Testament church were gifts that authenticated the ministry of the apostles, were necessary because the early church was without the written New Testament documents, and were not intended to continue with regularity in the post-apostolic church.[2]

[1]I Cor. 12-14; II Cor. 12:7-12; II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 4:7-11; II Pet. 3:15-17. [2]II Cor. 12:12; Heb 2:3-4; I Cor. 13:8-13.

Article 14. Concerning Civil Government

We believe and teach that civil government is of divine appointment and necessary for the maintenance of good order in human society.[1] Believers are to pray for, honor, and obey civil authorities[2] except where to do so would be to violate plain commands and principles of the Word of God.[3] The Church and the State have separate spheres of authority and neither have jurisdiction over the other.[4]

[1]Rom. 13:1-7. [2]I Tim. 2:1-3; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14. [3]Acts 4:18-20; 5:29. [4]Matt. 22:21.

Article 15. Concerning Future Events

We believe and teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the eternal conditions of the righteous and the wicked. Those who are righteous will enter into eternal delight with Christ (Heaven), and those who are unrighteous will be lost forever (Hell).[1]

We also believe and teach that at death the believer will pass into the presence of Christ and remain in conscious joy until the resurrection of the body when Christ comes for His own.[2] The New Testament affirms that the hope of the believer is the imminent, personal appearance of Christ when He will gather all the Church, His Bride, to Himself in the air, and so they will always be with the Lord. This blessed hope will happen prior to the seven-year Tribulation Period, and will include the Judgment (Bema) Seat of Christ for all those who have been gathered to Him.[3] God's righteous judgments will then be poured out upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.[4] The climax of this fearful era will be the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth with His Bride in great glory to establish the Kingdom of God on earth for 1,000 years (the Millennial Kingdom),[5] and the ethnic people of Israel will finally enjoy the prophetic announcements of the Old Testament, being restored as one nation.[6] Following this thousand-year reign of Christ several events will take place,

culminating in Satan being cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented forever,[7] and the Great White Throne judgment at which time the bodies and souls of the unrighteous shall be reunited, judged, and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternal torment.[8] The saved will enter into the new heaven and new earth, and they will live with the Lord in glorified bodies forever.[9]

[1]Jn. 5:24-29. [2]I Cor. 15:51-57; II Cor. 5:8. [3]Dan. 9:24-27; II Cor. 5:1-10; I Thess. 4:13-18; Tit. 2:13; Rev. 3:10. [4]Rev. 6:1-17; 16:5-7. [5]Rev. 19:11-20:6. [6]Ez. 37:1-28; Isa. 65:17-25; Jer. 33:14-26. [7]Rev. 20:7-10. [8]Rev. 20:11-15. [9]Phil. 3:20-21; Rev. 21:1-22:5.

3

3. Seminary Administration, Faculty, and Staff

The Virginia Beach Theological Seminary faculty consists of men with earned degrees from reputable schools, experience in pastoral ministry or the mission field, and a mindset for mentoring. faculty members are Christian scholars committed to a conservative, Baptist, dispensational approach to seminary education. Each member of the faculty is fully committed to the seminary's foundational principles and demonstrates that commitment annually by affirming the seminary's Faith Statement, mission and philosophy, and constitution. Each full-time faculty member, along with his family, actively participates in the ministries of Colonial Baptist Church, and in so doing models the goals and objectives of VBTS. The seminary faculty considers the values of personal integrity, theological transparency, local church orientation, the union of scholarship and devotion, and excellence in the classroom to be of the highest priority.

The faculty counts it a privilege to be entrusted with the task of the spiritual mentorship of students as each prepares for a lifetime of ministering the Word. Similarly, the faculty and staff are committed to one another in the pursuit of a genuinely biblical bond of unity (Philippians 2:1-11), avoiding a divisive and critical spirit toward colleagues, administration, chapel speakers, students, and other ministries. This commitment strives for unity, not uniformity (Ephesians 4:2-6), in a genuine display of Christ-like behavior toward one another. The faculty regards this kind of atmosphere to be both appropriate and necessary for training biblically faithful local church leadership.

Daniel K. Davey

President

Education:

B.A., Liberty Baptist College, Lynchburg, VA
ThM, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI
MDiv, Th.D., Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN

Ministry:

Colonial Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA – Associate Pastor (1982-87); Senior Pastor (1988 to 2015)
Teaching ministries in Romania & Siberia

Eric J. Lehner

Academic Dean, Professor of Theology

Education:
B.A., Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, TN
MDiv, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI
ThM, Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, Virginia Beach, VA
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

Ministry:
Professor, Hungarian Baptist Theological Seminary, Cluj, Romania
Teaching ministries in Russia and Ukraine
Associate Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Westerville, OH

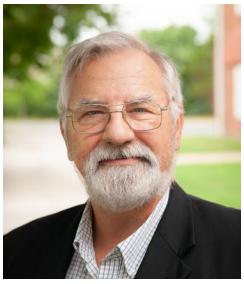
Thomas K. Dailey

Professor of New Testament, Director of Graduate Programs

Education:
B.A., Pensacola Christian College, Pensacola, FL
MDiv, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Allen Park, MI
ThM, Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, Virginia Beach, VA
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

Ministry:
Professor, Hungarian Baptist Theological Seminary, Cluj, Romania

Michael H. Windsor



Professor of Church History, Director of DMin Program

Education:
B.A., M.A., University of Wisconsin, River Falls, WI
M.L.I.S., University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
MDiv, ThM, Th.D., Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN

Ministry:
Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Boyceville, WI
Pastor, Blaine Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
Instructor, Twin Cities Bible Institute, MN
Adjunct Professor, Assistant Professor, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN
Teaching ministries in India, Russia, and Romania

M. Scott Bashoor

Assistant Professor of Old Testament & Pastoral Studies

Education:
B.A., Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC
MDiv, The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA
ThM, The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA
Ph.D. (cand.), The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA

Ministry:
Pastor, Community Bible Church, Orange County, CA
Adjunct Faculty, The Master's Seminary, Sun Valley, CA
Adjunct Faculty, The Master's University, Sun Valley, CA
Teaching ministries in Fiji

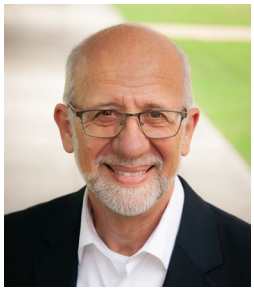
Brent A. Belford

Faculty Associate

Education:
B.A., Northland International University, Dunbar, WI
M.A., Northland Graduate School, Dunbar, WI
MDiv, Faith Baptist Theological Seminary, Ankeny, IA
DMin, Northland Graduate School, Dunbar, WI
Ph.D., Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

Ministry:
Senior Pastor, Colonial Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Provost, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, MN
Assistant Pastor, Norway Baptist Church, Norway, MI
Director of Graduate School, Northland International University, Dunbar, WI
Assistant Pastor, Cross Lanes Bible Church, Cross Lanes, WV

Roger G. DePriest



Faculty Associate

Education:
B.A., Cedarville College, Cedarville, OH
M.A., Talbot Theological Seminary, La Mirada, CA
Ph.D., Baptist Bible Seminary, Clarks Summit, PA

Ministry Experience:
Executive Director, Grace Biblical Counseling Ministry, Va. Beach, VA
Adjunct Faculty, Clarks Summit University, Clarks Summit, PA
Regional Director, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry
Pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Annapolis, MD

Daniel R. Seely

Faculty Associate

Education:

B.A., Northland International University, Dunbar, WI
MDiv, Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, Va. Beach, VA
M.Ed., Regent University, Va. Beach, VA
D.Ics., Grace College & Seminary, Winona Lake, IN

Ministry Experience:

Pastor of Mission and Member Care, Colonial Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, VA
Academic Dean, Cameroon Biblical Seminary, Yaoundé, Cameroon
Missionary, Baptist Mid-Missions, Cleveland, OH

Staff

Capt. (ret) Anthony Brazas, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Operations
Mr. Joel Dailey, Assistant Office Manager
Mrs. Susann DePriest, Assistant to the Librarian
Mr. Zachary Hilton, Registrar; Director of Admissions
Mrs. Gloria Schrader, Administrative Assistant
Mr. David Wood, Cyber Security Officer and Director of Online Technology

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4. Admissions Information

Acceptance into VBTS's graduate programs is based upon personal and academic qualifications. VBTS admits applicants who profess to have experienced biblical conversion by faith in Jesus Christ, who have consequently committed themselves to a life of obedience to the Scriptures, who understand the doctrinal position of the school, and who express a willingness to submit to its policies and procedures upon enrollment as a student.

Furthermore, applicants must be academically qualified to carry out the rigors of a graduate program. VBTS's graduate programs require a recognized bachelors degree for entrance. The academic dean and the admissions committee will evaluate all transcripts, references, interviews, and submitted essays to determine whether the applicant meets the standards and criteria for admission. VBTS reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant who does not fulfill these personal and academic qualifications.

VBTS offers three graduate degrees: the Master of Biblical Studies (39 hours), the Master of Theological Studies (60 hours), and the Master of Divinity (90 hours). VBTS also offers two post-graduate degrees: the Master of Theology (30 hours) and the Doctor of Ministry (34 hours). Those who have not completed a bachelors degree and desire to participate in the seminary classroom may make application to the Diploma of Biblical Studies program (39 hours). In addition to the general requirements for seminary admission, additional criteria for admission apply to each program. These additional criteria are explained in Section 5. Interested students are asked to review the criteria for the program of choice, complete the seminary application, and submit it at least one month prior to registration for classes. The application is available online, and it can be accessed at VBTS's website – www.vbts.edu/admissions/apply.

In order to nurture a positive learning environment, applicants who take exception to the doctrinal position of the seminary must indicate in writing specific points of difference. VBTS encourages the exercise of academic freedom within the broader scope of the seminary's core doctrines, values, and mission. For this reason, applicants who identify points of difference must also indicate in writing a willingness to promote a positive learning experience both in and out of the classroom by a submissive and supportive manner of life. The Theology Seminar, which is taken prior to graduation, offers all students the opportunity to express in writing and to defend orally their theological convictions.

4.1 Application Procedure

The student must complete the current application online (available at **vbts.edu/apply**). Students are urged to begin the process at least one month prior to registration for the intended semester of enrollment.

4.2 General Admissions Requirements

A. Completion of application.

B. An endorsement from the church of which the applicant is a member.

C. Three recommendations regarding the applicant's character.

D. A written account (250+ words) documenting the applicant's conversion, description of involvement in ministry since conversion, and explanation of how seminary education will prepare him or her for future ministry. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school. Applicants who have not completed a bachelors degree at the time of application must submit a partial transcript for evaluation, including the most recent semester completed. These students may be provisionally accepted and allowed to take courses for two terms. Final transcripts, showing the awarding of a bachelors degree, will be required for full acceptance. Transcripts must be mailed from the registrar's office of the school the applicant attended to the registrar's office at VBTS in order to be considered official.

E. Agreement to abide by the student code of conduct if admitted.

F. Identification of the desired program of study.

G. Confirmation of intent to complete the program of study within the prescribed time limitation.

H. Careful reading of the VBTS doctrinal statement and notation of any areas of disagreement.

I. Students applying for a non-degree program are required to complete all of the above components.

J. An interview with the academic dean.

4.3 Admissions Status

Seminary applicants should apply at least one month prior to registration for the semester in which they intend to matriculate. It is the responsibility of the student to provide the seminary with complete and accurate information to review. Once the student's application is processed, the academic dean will inform the student of the seminary's decision. Students who are accepted will be granted an admissions status from among the following:

Acceptance: Students are admitted into a program.

Delayed Admission: The student, for whatever reason, may choose not to enroll immediately. In this case, VBTS will keep the student's application and acceptance status active for one

year. After one year, if a student desires to matriculate in a forthcoming term, the student's file must be updated.

Provisional Admission: Students whose files are incomplete at the time of matriculation will be allowed to register for classes on a provisional basis. Provisionally admitted students may take classes for two terms.

Special Student Status: Students not making application to a program at VBTS may petition for special student status. Special student status is offered to the student who is enrolled in another graduate program or who desires to take an occasional class to further his or her knowledge of theology. The number of special students in a term is limited to 15% of the student population. Students under this status may be limited or deferred to a future term based on the number of students registered for classes. Students requesting special status must complete the special student application.

Readmission: Students who withdraw from the seminary (officially or unofficially) for four consecutive terms must contact the office of the registrar for details on the readmission process.

Admission to Another Degree Program: Students who complete one program and desire to enroll in another, or who choose to change programs, or who seek to enter two programs concurrently should contact the office of the registrar for the appropriate admission steps.

4.4 Campus Visit

VBTS strongly encourages students to visit the seminary campus, attend classes and chapel, and meet with faculty and students. If possible, it is very helpful for prospective students to attend a Sunday worship service at Colonial Baptist Church. Colonial's services highlight the theology and philosophy of ministry that permeate the seminary classroom. If you are interested in visiting VBTS and would like assistance in planning your visit, contact the Director of Admissions for more information.

4.5 Nondiscrimination Policy

VBTS does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Virginia Beach Theological Seminary admits qualified applicants who are personally committed to faith in Jesus Christ to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the institution.

VBTS recognizes that sexual harassment, including sexual assault, constitutes unlawful sex discrimination. VBTS will promptly respond to all reports of sexual harassment. In addition to a prompt response, VBTS offers free, voluntary supportive measures to all complainants of sexual assault in accordance with Title IX. VBTS provides a fair and impartial investigation and grievance process for all formal complaints of sexual harassment that follows the requirements and procedure of the Final Rule of Title IX.

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5. Program Requirements

5.1 Diploma of Biblical Studies

The Diploma of Biblical Studies (DBS) is a terminal diploma program open to qualified men and women who have not completed an undergraduate degree. VBTS offers this educational option to those who desire to prepare for a support role in the local church or in the work of missions, but whose life circumstances have not allowed the completion of an undergraduate degree. Eligible students must manifest spiritual and theological competency.

The graduating Diploma of Biblical Studies student will be able to:

A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.

B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.

C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The Diploma of Biblical Studies curriculum is identical to the Master of Biblical Studies program. All courses are offered at the graduate level and continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Like the other degrees offered at VBTS, the Diploma of Biblical Studies is designed to develop within the student theological soundness, along with appropriate affection for God, His people, and those without Christ. Candidates for the DBS must meet all the graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog.

DBS Curriculum—39 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(6 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(15 credits)*	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
Historical & Systematic Theology *(15 credits)*	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times DBS Theology Seminar
Electives *(3 credits)*	Student Choice

DBS Scope & Sequence

	Summer	Fall	Spring
Year 1	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Church & End Times Hermeneutical Systems
Year 2	Old Testament Intro Elective	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation DBS Theology Seminar

Prerequisites for Admission into DBS degree

A. Applicants must not have earned a bachelors degree.

B. Applicants must give proof of a high school graduation by submitting a high school diploma, General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or equivalency. In the event that the applicant is a home school graduate he or she should submit a list of courses taken, work completed, and any SAT or ACT test scores.

C. Applicants must be at least 30 years of age. Younger applicants are encouraged to complete an undergraduate degree program prior to seminary.

D. Students entering the Diploma of Biblical Studies Program must carefully read *The Moody Handbook of Theology* by Paul Enns and *Basic Biblical Interpretation* by Roy Zuck.

5.2 Master of Biblical Studies

The Master of Biblical Studies (MBS) is an academic graduate degree intended to train a student in biblical content, systematic and historical theology, missions, and evangelism. The MBS is designed to develop within the student theological soundness along with appropriate affection for God, His people, and those without Christ. The goal of the MBS is to prepare servant-leaders for an effective support role in the local church and in the work of missions.

The graduating Master of Biblical Studies student will be able to:

A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.

B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.

C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The MBS is open to qualified men and women with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university. The MBS may be completed entirely through either the resident or online delivery format. Continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Candidates for the MBS degree must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog. Master of Biblical Studies classes transfer into the MDiv program.

MBS Curriculum—39 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(6 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(15 credits)*	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
Historical & Systematic Theology *(15 credits)*	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MBS Theology Seminar
Electives *(3 credits)*	Student Choice

MBS Scope & Sequence

	Summer	Fall	Spring
Year 1	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Church & End Times Hermeneutical Systems
Year 2	Old Testament Intro Elective	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation MBS Theology Seminar

Prerequisites for Admission into MBS Degree & MBSO. Degree *(see below)*

A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.

B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.

5.3 Master of Biblical Studies Online

The Master of Biblical Studies can be completed entirely online. VBTS offers a continuous rotation of select courses from the resident program through a variety of engaging and interactive formats.

The graduating Master of Biblical Studies Online (MBSO.) student will be able to:

A. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.

B. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.

C. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The majority of the online classes are video live-streamed through VBTS's Vimeo channel. The online student can watch the lectures live and participate via a chat forum, or the online student can also watch the recordings of the lectures at a later time. In the delivery of these courses, VBTS professors might also employ any of the following methods: discussion forums, peer critiques, directed reading/written assignments, papers, and quizzes. Students log on to Populi, a web-based learning management system, to access any needed resources, participate in the class, and upload any completed assignments.

MBS Online Curriculum Plan —39 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(6 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(15 credits)*	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
Historical & Systematic Theology *(15 credits)*	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MBS Theology Seminar
Electives *(3 credits)*	Student Choice

MBS Online Scope & Sequence (2 Year Plan)

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Intro to Biblical Counseling Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Exposition of Romans	Christ & Salvation Church & End Times	Mission & Evangelism New Testament Intro
Year 2	Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	MBS Theology Seminar Hermeneutical Systems	Old Testament Intro Elective

MBS Online Scope & Sequence (4 Year Plan)

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit	Christ & Salvation	Mission & Evangelism

Year 2	Hermeneutics	Hermeneutical Systems	Elective
Year 3	Intro to Biblical Counseling Exposition of Romans	Church & End Times	New Testament Intro
Year 4	Theological Method, God, & Scripture	MBS Theology Seminar	Old Testament Intro

Academic Integrity

Integrity is a critical element in the seminary's delivery of online education. Since Scripture values the internal soundness of one's character, it is expected that every online student will be committed to the highest level of integrity in the process of ministry preparation. Honesty in all aspects of seminary life is expected whether or not a student is asked to give an account of his or her actions. Online students will pursue a path of academic honesty and moral purity in every aspect of study (reading, research, writing, test-taking) and in all opportunities of accountability (i.e., reporting the completion of assignments). Plagiarism, falsified reports, and other forms of academic honesty are violations of the Student Code of Conduct, and are subject to discipline as described in the *Student Handbook*, *Online Student Handbook*, and *Postgraduate Student Handbook*.

Verification of Identity

The seminary's LMS, Populi, handles course registration as well as course access. Access to Populi is obtained by means of a secure login and password, ensuring that the same individual who registers for the course is the one participating as a student in the course. This procedure protects student privacy. In the event that the verification procedure is modified, the seminary will notify students at the time of registration of any additional associated costs.

5.4 Master of Theological Studies

The Master of Theological Studies (MTS) is a professional degree designed to prepare students for vocational ministry. The curriculum provides theological training suitable for roles such as undergraduate teaching and Biblical counseling.

The graduating Master of Theological Studies student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate competency in the use and application of either Biblical Greek or Biblical Hebrew.

B. Interpret the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.

C. Articulate theology in a manner consistent with the biblical text.

D. Apply a biblical and theological framework to local and global ministry.

The MTS is open to qualified men and women with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university. Continuation in the program is based upon maintaining a 2.3 (C+) grade point average. Candidates for the MTS degree must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog. MTS classes transfer into the MDiv program.

MTS Standard Curriculum—60 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(6 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(15 credits)*	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
Historical & Systematic Theology *(24 credits)*	Early & Medieval Christianity Reformation & Modern Christianity Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times Apologetics MTS Theology Seminar
Biblical Language *(12 credits)*	(Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 2 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 2
Electives *(3 credits)*	Student Choice

MTS Curriculum with Counseling Concentration—60 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(15 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling Marriage and Family Counseling Advanced Issues in Counseling Counseling Seminar
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(15 credits)*	Exposition of Romans Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction
Historical & Systematic Theology *(18 credits)*	Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times Apologetics MTS Theology Seminar
Biblical Language *(12 credits)*	(Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Grammar 2 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 1 (Greek or Hebrew) Exegetical Method 2

MTS Scope & Sequence

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Greek or Hebrew Grammar 1 Hermeneutics Theological Method, God, & Scripture	Greek or Hebrew Grammar 2 Church & End Times	OT Introduction Mission & Evangelism
Year 2	Greek or Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Early & Medieval Christianity	Greek or Hebrew Exegetical Method 2 Christ & Salvation Reformation & Modern Christianity	Apologetics NT Introduction Elective
Year 3	Exposition of Romans Intro. to Biblical Counseling	Hermeneutical Systems MTS Theology Seminar	

Prerequisites for Admission into MTS Degree

A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.

B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.

5.5 Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (MDiv) is the seminary's foundational degree designed for preparing the student for a ministry of the Word. The MDiv curriculum is constructed and sequenced to develop within the student theological soundness along with appropriate affections for God, His people, and those without Christ. The Master of Divinity includes ninety hours of course work in the biblical languages, theology, biblical content, and pastoral ministry.

The graduating Master of Divinity student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate competency in the use and application of Biblical Greek and Hebrew.

B. Exegete the biblical text with sound methodological principles and practices.

C. Formulate and express theology in a manner that is exegetically sound, clearly expressed, historically informed, and methodologically coherent.

D. Engage the scope of church history and comprehend its significance for theology and ministry.

E. Communicate the Scriptures clearly and effectively in a variety of contexts.

F. Provide leadership in a variety of ministry contexts, as appropriate to roles defined in Scripture.

Students with a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an approved four-year college or university may enroll in the Master of Divinity degree program. A candidate for the MDiv must complete all course work with a minimum grade point average of 2.3 (C+). In addition, the MDiv candidate must meet all graduation requirements listed in the seminary catalog.

MDiv Curriculum—90 Credit Hours

Christian Ministry & Communication *(20 credits)*	Mission & Evangelism Introduction to Biblical Counseling Marriage & Family Counseling Pastoral Practice Principles of Expository Preaching Preparation for Exposition Communication in Preaching (2 credits)
Biblical Theology & Exegesis *(42 credits)*	Hermeneutics Hermeneutical Systems Old Testament Introduction New Testament Introduction Greek Grammar 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Greek Exegetical Method 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Hebrew Grammar 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 & 2 (6 credit hours) Exposition of Romans Exposition of Pastoral Epistles
Historical & Systematic Theology *(19 credits)*	Early & Medieval Christianity Reformation & Modern Christianity Theological Method, God, & Scripture Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit Christ & Salvation Church & End Times MDiv Seminar (1)
Electives *(9 credits)*	Elective 1 (NT) Elective Elective

MDiv Scope & Sequence

	Fall		Spring		Summer	
Year 1	Hebrew Grammar 1 Theological Method, God & Scripture Introduction to Biblical Counseling	3 3 3	Hebrew Grammar 2 Hermeneutical Systems Man, Sin, & the Holy Spirit	3 3 3	Old Testament Intro Principles of Expository Preaching	3 3
Year 2	Hebrew Method 1 Greek Grammar 1 Christ & Salvation	3 3 3	Hebrew Method 2 Greek Grammar 2 Hermeneutics	3 3 3	New Testament Intro Elective	3 3
Year 3	Greek Method 1 Preparation for Exposition Early & Medieval Christianity	3 3 3	Greek Method 2 Exposition of Pastoral Epistles Pastoral Practice	3 3 3	Mission and Evangelism Elective	3 3
Year 4	NT Elective Exposition of Romans Reformation & Modern Christianity	3 3 3	Church & End Times Marriage and Family Counseling Communication in Preaching MDiv Seminar	3 3 2 1		
		36		36		18

Prerequisites for Admission into MDiv

A. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. Applicants from non-accredited schools will be evaluated on an individual basis.

B. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) may be accepted on a probationary basis.

C. Since the MDiv is considered a professional ministry degree, which may culminate in ordination, enrollment is limited to qualified men.

5.6 Master of Theology

The Master of Theology (ThM) is 30 credit-hour postgraduate degree that provides the student with advanced and specialized biblical study beyond the Master of Divinity. Intended as preparation for teaching and research, the program emphasizes skills designed to prepare students for an enhanced ministry of the Word or terminal degree studies.

Students graduating with the Master of Theology degree will be able to:

A. Exhibit proficiency in a specialized area of biblical studies.

B. Display advanced research and writing skills.

C. Design and deliver an academic course in a select field of study.

D. Demonstrate readiness for enrollment in a terminal degree program.

Seminar Format

The ThM is a postgraduate, research-oriented degree. Consequently, the program differs substantially from the MDiv and other typical graduate programs. The program consists of four research seminars in which students develop a specialized proficiency in New Testament, Old Testament, or Theology.

In coordination with the research seminars, students complete six one-credit mentorships. Mentorships provide students with faculty-guided learning in three distinct areas. *Postgraduate Mentorships* build advanced skills needed for postgraduate-level research and instructional design. *Teaching Mentorships* guide students through the process of preparing and delivering theological instruction. *Research Mentorships* provide coaching and faculty interaction to assist students in progressing through the thesis sequence.

ThM Curriculum—30 Credit Hours

Postgraduate Seminars *(16 credits)*	Advanced Theological Research Methods (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 1 (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 2 (4 credit hours) Disciplinary Seminar 3 (4 credit hours)
Postgraduate Mentorships *(6 credits)*	Postgraduate Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Postgraduate Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour) Teaching Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Teaching Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour) Research Mentorship 1 (1 credit hour) Research Mentorship 2 (1 credit hour)
Thesis *(8 credits)*	Thesis 1 (4 credit hours) Thesis 2 (4 credit hours)

ThM Scope and Sequence

The curriculum is intended as an uninterrupted sequence of six academic terms, to be completed within 2 years. Candidates for graduation must hold a minimum 3.0 GPA in the program.

	Summer	Fall	Spring
Year 1	Advanced Theological Research Methods Postgraduate Mentorship 1	Disciplinary Seminar 1 Postgraduate Mentorship 2	Disciplinary Seminar 2 Teaching Mentorship 1
Year 2	Disciplinary Seminar 3 Teaching Mentorship 2	Thesis Part 1 Research Mentorship 1	Thesis Part 2 Research Mentorship 2

Prerequisites for Admission into ThM Degree

A. Applicants must have completed a MDiv degree or its equivalent (at least 80 graduate credit hours, of which at least 12 credit hours reflect Greek language study, 12 credit hours reflect Hebrew language study, and 9 credit hours reflect the study of Systematic Theology.) from an accredited seminary, and be able to provide evidence of ability to succeed in the program. Applicants may be asked to provide a writing sample, as well as demonstrate proficiency in the selected area of specialization. Applicants from non-accredited seminaries will be considered on an individual basis.

B. Applicants must have an MDiv cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B-) on a 4.0 grading scale.

C. The ThM program is predicated on the seminary's philosophy and policies regarding the MDiv and its intention to prepare graduates for ordained ministry. For this reason, only men may enroll in the ThM program.

5.7 Doctor of Ministry

The Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching (DMin) is a professional terminal degree program designed to provide the graduate with enhanced exegetical, theological, and communication skills for the purpose of serving the church most effectively through the means of expository preaching. The 34 credit-hour curriculum consists of seven 4 credit-hour courses delivered in module format and culminates in a 6 credit-hour final project. Intended for experienced pastors, missionaries, and others whose primary calling is the ministry of preaching God's Word, the Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching is available only to men who meet the qualifications for pastoral ministry as articulated in 1 Timothy chapter 3.

The graduating Doctor of Ministry student will be able to:

A. Demonstrate exegetical skills in various genres of the biblical text.

B. Articulate theological expressions that are clear, coherent, historically informed, and readily applicable.

C. Correlate the results of exegetical and theological studies in expository sermons that are relevant to ministry and global mission.

DMin Curriculum—34 Credit Hours

The Doctor of Ministry program develops specialized skills for expository preaching in the disciplines of communication, Old and New Testament exegesis, theology, and history. Program learning outcomes are achieved through seven courses and verified through a capstone research project.

Christian Ministry & Communication *(4 credits)*	Leadership and Communication in Expository Preaching
Biblical Exegesis & Exposition *(16 credits)*	Expositional Preaching of Old Testament Wisdom & Poetry Expositional Preaching of Old & New Testament Prophecy Expositional Preaching of Old & New Testament Narrative Expositional Preaching of New Testament Epistolary Literature
Historical & Systematic Theology *(8 credits)*	Expositional Preaching of Doctrine History of Expository Preaching
Final Project *(6 credits)*	Final Project 1 Final Project 2

DMin Scope & Sequence

	Fall	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Expository Preaching of NT Epistolary Literature	History of Expository Preaching	
Year 2	Expository Preaching of OT & NT Narrative	Expository Preaching of OT & NT Prophecy	
Year 3	Expository Preaching of OT Wisdom & Poetry	Expository Preaching of Doctrine	
Year 4	Leadership & Communication in Expository Preaching	Final Project Launch	

Prerequisites for Admission into DMin Degree

In addition to the general admission requirements for all applicants to VBTS, individuals seeking acceptance to the DMin program must:

A. Articulate intent to serve in a vocational teaching or preaching ministry.
B. Commit to finishing the program within 6 years.
C. Fulfill the qualifications for ministry as described in 1 Timothy 3.
D. Hold an MDiv or its equivalent (at least 80 graduate credit hours, of which at least 6 credit hours reflect Greek language study, 6 credit hours reflect Hebrew language study, and 9 credit hours reflect the study of Systematic Theology.)
E. Have at least three years of teaching or preaching ministry experience.

For a complete explanation of DMin admissions requirements, please refer to the *Postgraduate Handbook*.

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6. Financial Information

6.1 Tuition and Fees

VBTS's goal is to keep tuition and fees affordable so that students will graduate debt-free and have the freedom of multiple ministry opportunities. Students who make prompt payments establish a reputation of financial integrity essential for a ministry of the Word. Therefore, all academic expenses must be paid within the parameters of a given semester. Students with unpaid balances will not be permitted to register for subsequent terms. In the event that a student is unable to satisfy his or her financial obligations prior to registration, he or she may make an appeal to the Business Office for special consideration and registration approval.

Tuition

Graduate - Full-Time* MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	Graduate – Part-Time MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	Post-Graduate ThM	Doctoral DMin
$370 per credit hour	**$415** per credit hour	**$420** per credit hour	**$445** per credit hour

*A full-time load is 9+ credits during the Fall/Spring and 6+ credits during the Summer.

Student Fees

Graduate & Post-Graduate ThM, MDiv, MTS, MBS, MBSO	Summer	Doctoral DMin
$280 per semester	**$125** per semester	**$175** per module

Miscellaneous Fees: Master Programs

Graduation/ Diploma	Cost to Audit	Late Registration	Dual Delivery**
$100 MBS, MBSO, MTS, MDiv **$250** ThM	**$135** per class	**$50** added to balance	**$175** per semester

**For resident students who desire access to class lectures recorded for online sections, or for students taking both resident & online classes in a given semester.

Miscellaneous Fees: Doctoral Program

Graduation/ Diploma	Final Project Fee	Continuation Fee*	Late Registration
$250	**$1,500**	**$200** per semester	**$50** added to balance

*For continuation in program without course enrollment.

6.2 Payment

A student who completes the registration process is obligated to the semester tuition and fees. Payment can be made in full at registration or in four equal installments during the fall and spring semesters. Summer semesters can be paid in full or divided into three payments. Late payments are subject to a 1.5% interest added to the balance. Further details can be obtained from the Business Office.

Any student seeking to enroll using Ch. 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill® (GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.) or Ch. 31 VocRehab benefits will be allowed to enroll and commence classes without penalty, even if the Veterans Administration has not yet paid tuition and fees. No student enrolled under these programs will be required to secure alternative or additional funding or be denied access to any school resources that are available to other students that have paid.

6.3 Registration Changes

Adding a Course

A student may add a class within the first five days of the fall or spring term or the first day of the summer term. Class additions must be initiated in writing by the student with the registrar and approved by the course professor and finalized by the academic dean.

Course Withdrawal

Students may drop a class by completing a Course Withdrawal form (available in Populi). The following course withdrawal policies apply:

A. A student may drop a course without penalty by the end of the second week of a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 100% refund of tuition and fees, and no mark will appear on the student's transcript. A student changing registration status from credit to audit during this period will receive a 100% refund of tuition and fees minus the audit fee. A student may also add a course during this period.

   1. Full-term course: Drop with no penalty by end of the second week.
   2. Two-week module: Drop with no penalty by end of the third class day.
   3. One-week module: Drop with no penalty by end of the second class day.

B. A student may withdraw from a course by the end of the fifth week of a full term (for two-or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees, and the student's transcript will be marked with a "W" (withdrawn) for the course. A student changing registration status from credit to audit during this period will receive a 50% refund of tuition and fees minus the audit fee.

1. Full-term course: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the fifth week.
2. Two-week module: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the fifth class day.
3. One-week module: Withdraw with 50% reimbursement by end of the third class day.

C. A student may withdraw from a course after the end of the second week only until the end of the fifth week of a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). The student will receive a 0% refund of tuition and fees after the fifth week. The student's transcript will be marked with a "WP" (withdrawn passing) or "WF" (withdrawn failing) for the course before the fifth week. A student may not change registration status from credit to audit during this period.

1. Full-term course: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the fifth week.
2. Two-week module: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the fifth class day.
3. One-week module: Withdraw pass/fail with 0% reimbursement by end of the third class day.

D. A student may not withdraw from a course after the end of the fifth week a full term (for two- or one-week modules, see below). If the student does not fulfill course obligations, the student will receive a grade in accordance with the class syllabus and the VBTS grading policy. He or she will not be eligible to receive any refund for tuition and fees. A student may not change registration status from credit to audit during this period.

1. Full-term course: No withdrawal after end of the fifth week.
2. Two-week module: No withdrawal after end of the fifth class day.
3. One-week module: No withdrawal after end of the third class day.

6.4 Refunds

In the event that a student drops from a course, tuition will be refunded in the following manner for the fall and spring terms:

1st Week	100%
2nd Week	50%
3rd Week	No Refund

Refunds for all modular courses:

1st Day of class	100%
2nd Day of class	50%
3rd Day of class	No Refund

Students who received federal aid from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or agencies within the Department of Defense shall be reimbursed in accordance with the policies articulated within VA 21.4255. Accordingly, refunds to such student shall be administered as follows:

A. Definition. Enrollment consists of a registration of one or more courses within an academic term which has been initiated by an individual who has been accepted as a student in the institution.

B. Calculation of Enrollment Period. Enrollment is calculated from the first day of the academic term until the day the student initiates a withdrawal from the course, or the last day of the academic term, whichever occurs first. A partial week of enrollment shall be accounted as a full week.

C. Schedule of Charges. All courses at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary are delivered within a 14-week academic term. Consequently, all charges assessed by the seminary (tuition and fees) shall be assessed on the following pro-rata schedule:

1) 1 week of enrollment—7%
2) 2 weeks of enrollment—14%
3) 3 weeks of enrollment—21%
4) 4 weeks of enrollment—29%
5) 5 weeks of enrollment—36%
6) 6 weeks of enrollment—43%
7) 7 weeks of enrollment—50%
8) 8 weeks of enrollment—57%
9) 9 weeks of enrollment—64%
10) 10 weeks of enrollment—71%
11) 11 weeks of enrollment—79%
12) 12 weeks of enrollment—86%
13) 13 weeks of enrollment—93%
14) 14 weeks of enrollment—100%

D. Prompt Refund. Unused portions of tuition, fees, and other charges associated with the period of enrollment shall be refunded in a timely manner. The office of the registrar shall process all course withdrawal requests, including notification of completed course withdrawals to the business office, within 3 business days of the date the student submits the Course Withdrawal Form. The business office shall process all refunds within 30 days of such notification from the office of the registrar.

6.5 Military Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement

Pursuant to 23-9.6:2 of the Code of Virginia, and corresponding SCHEV Guidelines, VBTS provides for the tuition relief, refund, and reinstatement of students whose service in the uniformed services has required their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from their enrollment. Service in the uniformed services is defined as service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve, for a period of more than 30 days under call or order to active duty of more than 30 days.

Students need to submit documentation of the official military orders to the Admissions Office before the end of the semester of withdrawal or prolonged absence.

Tuition, Required Fees, and Deposit Options

Should a student be ordered to active duty (for reservists) or be mobilized (active military) as described in the Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2, and he/she requests to be withdrawn from VBTS after the drop/add date, tuition, and required fees will be refunded to the student or to the appropriate governmental agency that provided the payment. VBTS offers the option for such refunds to be retained and to be applicable to tuition and fees charged in the semester or term in which the student returns to study.

Room and Board

As a commuter school, VBTS does not have room and board options or expenses.

Academic Credits and Grades

Students who are subject to conditions described in Code of Virginia, Section 23-9.6:2 and do not wish to withdraw have the opportunity to receive an incomplete grade ("I") until released from active duty (for reservists) or mobilization (for active military personnel). All course requirements shall be completed within one year from the date of release from active duty or mobilization. Students may be given the option of taking their examinations prior to regularly scheduled times in accordance with the SCHEV Guidelines on Tuition Relief, Refund, and Reinstatement.

Reinstatement

Students who withdrew from VBTS as a result of military deployment, mobilizations, or duty changes are entitled to return without having to requalify for admission so long as the student (a) returns after a cumulative absence of no more than five years and (b) notifies the appropriate admissions office of the intent to return to the university not later than three years after the completion of military service obligation. Advance notice is not required if the giving of such notice is precluded by military necessity such as an active or pending mission, operation, exercise, or requirement that is classified or may be compromised or otherwise adversely affected by public knowledge.

The student may return to the seminary in the same program of study. With the consultation of an adviser, a comparable program of study may be chosen for discontinued

programs. In the event the student was admitted to a specific program of study but took no coursework in said program, VBTS will make every effort to ensure that a returning student covered under this policy is allowed to complete the program of study. The academic department housing the program of study shall make any determinations regarding any readmission requirements.

Documentation

Students who are members of the active and reserve U.S. Armed Forces or the Virginia National Guard who are called to active duty necessitating his or her sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from VBTS must provide the following documents to the registrar upon submission of the Withdrawal Form in order to initiate withdrawal without academic or financial penalties:

A. A copy of active-duty orders (activation/deployment) – If orders are unobtainable (Emergency Call-ups), the registrar will serve as a facilitator in the process of verifying the student's military status by receiving written confirmation by e-mail, fax, etc. from the student's command.

B. Student's active-duty military ID card - (present to registrar's office for verification purposes only – do not copy).

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7. Student Life

7.1 Code of Conduct

In view of the high calling of the ministry and the great responsibility of example which must be assumed by Christian leaders and by those aspiring to such leadership, it is expected that students at VBTS will maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and biblical conviction. The seminary does not presume to be a monitoring or censoring agency for all activities but does expect personal testimony and outward evidence of maturing Christian convictions, concern for the consciences of others, and a willingness to submit to the authority of mature Christian leaders. Accordingly, as examples of the numerous ways to enhance the testimony of the individual and of the institution, the seminary requires conformity to the following Code of Conduct:

A. Each student is expected to be faithful, committed, and involved in the ministry of a local church.

B. The seminary standards for appearance and dress, as outlined in the student handbooks, are to be fully respected.

C. Personal discipline in the discerning use of radio, television, internet, and printed pages is expected. This includes total avoidance of pornographic programming, films, and literature.

D. Students are required to abstain from such practices as gambling, the use of alcohol for non-medicinal purposes, the misuse of prescription drugs, the use of illegal drugs, and the use of tobacco.

E. Students must avoid all forms of dishonesty, including lying, plagiarism, cheating on exams or assignments, failure to meet financial obligations, and negligence in the performance of educational, employment, or ministry responsibilities.

F. Family relationships and responsibilities are to be given a place of highest priority. Students are required to maintain a biblical pattern in family relationships and to abstain from unbiblical sexual activities or relationships.

VBTS reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who does not conform to this Code of Conduct or any other of the seminary's principles, policies, or required procedures. By virtue of his or her enrollment, and while enrolled in a degree program, a student agrees to live within the framework of these standards and principles.

7.2 Student Development Goals

The seminary's mission involves a two-fold focus on scholarship and piety in whole-student development. This two-fold focus is detailed in the following goals and objectives.

Intellectual

To challenge students to accurately interpret the Scripture; to coherently correlate biblical texts; and to express conclusions in a manner that is articulate, self-consistent, and in keeping with the biblical imperative to maintain theological integrity (2 Timothy 2:15).

Spiritual

To challenge students to nurture genuine affection for the living God in fulfillment of Christ's command to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

Social

To challenge students to nurture genuine affection for people in fulfillment of Christ's command to love one's neighbor as one's self (Matthew 22:38). Accordingly, students are encouraged to pursue ministry opportunities that would allow them to serve the body of Christ.

Moral

To regularly exhort the students to be men and women of integrity who manifest a godly character (Ephesians 4:30; 5:18-21).

7.3 Church Attendance

Since involvement in a local church is an important part of seminary life, those preparing for ministry should be members in good standing of a Bible-believing church. Students are welcome but not required to become members of Colonial Baptist Church. It is our desire that VBTS students will be a blessing and encouragement to churches of like faith and practice in the greater Hampton Roads area.

7.4 Chapel

The highlight of the seminary class schedule is the weekly chapel. This hour every Thursday morning is dedicated to the passionate communication of the Word of God and the promotion of a collegial spirit through prayer and fellowship. Since this is a critical part of the week, all MDiv students, and MBS and MTS students taking six or more hours per semester (regardless of format) are required to attend. MBSO students are not required to attend chapel.

7.5 Distinguished Guest Lectures

Each year, VBTS presents Distinguished Guest Lectures, a forum in which accomplished scholars are invited to present on relevant ministerial and theological subjects.

7.6 Women of VBTS

The Women of VBTS is a ladies' fellowship that meets regularly during the academic year to provide encouragement to student spouses and female students. In addition to special speakers addressing the varied aspects of seminary life and ministry preparedness, these events provide frequent times of fellowship.

7.7 Filing Complaints

Complaints Against Institution

To file a complaint with TRACS, go to www.tracs.org. Select "Publications & Forms." Under "Complaint Packet" are three downloadable PDFs: (1) Complaint Information Sheet; (2) Complaint Policy and Procedures; and (3) TRACS Complaint Form.

To file a complaint with the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, go to http://www.schev.edu/students/studentcomplaint.asp.

The Policy of TRACS Regarding Fielding Inquiries From the Media

TRACS believes that it is in the best interest of TRACS, complainants, member institutions, and those offering third-party comments to deal with members of the news media in a consistent and timely manner. TRACS has the responsibility to protect the integrity of both the complainant (commenter) and the institution. All telephone calls or e-mails from members of the media shall be forwarded to the President of TRACS. Neither the TRACS President nor any staff member shall comment on specific situations involving member institutions or offer responses to hypothetical situations.

Media shall be directed by the TRACS President to the appropriate location on the TRACS' website (www.tracs.org) for information regarding the Complaint Policy and Procedures and Accreditation Standards.

Means of Communication

After the receipt of the initial hard-copy complaint or third-party comment; correspondence may be in writing, through e-mail, or by any reasonable means which helps to facilitate a solution to the issues at the lowest possible level.

Retention of Records

Individual complaints will be retained in the TRACS Office. Should a number of individual complaints suggest a pattern of concern that may evidence a significant lack of compliance with TRACS' Standards that was not evident from any individual complaint, TRACS may renew its consideration of the matter for whatever action may be appropriate. All records regarding complaints shall be retained for a minimum of 5 years.

7.8 Student Grievance Policy

The purpose of the grievance policy is to resolve any charge brought by a student against a seminary employee.

Any student has the opportunity to use the grievance procedure without jeopardizing his or her status with the seminary. All records introduced or reviewed during the grievance process will be held in strictest confidence.

The seminary will recognize no grievance unless it has been presented to the academic dean or president within thirty days after the individual(s) knew or should have known of the act or occurrence on which the grievance is based.

The grievance procedure will be followed using biblical principles of conflict resolution. In addition, a spirit of Christian grace is expected to rule all aspects of the process. The grievance procedure shall consist of the following stages:

Step 1: Private Resolution

A. The grievant(s) should verbally communicate with the individual(s) responsible for the grievance in an effort to arrive at a solution mutually satisfying to the parties involved.

B. In the event that this initial verbal communication does not resolve the situation, the student should proceed directly to Step 2.

C. If a student with a complaint against a faculty or staff member is unwilling to directly confront the faculty or staff member in question, the student may proceed directly to Step 2.

Step 2: Administrative Review

A. The student will inform the academic dean of the grievance in writing by means of the confidential electronic Grievance Form located on the student's home page in Populi. (In the event the academic dean is the object of the grievance, the student may submit the complaint in writing to the president. In this circumstance, the president will oversee the remaining portions of the process which normally are the responsibility of the academic dean.)

B. The academic dean will form a committee consisting of seminary personnel. The committee will meet with the grievant, hear the complaint, and endeavor to resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the grievant. The academic dean will appoint a committee secretary who will document all proceedings. If the committee is not able to resolve the complaint to the satisfaction of the grievant within a period of 7 days, the aggrieved party may proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Appeal to Chairman's Committee

A. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant in steps 1 or 2, the grievant may present a written grievance to the chairman of the board, who will form a committee consisting of members of the board. The committee shall be regarded as authorized to act on behalf of the board. The purpose of the committee is to provide a final response to the grievance.

B. The chairman will initiate the response by (1) obtaining all documentation of the grievance process from the academic dean; (2) forming a committee consisting of board members who are impartial and who are committed to achieving a resolution, (3) appointing a

member of the committee to take minutes to document all proceedings; (4) informing the board's executive committee of the grievance and the formation of the committee. Said committee shall inform the full board members at its discretion.

C. The duties of the committee are to: (1) determine whether the written grievance is a complete and factual representation of the circumstances and actions attributed to the employee; (2) determine an appropriate response to the grievance; (3) advance recommendations to the executive committee for the implementation of appropriate actions; (4) ensure proper documentation of the entire process, including a concise and accurate description of the grievance, records of all inquiries and deliberations, and efforts to achieve a resolution. Said committee shall meet with the grievant at its discretion.

D. The duties of the chairman are to: (1) provide the committee with direction leading to the progress and resolution of the grievance; (2) ensure every reasonable effort is made to resolve the matter within thirty days of its formal initiation; (3) prepare and deliver a written copy of the decision to all involved parties and the executive committee.

The decision of the chairman's committee by majority vote is final. No further formal appeal process is available following the decision of the chairman's committee. If the process has not been followed in keeping with the procedures outlined in this policy, the grievant may direct a complaint to the accrediting agency:

Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)
P.O. Box 328
Forest, Virginia 24551
Phone (434) 525-9539 ~ Fax (434) 525-9538 ~ Email: info@tracs.org

7.9 GI Bill® Grievance Policy

The Virginia State Approving Agency (SAA), is the approving authority of education and training programs for Virginia. This office investigates complaints of GI Bill® beneficiaries. While most complaints should initially follow the school grievance policy (see VBTS Catalog section 7.8), if the situation cannot be resolved at the school, the beneficiary should contact the SAA office via email saa@dvs.virginia.gov.

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8. Academic Policies

8.1 Academic Integrity

Integrity is a critical element in VBTS's goal to "Sharpen Servants for Global Ministry." Since Scripture values the internal soundness of one's character, it is expected that every student will be committed to the highest level of integrity in the process of ministry preparation. Honesty in all aspects of seminary life is expected whether or not a student is asked to give an account of his or her actions.

Students will pursue a path of academic honesty and moral purity in every aspect of study (reading, research, writing, test-taking) and in all opportunities of accountability (i.e., reporting the completion of assignments). Plagiarism, falsified reports, and other violations of academic honesty will be subject to discipline in accordance with the disciplinary procedures outlined in the student handbooks.

8.2 Academic Preparation

Since the rigors of academic work at the graduate level are both challenging and rewarding, students coming to VBTS are encouraged to consider the following:

First, theological study is a spiritual discipline that requires absolute dependence upon the Lord. Investigation of Bible content, theological concepts, church history, and training in the biblical languages should result in a greater appreciation and enjoyment of the eternal God.

Second, all students should obtain a powerful notebook computer. Class assignments and materials are normally delivered in electronic format; similarly, assignments are required to be submitted to professors in electronic format. The faculty facilitates the online exchange of materials through Populi, the seminary's learning management system.

Finally, all students will need to obtain the most recent (7th) edition of Kate Turabian's, A Manual for Writers. Exceptions to and preferences within Turabian are documented in VBTS's Guidelines to Papers and Theses, which can be accessed in every student's Populi account. In addition, the student will benefit from a comprehensive English dictionary, an English grammar book, and bibliographic software, such as Citation, Endnote, or Zotero. Academic preparation will be reviewed in orientation sessions.

8.3 Student Classification

Master of Biblical Studies students are classified according to the following criteria*:*

A. First year graduate student – 1-12 credits

B. Second year graduate student – 13-24 credits

C. Third year graduate student – 25-39 credits

Master of Theological Studies students are classified according to the following criteria*:*

A. First year graduate student – 1-20 credits

B. Second year graduate student – 21-40 credits

C. Third year graduate student – 41-60 credits

Master of Divinity students are classified according to the following criteria*:*

A. First year graduate student – 1-30 credits

B. Second year graduate student – 31-60 credits

C. Third year graduate student – 61-90 credits

8.4 Full-Time Status

Full-time status for students enrolled in graduate degree programs (MBS, MTS, MDiv) is 9 credit hours or more in a fall or spring semester and 6 credit hours or more in a summer semester. Full-time status for the ThM degree program is 5 credit hours or more, and full-time status for the DMin program is 4 credit hours or more.

8.5 Course Workload

Requirements for all academic programs are based on the expectation that the student will invest at least two hours of out-of-class work for every hour in class. Course requirements for the ThM program are based on the expectation that the student will invest at least three hours of out-of-class work for every hour in class.

Students should carefully evaluate all their commitments (work, family, church, and studies) and consult with their faculty advisor when registering for classes. Students who desire to take more than eighteen hours must make an appeal in writing to the academic dean. Approval may be granted to students who have at least a 3.40 grade point average, maintain an acceptable level of ministry involvement, have faculty approval, and have the support of their family.

8.6 Student Spouses

The spouse of any full-time student may take classes tuition-free. The spouse of any part-time student may take classes 50% off of the regular tuition rate. The student's spouse must make an application to the desired program, maintain the academic requirements prescribed for each program, and pay all related semester fees.

8.7 Attendance Policy

A fellowship of learning is most beneficial when students are committed to the course and to their fellow students. Thus, attendance at all courses is deemed critical by the administration and the faculty.

Three hours of course attendance may be missed without penalty (2 hours for a two-credit course). Additional absences may be excused, at the discretion of the professor, for circumstances that are unforeseen and unpreventable. Absence from class beyond this allowance will result in a deduction of 1% per hour from the final grade. Extended and/or recurring tardiness will be accounted as additional absence from class unless previously approved by the professor. Failure to attend 70% of course sessions will result in failure of the course.

8.8 Auditors

Students auditing courses are expected to complete the application process, conform to guidelines for dress and conduct, and attend at least 70% of all classroom sessions. Professors do not grade the work of auditors. Auditors are required to complete course readings as specified by the instructor.

Degree-seeking students who demonstrate adherence to the graduation plan may elect to audit courses. Certain courses may not be open to auditors. Audit registration openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 20% of a residential course may consist of auditors. Exceptions to this limit are at the discretion of the professor of the course.

The following individuals may audit a course free of charge: (1) students carrying a full load of 9 or more hours, (2) students in the last two semesters of course work, and (3) spouses of full-time students.

8.9 Transfer of Credit

In addition to the regular application process, students transferring to VBTS from another seminary must submit a letter of honorable dismissal from the dean of that seminary, including documentation that financial obligations to the former seminary are satisfied or that a payment plan has been established. Transfer students should arrange for transcripts to be sent to the registrar for evaluation. Veterans are encouraged to submit their Joint Service Transcripts for review. Additionally, the student should be prepared to make course syllabi available for evaluation upon request.

The registrar will either meet personally with the prospective transfer student or correspond with the student via phone or email to discuss the transfer of credit process. Courses will be evaluated in light of the following criteria:

A. The course grade must be C+ (86) or above.

B. Courses transferred to satisfy program requirements at VBTS must be graduate-level courses comparable with corresponding courses as described in the seminary catalog.

C. Course syllabi may be requested and evaluated to ensure that graduate-level work was completed.

D. Courses transferred for elective hours must fit within VBTS's mission and educational philosophy.

E. Professors must have taught courses with terminal degrees in the field of biblical studies.

F. The accreditation status of the school where the credits were earned will be considered but will not be the sole factor in the decision.

G. Courses transferred must equip a student to interact in the current theological landscape, except in the case of special circumstances, acceptable transfer courses must have been completed within ten years of the transfer credit request.

H. The total number of credits that the seminary will receive in transfer from another institution will be determined in light of the Vision and Mission, Philosophy of Education, and Educational Objectives of VBTS. Normally, up to one-third of the credits required for a graduate degree may be transferred from another institution. . The administration will consider exceptions to this standard for instances in which credits from another institution present (1) exceptional course rigor (2) excellent compatibility with the seminary's foundational documents (Mission, Educational Philosophy, and Faith Statement), and (3) clear advancement of the objectives of the program to which the student has applied. In all instances, no more than 50% of a degree earned from VBTS may consist of credits transferred from another institution.

I. The registrar is available to provide counseling and assistance (electronic or print as appropriate) for students who desire to transfer credits from VBTS to another institution.

The registrar will prepare a transfer of credit proposal to inform students in writing what course credits were transferred and what, if any, prerequisites or conditions are associated with the final decision. Students will be asked to acknowledge their acceptance of the transfer of credit decision by signing and dating the transfer of credit proposal.

.Students desiring to transfer from VBTS to another institution may obtain the necessary official transcripts through Parchment services at https://www.vbts.edu/contact/transcript-request/. The academic dean will prepare any additional documentation requested by the school to which the student desires to transfer. Acceptance of transferred credit earned at VBTS is ultimately a decision taken by the institution the student desires to attend.

VBTS is committed to applying the transfer of credit policy to all students without discrimination.

8.10 Advanced Standing and Course Waivers

VBTS recognizes that college graduates frequently achieve basic proficiency in disciplines that overlap with course content in the MBS, and MDiv programs. In an effort to avoid

redundancy in the student's educational experience, VBTS offers two options: advanced standing and course waivers.

Advanced Standing

Advanced standing is achieved by a proficiency exam and is reflected as course credit on the student transcript. Advanced standing may be obtained through demonstrated proficiency in the following courses: Greek Grammar I and II (3 credits each), Greek Exegetical Method I and II (3 credits each), Hebrew Grammar I and II (3 credits each), and Hebrew Exegetical Method I and II (3 credits each). Applicants who qualify for the MDiv program and have served at least one year as a lead or senior pastor may obtain advanced standing through demonstrated proficiency for the course Pastoral Practice (3 credits). Proficiency for these courses will be demonstrated by a written exam. To schedule a proficiency exam, please contact the academic dean.

Course Waivers

A course waiver is achieved by approved transcript records and permits the student to substitute an elective from within the department for a required course. The purpose of the course waiver is to enable the student to advance in a particular discipline. In no case does a course waiver grant credit or reduce graduation requirements. Course waivers may be obtained for the following courses: Early & Medieval Christianity, Reformation & Modern Christianity, and Baptist History & Polity. Proficiency for these courses will be demonstrated by the submission of the undergraduate course syllabus and the transcript for the course indicating a grade no lower than B. An application for a course waiver can be filled out in Populi.

8.11 Credit Hours and Modes of Delivery

VBTS defines a credit hour as 50 minutes of classroom session per week for fifteen weeks, or its equivalent. The seminary applies this definition in several formats. The primary format employed by the seminary consists of three hours (180 minutes) of classroom time each week for a fourteen-week semester period for a total of 42 classroom hours and therefore meets the definition by way of equivalency. Alternative formats also meet the definition by way of equivalency. Course workload is determined on a two-to-one ratio—two hours of coursework for every hour in class. Therefore, a student should expect to invest approximately 126 hours (42 hours of class + 84 hours of coursework) in a three-credit course. Graduate course lectures and course assignments (reading, tests, papers, and projects) are determined in light of this two-to-one ratio. Select courses are delivered in other formats:

Module Format

Select courses are delivered in one-week and two-week modules. Instructors design these courses to ensure that the amount of work required is, per credit hour, equivalent to the federal definition.

Seminar Format

Select courses are modeled to emphasize scholarly research, writing, and presentation. Requirements for these courses are measured in order to ensure equivalency to the federal definition.

Online Format

With the exception of the capstone course (which employs a discussion board delivery), all online courses deliver the complete content of the traditional classroom through synchronous and asynchronous video and include out-of-class workloads identical or equal to the traditional classroom. All distance education courses require regular and substantive interaction between the instructor and students.

Distance Education: Verification of Student Identity

The seminary's learning management system, Populi, handles course registration as well as course access. Access to Populi is obtained by means of a secure login and password, ensuring that the same individual who registers for the course is the one participating as a student in the course. This procedure protects student privacy. In the event that the verification procedure is modified, the seminary will notify students at the time of registration of any additional associated costs.

8.12 Grading

Institutional Grading Scale for all Diploma and Masters Programs

Grade	Percentage	Explanation	Grade Points
A	96-100	Outstanding Course Work: superior	4.0
A-	94-95	achievement of course objectives	3.7
B+	92-93	Good work: commendable	3.3
B	89-91	achievement of course objectives	3.0
B-	87-88		2.7
C+	85-86	Acceptable work: satisfactory	2.3
C	81-84	achievement of course objectives	2.0
C-	79-80		1.7
D+	77-78	Minimal work: marginal achievement	1.3
D	72-76	of course objectives	1.0
D-	70-71		0.7
F	0-69	Failure: unacceptable work	0.0

Institutional Grading Scale for the DMin Program

Grade	Percentage	Explanation	Grade Points
A	96-100	Outstanding work: superior	4.0
A-	94-95	achievement of course objectives	3.7
B+	92-93	Good work: commendable	3.3
B	89-91	achievement of course objectives	3.0
B-	87-88	Substandard work: below standard	2.7
C+	85-86		2.3
C	81-84		2.0
F	0-80	Failure: unacceptable work	0.0

Institutional Grading Policy

The seminary employs a standardized frame of reference for the grading of all courses. Course work that attains to the completion of the minimum specified standard, as articulated in the course syllabus, if accomplished with average competency, will receive an average target grade of 85%. Higher grades will be given to students who produce qualitatively better work (e.g., appropriate creativity, cogent analysis, thoughtful critique, excellent documentation, adequate thoroughness, etc.).

8.13 Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary, the student must (1) maintain a minimum 2.3 cumulative grade point average and, (2) have earned a minimum 2.3 semester grade point average for the most recently completed academic term. ThM students and D.Min. students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and have earned a minimum 3.0 semester grade point average for the most recently completed academic term in order to maintain good academic standing.

8.14 Paper Policies and Guidelines

All papers submitted for course requirements must conform to the format of the current edition of A Manual for Writers by Kate L. Turabian and VBTS's supplement to Turabian, unless otherwise directed by the course professor.

All written work submitted for the satisfaction of course requirements must be submitted to the professor in an electronic format (Word or PDF). The professor may require a physical copy in addition to an electronic copy. The physical copy becomes the property of the professor, though in most cases it is returned to the student. The electronic copy shall be retained by the administration for the purposes of administrative assessment. The content and/or ideas of such documents, however, remain the intellectual property of the author.

8.15 Graduation Requirements

Requirements

A. Give evidence of a saving faith relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that manifests itself in godly character and conduct.

B. Successfully completed all academic and resident study requirements. Potential MDiv, MTS, and MBS graduates must have at least a 2.3 cumulative grade point average. Potential ThM and DMin graduates must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. In addition, potential graduates must have completed the prescribed program resident requirements.

C. Meet all financial obligations before the time of graduation.

D. Complete all program requirements within the time limitations, unless the faculty has granted an extension.

E. All graduates must have faculty recommendations and be approved for degree conferral by the board of trustees. Upon fulfillment of all graduation requirements, the student will receive a diploma/certificate upon completion of the program.

Procedure

A. Complete the Intent to Graduate form (provided in Populi)

B. Complete the Graduation Questionnaire sent via email from the VBTS administration office.

C. Complete the Graduating Student Survey sent via email from the VBTS administration office.

D. Be present at all graduation activities (graduates of resident programs only).

8.16 Degree Completion Time Frames

Diploma and Degree programs must be completed within the following time frames:

A. Diploma of Biblical Studies (DBS) – 5 years

B. Master of Biblical Studies (MBS) – 5 years

C. Master of Theological Studies (MTS) – 6 years

D. Master of Divinity (MDiv) – 7 years

E. Master of Theology (ThM) – 5 years

F. Doctor of Ministry (DMin) – 5 years

The timeframe for the completion of a degree program begins with the date of the first course taken at the VBTS that is applied to the requirements of the degree program.

The timeframe ends at the expiration of the years specified for the completion of the program. In the event of extenuating circumstances, a student may appeal in writing to the academic dean, who in turn will present the appeal to the faculty. The faculty will determine the outcome of all appeals regarding degree completion time.

8.17 Leave of Absence

Students who, for the reason of difficult circumstances are unable to continue their education for a period of three or more successive academic terms may request from the faculty a Leave of Absence, not to exceed six successive academic terms, from the program. Under the Leave of Absence, the student will remain enrolled in the program but without a deduction of time from the time limit of the program. The Leave of Absence does not exempt the student from applicable continuation fees. Students may request the Leave of Absence through the appropriate form located in Populi.

8.18 Early Degree Conferral

In the event a student has fulfilled all graduation requirements and requires possession of the degree before the scheduled graduation in order to serve a position or function for which the degree provided preparation, the student may petition the academic dean for an early degree conferral.

The academic dean will review the fulfillment of the graduation requirements stipulated in the seminary catalog, and if duly met, will submit a formal recommendation for an early degree conferral to the chairman of the board. The chairman will present the recommendation to the board for a vote for the conferral of the degree. The academic dean will inform the student of the decision of the board.

8.19 Student Privacy

VBTS is committed to protecting the privacy of all students, including those enrolled in all distance education programs. To protect the privacy of all students, including distance education students, VBTS complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. Access to the seminary's learning management system (LMS) is obtained by means of a secure login and password unique to the individual student. The privacy of individual students' assignments and grades is maintained within the learning management system.

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary utilizes Populi for its learning management system and has adopted its privacy policy to protect the privacy of students enrolled in Distance Education. (A complete presentation of the policy may be accessed through Populi at https://populi.co/legal/privacy/ or in Appendix 11.4)

8.20 FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

The student may contact the Office of the registrar at registrar@vbts.edu for the complete policy regarding student records access. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights are:

A. *The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the seminary receives a request for access.* The student should submit to the registrar written requests that identify the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. The office of the registrar will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

B. *The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading.* The student may ask the seminary to amend a record that he or she believes is inaccurate or misleading. He or she should write the office of the registrar, clearly identify the part of the record he or she wants changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the seminary decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the seminary will notify the student of the decision in writing and advise the student of his or her rights for further appeal.

C. *The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent the FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.* One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is defined as a person employed by the seminary in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit and health staff); a person or company with whom the

seminary has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a person assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

D. *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the seminary to comply with the requirements of FERPA.*

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

8.21 Student Achievement

Various methods of evaluation will be employed in order to provide the best possible body of evidence to determine the extent of student learning. These methods will include analysis of retention rates, completion rates, graduation rates, job placement rates, and student success rates for licensing exams (if applicable). The methods will be both qualitative and quantitative. Additionally, the evaluation of student learning will utilize both direct and indirect measures.

8.22 Shared Credit Policy

Students earning credits at VBTS toward one graduate degree may apply those credits to satisfy up to 50% of identical or comparable requirements of another graduate degree:

- Students earning the MBS may apply up to 30 credits to the requirements of the MTS program.
- Students earning the MBS may apply the entire 39 credits to the requirements of the MDiv program.
- Students earning the MTS may apply up to 45 credits to the requirements of the MDiv program.

The policy is intended to explain the extent to which earned graduate credits can be applied in the following in three scenarios:

- **MBS graduate applies for acceptance to the MTS program**. 30 of 39 credits are applied to the 60-credit requirement of the MTS. The MBS/MTS graduate will show 69 credits on the transcript.
- **MBS graduate applies for acceptance to the MDiv program.** All 39 credits are applied to the 90-credit requirement of the MDiv program.
- **MTS graduate applies for acceptance to the MDiv program**. 45 of the 60 earned credits are applied to the 90-credit requirement of the MDiv. The MTS/MDiv graduate will show 105 credits on the transcript.

8.23 Veterans Administration Standards of Progress

Students who make an application to the Veterans Administration (VA) for educational benefits should carefully review the standards of progress, conduct, and attendance listed in this catalog, with special attention to the following:

Grading system
Section 8.12 of this catalog specifies the grading system with reference to diploma, masters, and doctoral courses/programs.

Minimum satisfactory grade level
Section 8.13 of this catalog specifies the minimum satisfactory grade levels. Note that both a minimum semester GPA of 2.3 (3.0 for ThM and DMin students) and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.3 (3.0 for ThM and DMin students) must be achieved in order to maintain a good academic standing with the institution.

Minimum grade point average for graduation
Standards for graduation are located in section 8.15 of this catalog. Note that a cumulative GPA of 2.3 (3.0 for students enrolled in the ThM or DMin programs) must be achieved to graduate from the institution.

Conditions for academic probation and suspension due to unsatisfactory grades or progress
Students not achieving the minimum standards for academic progress are entered into the academic probation process, which is designed to provide academic accountability and promote renewed academic success. See section 8.23 of this catalog.

Conditions for readmission following suspension due to unsatisfactory progress
Students who have been placed on academic suspension may be readmitted after one calendar year. Conditions for readmission are included in section 8.23 of this catalog.

Conditions for dismissal due to unsatisfactory conduct
VBTS reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who does not abide by the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is provided in section 7.1 of this catalog.

Attendance policy
The institutional attendance policy is provided in section 8.7 of this catalog.

Conditions which may result in non-compliance and the discontinuation of VA benefits, and measures for re-establishing compliance
Virginia Beach Theological seminary will not certify GI Bill® benefits if any of the following occur:

- **Failure to maintain the minimum cumulative GPA** (2.3 for diploma and graduate programs, 3.0 for ThM and DMin programs). Students who do not maintain this standard will have their benefits discounted. The assistant business manager, who is the Certifying Official, will inform the VA of this action. Student may re-establish compliance by raising the cumulative GPA to required minimum.

- **Registration for courses not necessary for completion of the declared program of study**. Under certain circumstances courses which are necessary for remediation may be certified for benefits. Students may re-establish compliance by adjusting registration to include only those courses necessary for the declared program of study.
- **Failure to maintain course attendance requirements.** Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order for VBTS to certify the course for VA educational benefits.

Additional conditions that may result in the discontinuation of VA educational benefits:

- Registration for two or more courses that receive a failing grade (F) or an incomplete (I).
- Failure to convert an incomplete to a passing grade within one calendar year.

Requirement for informing the Certifying Official
Students receiving VA benefits are required by law to keep the assistant business manager, who is the Certifying Official, informed of the following:

- Enrollment
- Withdrawals
- Change of program
- Course substitutions, or any deviation from the graduation plan
- Change of address
- Call to active duty

Mitigating circumstances
Students who reduce their initial enrollment reported to the VA should note that this may result in a reduction of benefits and a debt to the VA. Students who believe they have mitigating circumstances will need to provide documentation to the Department of Veteran Affairs. The following are examples of possible mitigating circumstances:

- Serious illness
- Serious illness or death of immediate family member
- Unavoidable change in employment
- Geographical employment transfer
- Financial obligations beyond the control of the student which require suspension of education for the purpose of obtaining employment
- Unanticipated active military service, including active-duty training
- Unanticipated difficulties with childcare arrangement

Institutional Responsibilities
VBTS is responsible for:

- Monitoring of student grades to ensure satisfactory progress. The office of the registrar conducts an audit of all students at the conclusion of each academic term and submits a summary of findings to the academic dean in the form of an Academic Probation Report.
- Reporting to the VA students who are placed on academic suspension.
- Reporting to the VA students who are suspended or dismissed for violation of the Code of Conduct.

8.24 Academic Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, & Readmission

In the event that a student fails two or more courses in a term or the student's semester grade point average drops below 2.3, the following process will be implemented:

A. The student will meet with the academic dean to assess the circumstances contributing to the semester grade point average dropping below 2.3 (3.0 for students enrolled ThM and DMin courses and programs). The academic dean will document the meeting and provide a written report to the registrar. The registrar will include the report in the student's file and will mark the student's grade report as, Academic Probation Warning. The academic dean may impose a restriction on the total number of credit hours a student may take in the next semester or discontinuation in the program if the student's GPA is less than 1.5 (2.5 for students enrolled ThM and DMin courses and programs).

B. If a student's semester grade point average drops below 2.3 a second consecutive semester, the student will meet with the academic dean to assess the circumstances (3.0 for students enrolled ThM and DMin courses and programs). At this time, the student will be placed on Academic Probation and restricted to taking six (6) semester hours. The academic dean will submit a written report summarizing the student's situation to the registrar. The registrar will include the report in the student's file and will mark the student's grade report, as Academic Probation.

C. If a student's semester grade point average drops below 2.3 for a third consecutive semester, the student will meet with the academic dean to assess the situation (3.0 for students enrolled ThM and DMin courses and programs). The academic dean will submit a written report of the meeting along with the details and timeline of the re-matriculation to the registrar who will include the report in the student's file and mark the student's grade report, Academic Dismissal.

At this time, the student will be dismissed, and the academic dean will outline a ***plan*** and ***conditions*** for the student's re-matriculation after one calendar year. The ***plan*** will consist of a semester-by-semester delineation of course load, including specific courses per semester, which must be completed in order to graduate. The ***conditions*** consist of the accomplishment of semester-by-semester minimum GPA targets sufficient to raise the cumulative GPA to the graduation standard (2.3 for diploma and master's programs, 3.0 ThM and DMin programs).

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9. Course Descriptions

9.1 Christian Ministry and Communication

5101 Missions and Evangelism

The goal of this course is two-fold: (1) to introduce the student to a biblical philosophy of missions and (2) to provide each student with the theological and practical foundations for communicating the gospel with clarity, biblical fidelity, and cultural relevance. 3 credit hours.

5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling

This course will serve as the gateway for each student who desires an emphasis in biblical counseling. The reading will be in the seminal works of the movement, both in textbooks as well as journal articles. In addition to progressive sanctification and the key elements of counseling, the topics covered will be those that are seen most often in the local church setting (pastoral and lay), such as depression, suicide, grief, trials, God's will, salvation doubts, private sin habits, marital infidelity, forgiveness, and church discipline. 3 credit hours.

5185 Introduction to the Military Chaplaincy

Recognizing the Military Chaplaincy is an outreach of the local church, this course highlights the history, culture, challenges, and opportunities of the Military Chaplaincy. 3 credit hours.

6104 Principles of Expository Preaching

This course will examine the basic principles of communication and acquaint the student with the art of public speaking. It will also focus on the science of sermon structure and how to properly organize and outline messages from the Word of God. Principles of Preaching is also designed to facilitate the application of exegetical skills developed in the biblical language courses. 3 credit hours.

6120 Marriage and Family Advanced Counseling Issues

This course will address the major issues for the Christian home with regard to premarital, marital, and parental counseling. Some of the issues that will be covered include the four purposes of marriage, marital roles, premarital counseling, living with an unbelieving or disobedient spouse, rescuing a marriage in the wake of infidelity, rebuilding communication, and parental training in the local church. **Prerequisite**: 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling. 3 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

6160 Grace Theology Seminar
This is course is designed to comprehensively study the concept of grace throughout the Old and New Testaments. In addition, it will seek to review several thinkers from church history who have contributed to our current understanding of grace. 3 credit hours.

6185 Military Chaplain Ministry
This course describes in detail the Military Command Religious Program (CRP). The Military Chaplain functions as a Pastor, Missionary, and Evangelist in the execution of the Command Religious Program. Usually chapel-centric, the CRP must be comprehensive, command-approved, and enduring. It must also be tailored to the unique giftedness of each Chaplain. 3 credit hours.

6186 Chaplain as Staff Officer
This course describes in detail the Staff Officer Responsibilities of the Military Chaplain. While the Military Chaplain functions as a Pastor, Missionary, and Evangelist in the execution of the Command Religious Program (CRP), it is often the Chaplain's Staff Officer expertise that ultimately enables the cultural integration and successful execution of the CRP. 3 credit hours.

6190 Pastoral Internship
This course provides students with practical pastoral skills by means of a structured mentorship in the context of the local church. Students learn ministerial skills through the experience of assisting pastors and assuming practical pastoral responsibilities. 1 credit hour.

7101 Seminar in Advanced Theological Research Methods
This seminar focuses on the development of compositional strategy, argumentation, and writing style appropriate for advanced theological writing. 3 credit hours.

7103 Pastoral Practice
A biblical office of the pastor will be evaluated as to his personal qualifications, ministry duties, and family responsibilities. Many practical areas of the ministry will be examined such as ordination, visitation, weddings, funerals, the ordinances, finances, and world missions. Also, an in-depth study of the grace philosophy of ministry will be addressed. Prerequisite: enrollment in the MDiv program. 2 credit hours.

7107 Principles of Expository Preaching
In Principles of Expository Preaching students will be introduced to the value and methods of expositional preaching. Special focus will be given to preaching the text of scripture with accuracy and clarity and in a way that is consistent with the genre of the sermonic passage. 3 credit hours.

7113 Pastoral Practice Seminar
This course is a mentoring and research seminar directed toward contemporary issues in pastoral ministry. As a result of this course, the student will comprehend the overall flow and the specific contents of the Pastoral Epistles, generate a working knowledge of current pastoral theology literature, evaluate the contributions of key pastoral theology works, and develop a particular comprehension of a specialized aspect of pastoral practice. 2 credit hours.

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7121 Issues in Biblical Counseling
This course will build upon the introductory course(s) and focus on current/pertinent issues in biblical counseling. The subjects that will be studied include the biblical counselor, current opponents to biblical counseling, interaction with the DSM-IV, psychological labels, anxiety and worry, eating disorders, and self-esteem. **Prerequisite**: 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling. 3 credit hours.

7122 Counseling Seminar
This course is designed to accomplish a twofold purpose. The first aim is to refine the student's knowledge in theology specifically as it pertains to the application of theology to counseling issues. This will be accomplished by the student progressively working through each question of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselor (ACBC) Theology Exam. The second aim is to further equip the student in counseling strategies and discernment regarding counseling issues in general and analyzing particular case studies. This will be accomplished by the student working progressively through each question of ACBC Counseling Exam. 3 credit hours. **Prerequisite:** 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling; 6120 Marriage and Family Advanced Counseling Issues, 7121 Issues in Biblical Counseling.

7124 Counseling Internship
Counseling Internship provides advanced training in counseling through supervised participation in counseling cases and/or other supervised counseling exercises. 3 credit hours. **Prerequisites**: 5102 Introduction to Biblical Counseling; 6120 Marriage and Family Advanced Counseling Issues, 7121 Issues in Biblical Counseling.

7130 Legal Issues in Ministry
This course explores the primary legal issues facing the ministry and the best practices to avoid and/or address such issues. While the focus of the course is on practical issues facing every ministry, it will include a review of emerging legal issues relevant to select jurisdictions. 3 credit hours.

8101 Advanced Theological Research Methods
This course is a postgraduate (ThM) research seminar that serves as the foundational element of the ThM program. This seminar focuses on the development of compositional strategy, argumentation, and writing style appropriate for the ThM thesis. The seminar culminates in the preparation of the Thesis Prospectus. 4 credit hours.

8181 Post-Graduate Mentorship 1
This course is the first of two mentorships designed to prepare the student with particular skills appropriate to postgraduate study. Mentorships consist of meetings that provide personalized faculty oversight in the development of specialized student skills. This mentorship provides students with a supervised development of the Thesis Prospectus. 1 credit hour.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

8182 Post-Graduate Mentorship 2
This course is the second of two mentorships designed to prepare the student with particular skills appropriate to postgraduate study. Mentorships consist of meetings that provide personalized faculty oversight in the development of specialized student skills. This mentorship provides students with a supervised development of an academic course of study in the field of theological education. 1 credit hour.

8183 Teaching Mentorship 1
This course is the first of two mentorships designed to prepare the student with skills appropriate to the development of instructional material at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Mentorships consist of meetings that provide personalized faculty oversight in the development of specialized student skills. This mentorship provides students with a supervised development of an academic course of study in the field of theological education. 1 credit hour.

8184 Teaching Mentorship 2
This course is the second of two mentorships designed to prepare the student with particular skills appropriate to the public delivery of instructional material. Mentorships consist of meetings that provide personalized faculty oversight in the development of specialized student skills. This mentorship provides students with a supervised delivery of instructional material.1 credit hour.

8185 Research Mentorship 1
This course, which is taken in conjunction with ThM Thesis 1, establishes regular interaction with the assigned faculty advisor with the objective of developing the first draft of the ThM thesis. 1 credit hour.

8186 Research Mentorship 2
This course, which is taken in conjunction with ThM Thesis 2, establishes regular interaction with the assigned faculty advisor with the objective of developing the final draft and oral defense of the ThM thesis. 1 credit hour.

8198 ThM Thesis 1
The thesis is the capstone learning experience for the ThM program. The purpose of the final project is to verify that the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes of the program and is able to implement what has been learned in the form of postgraduate academic research. Since the ThM is an academic rather than a professional degree, the final project is intended to be applicable, directly or indirectly, to continuing studies in a terminal degree program. This is the first component of the capstone project of the ThM program. This directed study leads the student to the completion of the first draft of the thesis. 4 credit hours. **Prerequisites**: completion of all courses specified for the program with the exception of the thesis itself.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

8199 ThM Thesis 2

The thesis is the capstone learning experience for the ThM program. The purpose of the final project is to verify that the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes of the program and is able to implement what has been learned in the form of postgraduate academic research. Since the ThM is an academic rather than a professional degree, the final project is intended to be applicable, directly or indirectly, to continuing studies in a terminal degree program. This directed study leads the student to completion of the final draft and oral defense of the thesis. **Prerequisites**: completion of all courses specified for the program, and ThM Thesis 1. 4 credit hours.

9101 Effective Leadership and Communication in Expository Preaching

This course explores the intersection of pastoral leadership and communication skills with the preparation and delivery of expository sermons. 4 credit hours.

9198-9199 DMin Final Project

The final project is the capstone learning experience for the DMin program. The purpose of the final project is to verify that the student has achieved the intended learning outcomes of the program and is able to implement what has been learned in the context of the ministry in which he serves. Since the DMin in Expository Preaching is a professional degree, the final project is intended to be applicable, directly or indirectly, to the student's ministry of preaching. 6 credit hours.

9.2 Biblical Theology and Exegesis

5200 Introduction to Biblical Theology

This course will investigate the history and development of biblical theology, methodological issues, special considerations related to Old and New Testament biblical theology, and make suggestions for doing Old and New Testament biblical theology. On occasion, this course will be team-taught by professors from the Old and New Testament departments. 3 credit hours.

5201 Hermeneutics

This course introduces the student to the theory and practice of biblical interpretation. Critical issues are explored, including among other things, the history of biblical interpretation, the qualifications of the biblical interpreter, the role of presuppositions, and literary genre. The course also introduces the student to some of the indispensable tools of Bible study. Students are then given the opportunity to sharpen hermeneutical skills through careful analysis of selected biblical passages through the discipline of observation, interpretation, and application. 3 credit hours.

5202 Old Testament Introduction

Old Testament Introduction is an examination of the critical problems of the Old Testament canon and text (General Introduction), a survey of the critical methodologies of Old Testament analysis, along with an investigation of the major historical and chronological issues of the Old Testament. 3 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

5203-5204 Hebrew Grammar 1 & 2
These two courses serve as an introductory study to biblical Hebrew, emphasizing the foundational elements of the language including morphology, basic grammar, and vocabulary. 3 credit hours.

5251 New Testament Introduction
This course introduces the student to the disciplines of NT study and the issues pertaining to it. The course examines the historical, literary, and linguistic backgrounds of the NT in their various dimensions. In addition, the course addresses such important matters as translation, textual criticism, history and theology of the NT canon, the Jesus Seminar and quests, the synoptic problem, critical methodologies, and the history of NT research. 3 credit hours.

5252-5253 Greek Grammar 1 & 2
These courses taught over the span of two semesters, are intended for those who have had no previous Greek study or who need substantial review to regain mastery. The fundamentals of New Testament Greek grammar, including morphology and vocabulary, are thoroughly examined. These fundamentals are developed through exercises and readings from selected portions of the Greek New Testament. 3 credit hours.

526X-527X Bible Exposition
Bible Exposition courses deal primarily with an interpretation of the English text and have three general foci: (1) introductory—attention to matters of special introduction, i.e., authorship, historical background, occasion for writing, date, purpose, theme, theological distinctives, etc., (2) exegetical-theological—an in-depth examination of key texts, together with their biblical-theological implications, (3) practical—an exploration of important issues raised by the text for the Christian life. 3 credit hours.

Bible Exposition courses offered include:

5261 Exposition of Psalms
5265 Exposition of Romans
5266 Exposition of Galatians
5267 Exposition of Acts
5268 Exposition of Pastoral Epistles
5269 Exposition of Matthew
5270 Exposition of 1 Corinthians
5271 Exposition of Revelation

6205-6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 1 & 2
The goal of these two courses is the development of sound exegetical skills for an accurate exposition of the Old Testament text. In these courses, attention will be given to syntax, textual critical matters, and the development of an exegetical method appropriate for historical narrative and poetry. The exegetical principles and methods are then applied in a detailed analysis of select Old Testament passages. 3 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

6207 Advanced Hebrew Readings
This course develops the students' reading ability by providing a learning environment that solidifies previously acquired skills and improves dexterity in pronunciation, translation, vocabulary, and grammar. **Prerequisite**: 6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 2. 3 credit hours.

6218 Old Testament Theology
Old Testament Theology has two primary objectives. The first objective is devoted to the development of a method for doing biblical theology that is canonical, historical, theological, thematic, and inductive. The second objective includes the application of the method of biblical theology to select portions of the Old Testament revelation. Special attention will be given to the themes of creation and redemption. 3 credit hours.

6224 NT Textual Criticism
This course is designed as an independent study in the area of NT textual criticism. The course will involve extensive reading on textual criticism, evaluation of methods for conducting textual criticism and sifting through significant textual variants in the NT. 3 credit hours.

6254-6255 Greek Exegetical Method 1 & 2
The goal of these courses is the development of sound exegetical skills for the purpose of facilitating an accurate exposition of the New Testament Greek text. In these courses attention will be given to the development of an exegetical method, using skills such as textual criticism, grammatical diagramming, and discourse analysis. 3 credit hours. **Prerequisites**: 5252 Greek Grammar 1 and 5253 Greek Grammar 2.

723X Hebrew Exegesis
Hebrew Exegesis courses explore in detail the Hebrew text of a particular Old Testament book or series of books. In addition to detailed attention to grammatical and syntactical features, special consideration is given to literary structures and devices, historical backgrounds, exegetical problems, and interpretive issues. **Prerequisites**: 5201 Hermeneutics, 5203 Hebrew Grammar 1, 5204 Hebrew Grammar 2, 6205 Hebrew Exegetical Method 1, and 6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 2. 3 credit hours.

728X Greek Exegesis
Greek Exegesis courses explore in detail the Greek text of a particular New Testament book or series of books. In addition to detailed attention to grammatical and syntactical features, special consideration is given to literary structures and devices, historical backgrounds, exegetical problems, and interpretive issues. **Prerequisites**: 5201 Hermeneutics, 5252 Greek Grammar 1, 5253 Greek Grammar 2, 6254 Greek Exegetical Method 1, and 6255 Greek Exegetical Method 2. 3 credit hours.

8202 Advanced Hermeneutics
This course prepares the student to discover and assess guidelines for the interpretation of Scripture. Students will test various criteria for interpreting literary elements such as symbolism and literary genres such as narrative, poetry, parables, proverbs, and prophecy. We will observe how the prophets and apostles used Scripture and discuss whether Christians should emulate their hermeneutic. 4 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

8211 Biblical Archaeology
This course is based on an archaeological excursion to the Holy Land. Participants receive hands-on experience at an active excavation site, as well as training in the tools and techniques of archaeology, selected field trips to important biblical sites in Israel, and evening lectures on the topics of biblical archaeology. Instruction focuses upon the principles, practices, and apologetic value of archaeology. In the field, students participate in the excavation and engage in related work such as surveying, drawing, and metal detecting. 4 credit hours.

8219 OT Biblical Theology
This course provides an introduction to the issues surrounding Old Testament theology, with an emphasis on research and writing. Students examine the history of OT theology as a discipline; investigate various approaches to OT theology, including central themes, single-center, story or metanarrative, and canonical; and correlate the most promising methodologies for constructing a coherent theology of the Old Testament. 4 credit hours.

8234 Exegesis of Daniel
This course consists of an exegetical analysis of the book of Daniel, specifically the Hebrew sections (1:1–2:4 and 8:1–12:13). Special attention goes to handling translational issues and resolving interpretive difficulties, with a view toward exposition and theology. **Prerequisite**: OT 6206 Hebrew Exegetical Method 2. 4 credit hours.

8261 Research in Biblical Theology
This independent research is guided by faculty supervision. In this course, a directed study, the student will investigate an interpretive problem in the books of Judges and Ruth that pertains to the issues of rhetorical strategy and biblical theology. Among other things, attention will be given to the contribution of intertextuality (inner-biblical exegesis) to a biblical theology of Ruth. 4 credit hours.

8266 Exposition of Proverbs
This OT exposition course will thoroughly investigate the book of Proverbs in its Old Testament wisdom setting. Special attention will be paid to the genres and literary forms of the proverbs within their ancient Near Eastern background and canonical wisdom backdrop, the structure of the book of Proverbs, the social setting of proverbial collections in ancient Israel, the major themes of Proverbs, and the theology of Proverbs within its biblical-theological context with a view toward aiding the student to interpret, apply, and teach/preach the book more accurately and effectively. 4 credit hours.

8267 Exposition of Romans
This course will examine the structure and content of the Romans letter and aggressively digest the course theological themes of Paul's thoughts. Special attention will be given to the background and occasion of the letter, its structure, and Paul's understanding of the Law in view of his theology of grace. 4 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

8270 Exposition of Pastoral Epistles
This Bible exposition course is a thorough study – verse by verse – of I Timothy, II Timothy, and Titus. This course treats these epistles as necessary, inerrant, Pauline literature written to equip men for the Gospel ministry. The weight of these thirteen chapters is without comparison in the New Testament for a proper understanding of the local church, and every word will be carefully considered in this course. 4 credit hours.

8271 Exposition of Matthew
The course will examine the structure, content, and theology of Matthew's Gospel. In addition, the place and significance of Matthew in relationship to the other Gospel accounts will be considered. This course is designed to prepare the postgraduate student to accurately understand the message of Matthew and to authoritatively communicate this book in a classroom or pastoral setting. Particular emphasis will be given to Matthew's understanding of the kingdom of God in light of his development of salvation history. 4 credit hours.

8282 Exegesis of Thessalonians
Greek Exegesis of Thessalonians is an investigation of Paul's Letters to the Thessalonian church based on the Greek text. The course is designed to uncover the meaning of each letter by working through both its structure and argument as they are set forth in the Greek NT. Extending beyond the discovery of its original meaning, the course will investigate their contribution to both biblical and systematic theology. 4 credit hours.

8283 Exegesis of Philippians
This course provides a narrow set of parameters in which the student might test, reinforce, and add to the skill set acquired in "Grammar" and "Exegetical Methods." In this course, attention will be given not only to technical features of the Greek language but also to the relationship between "exegesis" and "theology"—disciplines often cordoned off from each other as discrete practices. Moreover, this course will also place emphasis on helping the student develop an original argument that brings light to an exegetical detail or theological dimension that has been underattended within contemporary scholarship on the Letter to the Philippians. 4 credit hours.

9201 Expository Preaching of OT Wisdom and Poetry
This course focuses on preaching from OT wisdom and poetry texts with special emphasis on how sound exegesis informs exposition. Special attention will be given to select OT wisdom and poetry sections, including a discussion of each section's predominant message and how to use biblical theology in the preparation of sermons. 4 credit hours.

9202 Expository Preaching of OT and NT Prophecy
This course focuses on preaching from OT and NT prophecy texts with special emphasis on how sound exegesis informs exposition. Special attention will be given to select OT and NT prophecy sections, including a discussion of each section's predominant message and how to use biblical theology in sermon preparation. 4 credit hours.

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9203 Expository Preaching of OT and NT Narrative
This course focuses on preaching from OT and NT narrative texts with special emphasis on how sound exegesis informs exposition. Special attention will be given to select OT and NT narrative sections, including a discussion of each section's predominant message and how to use biblical theology in narrative sermons. 4 credit hours.

9204 Expository Preaching of NT Epistolary Literature
This course focuses on preaching texts from the NT epistles with special emphasis on how sound exegesis informs exposition. Special attention will be given to select NT epistolary sections, including a discussion of each section's predominant message and how to use biblical theology in the preparation of sermons. 4 credit hours.

9.3 Historical and Systematic Theology

5301 Early & Medieval Christianity
This course is a survey of Christianity from the 2nd century to the 15th century. 3 credit hours.

5302 Reformation & Modern Christianity
This course is a survey of Christianity from the 16th century to the 20th century. 3 credit hours.

5351 Theological Method, God, and Scripture
This course is a study of theological method, the doctrine of God (Theology Proper), and the doctrine of Scripture (Bibliology). 3 credit hours.

5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit
This class is a study of the biblical teachings about the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology), about man (Biblical Anthropology), and about sin (Hamartiology). 3 credit hours.

5353 Christ & Salvation
This course studies the Biblical teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ (Christology) and about salvation (Soteriology). 3 credit hours.

5354 Church & End Times
This class is a study of the Biblical teaching about the church (Ecclesiology) and about the end times (Eschatology). 3 credit hours.

6303 Baptist History and Polity
This course is a survey of Baptist origins and history and an investigation of the polity of Baptists. 3 credit hours.

6315 Puritan History & Theology
This course is a is a graduate research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the history and theology of Puritanism. 3 credit hours.

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6355 Hermeneutical Systems
This advanced course addresses issues such as the history of dispensational interpretation, unique elements of dispensational theology, the concept of "literal interpretation," progressive revelation, and the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament. 3 credit hours. **Prerequisites**: 5201 Hermeneutics

6390 Apologetics
This elective is an introduction to the theological discipline of defending the Christian faith. The course will address the theological justification for apologetics, the necessity of engaging the discipline on the epistemological level, and the utility of the discipline for the gospel ministry. 3 credit hours.

6393 Readings in Theodicy
This course is a graduate (MDiv) research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of issues related to the "problem of evil." **Prerequisites**: enrollment in MTS or MDiv program; completion of 5351 Theological Method, God, and Scripture. 3 credit hours.

6394 Readings in Cornelius Van Til
This course is a graduate (MBS, MTS, MDiv) research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the works of Cornelius Van Til in his context. 3 credit hours.

6395 Readings in Soteriology
This course is a research seminar dedicated to special issues concerning the biblical doctrine of salvation. **Prerequisites**: enrollment in MTS, MDiv, or ThM program; completion of 5351 Theological Method, God, and Scripture; completion of 5353 Christ and Salvation. 3 credit hours.

6396 Readings in Jonathan Edwards
This course is a graduate (MBS, MTS, MDiv) research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the works of Jonathan Edwards in his context. 3 credit hours.

7355 DBS Seminar
DBS Seminar is the capstone course for the DBS degree. Students enrolled in this course intend to complete all degree requirements and graduate at the conclusion of this term. This course is a structured study with the objective of articulating a comprehensive theological position statement. This online directed study includes elective reading, weekly written projects, weekly peer reviews and responses, and a comprehensive position paper. The primary means for interaction with peers and the instructor is weekly structured discussion board participation. 3 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

7356 MDiv Seminar
MDiv Seminar is the capstone course of the MDiv degree. The purpose of this course is to (1) review and consolidate skills across the spectrum of disciplines within the MDiv program, (2) assess student competencies on the programmatic level, and (3) position the student to articulate and defend a comprehensive statement of the major doctrines of Scripture. **Prerequisites**: 5351 Theological Method, Scripture, & God; 5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit; 5353 Christ & Salvation; 5354 Church & End Times; 6355 Hermeneutical Systems; the course must be taken in the final calendar year of the student's graduation plan. 3 credit hours.

7357 MBS Theology Seminar
This course is designed to help each graduating senior in the MBS and MBSO programs to correlate his or her theological studies in a comprehensive manner. Students will be required to produce a written defense of their theological views and interpretations. **Prerequisites**: 5351 Theological Method, Scripture, & God; 5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit; 5353 Christ & Salvation; 5354 Church & End Times; 6355 Hermeneutical Systems; the course must be taken in the final calendar year of the student's graduation plan. 3 credit hours.

7359 MTS Theology Seminar
This course is the capstone course of the MTS degree. The purpose of this course is the (1) review and consolidate skills across the spectrum of disciplines within the MTS program, (2) assess student competencies on the programmatic level, and (3) position the student to articulate and defend a comprehensive statement of the major doctrines of Scripture. **Prerequisites**: 5351 Theological Method, Scripture, & God; 5352 Man, Sin, & Holy Spirit; 5353 Christ & Salvation; 5354 Church & End Times; 6355 Hermeneutical Systems; the course must be taken in the final calendar year of the student's graduation plan. 3 credit hours.

7393 Seminar in Contemporary Evangelism
Seminar in Contemporary Evangelicalism is a survey and analysis of the history and theology of Anglo-American Evangelicalism in the 20th and early 21st century. 3 credit hours.

8302 Philosophy in Service of Theology
This course is a postgraduate research seminar dedicated to special issues concerning the relationships between the disciplines of apologetics, philosophy, and systematic theology. 4 credit hours.

8315 Puritan History & Theology
This course is a postgraduate (ThM) research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the history and theology of Puritanism. 4 credit hours.

8340 Readings in Soteriology
This course is an advanced research seminar dedicated to special issues concerning the biblical doctrine of salvation. 4 credit hours. **Prerequisites**: Completion of MDiv degree.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
2nd digit: department: 1—Christian Ministry and Communication; 2—Biblical Theology and Exegesis; 3—Historical and Systematic Theology

8341 Readings in Jonathan Edwards
This course is a research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the works of Jonathan Edwards in his context. 4 credit hours.

8392 Christ and Culture
This course is a study of ideological, philosophical, ethical, and theological issues concerning the intersection of the church and contemporary Western culture. The course is an advanced reading and research seminar. 4 credit hours.

8397 Readings in Theological Method
This course is a postgraduate (ThM) research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of the various approaches to theological method, and the application of theological method to the research topic of the ThM Thesis. 4 credit hours.

8398 Readings in Christian Theodicy
This course is a research seminar dedicated to the reading and analysis of issues related to the "problem of evil." 4 credit hours.

8399 Readings in Cornelius Van Til
This course of study is dedicated to reading the works of Cornelius Van Til and the interpretation of his unique methodology in theology and apologetics. This course is delivered as a reading and research seminar. 4 credit hours.

9301 Expository Preaching of Doctrine
Expositional Preaching of Doctrine is a course directed to the doctrinal aspects of expository preaching. The study engages themes including the imperative for doctrinal preaching, the role of theological method for preaching, the history of doctrinal preaching, and practical approaches to developing theological emphases in sermon preparation. 4 credit hours.

9302 History of Expository Preaching
This course is a survey and analysis of the history of preachers and preaching from the first century to twenty-first century. 4 credit hours.

1st digit: course level: 5—beginning graduate level course; 6—intermediate level graduate course; 7—advanced level graduate course 8—ThM course; 9—DMin course
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10. Academic Calendar

Fall 2026 Semester	
August 18	1st Day of Fall Term
September 21- 25	DMin Module: *Expository Preaching of OT Wisdom & Poetry Lit.*
September 28 **October 2**	Fall Break
November 20	Spring Registration Open
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Break
December 3	Student Council
December 4	Last Day of Fall Term
December 4	Spring Registration Deadline

Spring 2027 Semester	
January 5	1st Day of Spring Semester
February 8-12	DMin Module: *Expository Preaching of Doctrine*
February 15-19	Reading Week
April 2	Summer Registration Open
April 5-9	Spring Break
April 15	Student Council
April 16	Summer Registration Deadline

April 23	Last Day of Spring Semester
April 30	Baccalaureate Service & President's Reception
May 2	Graduation

Summer 2027 Semester	
May 11	First Day of Summer Term
TBA	Refer to the VBTS website for updated information on Summer 2027 modules
May 20	VBTS Annual Golf Classic

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11. Appendix

11.1 Accreditation Statement

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) to provide theological education.

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [PO Box 328, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434.525.9539; email info@tracs.org] having been awarded Reaffirmation II of its Accredited Status as a Category IV institution by TRACS' Accreditation Commission on April 12, 2021. This status is effective for a period of ten years. More information about TRACS may be found on their website at www.tracs.org. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

11.2 SCHEV Statement

Virginia Beach Theological Seminary is a religious institution exempt from state regulation and oversight in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

11.3 Distance Education Authorizations

The Department of Education requires all institutions that provide distance education to obtain appropriate authorization to do so from those states and foreign countries in which enrolled distance education students reside, or to obtain exemptions from such authorizations. VBTS is authorized to provide distance education, or is exempt from this requirement, in the following states:

North Carolina

Degree programs of study offered by Virginia Beach Theological Seminary have been declared exempt from the requirements for licensure, under provisions of North Carolina General Statutes Section (G.S.) 116-15 (d) for exemption from licensure with respect to religious education. Exemption from licensure is not based upon assessment of program quality under established licensing standards.

The State Authorization Unit of the University of North Carolina System Office serves as the official state entity to receive complaints concerning post-secondary institutions that are authorized to operate in North Carolina. If students are unable to resolve a complaint through the institution's grievance procedures, they can review the Student Complaint Policy (PDF) and submit their complaint using the online complaint form at https://studentcomplaints.northcarolina.edu/form.

For more information contact:
North Carolina Post-Secondary Education Complaints
223 S. West Street, Suite 1800
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 962-4550

To file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice, please visit The State Attorney General's web page at: http://www.ncdoj.gov/complaint. North Carolina residents may call (877) 566-7226. Outside of North Carolina, please call (919) 716-6000. En Espanol (919) 716-0058. If you choose to mail a complaint, please use the following address:

Consumer Protection Division
Attorney General's Office
Mail Service Center 9001
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

11.4 Populi Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy applies to all users of the Services, including our "Customers" and our Customer's "Authorized Users".

Information Collected from our Customers and other Users

Section 1: Customers
This means that…
We collect certain information from Customers when they set up a Customer Account. We only use this information to provide the Services to you. If you cancel your Customer Account, we may retain some of your information for internal uses—but we will not sell it or otherwise use it.
This section of the Privacy Policy applies to information that Populi collects from our Customers.

1.1 How do we collect and use information from Customers?
Our goals in collecting information are to provide and improve the Services, to administer your use of the Services (including your Populi customer account ("Customer Account")), and to enable you to enjoy and easily navigate the Services.

When you create a Customer Account we'll collect certain information that can be used to identify and contact you, such as your name, email address, mailing address, and phone number. As indicated in Section 2 below, similar information will be collected from the individual employees designated as Customer "account administrators", "billing contacts", or other Authorized Users.
We use this information to provide the Services to our Customers and their Authorized Users.

1.2 Modifying or Deleting Your Information
If you are using the Services in your capacity as a Customer, you can access and modify certain information associated with your Customer Account via your Customer Account. If you want to delete any such information, you should contact us at support@populi.co with your request. We'll take steps to delete the applicable information as soon as is practicable, but some information may remain in archived/backup copies for our records or as otherwise required by law.

Section 2: Authorized Users
This means that…
We collect certain personally-identifying information from our Customer's Authorized Users. We only use this information to provide the Services to our Customers and their users and also to learn how you use Populi. Most of the information is collected by our Customers so they can run their school. If you want to remove your information from the Customer's Populi site, you'll need to contact the Customer. Even if it's removed, we may retain some of your information for internal uses—but we will not sell it or otherwise use it.
This section of the Privacy Policy applies to information that Populi may receive about Authorized Users.

2.1 How do we obtain and use information about Authorized Users?
Our goals in using information about Authorized Users are to provide and improve the Services, to administer your use of the Services (including your Populi user account ("Account")), and to enable you to enjoy and easily navigate the Services.
In connection with your user account, you provide certain information that can be used to identify you, such as your name, email address, mailing address, phone number, vaccination records, and education records (including course enrollment and performance data), and in some cases your social security number ("Personally Identifiable Information" or "PII"). You may also be asked to provide certain information that is not PII because it cannot be used by itself to identify you, such as your gender, date of birth, ethnicity, marital status, and zip code.
Most PII we receive with respect to Authorized Users is collected by and held on behalf of our Customers. If you are an Authorized User, you acknowledge and agree that any PII or other information that you provide to the Customer via the Services is received, used, and processed by us and our third party service providers on behalf of the applicable Customer in accordance with this Privacy Policy.

This information is generally collected via your Account when you use the Services, pursuant to the applicable Customer's information collection practices, which are typically outlined in a privacy policy like this one and made available on the Customer's website. We encourage all Authorized Users to read the privacy policies or statements of the applicable Customer and other online services they access or use. We analyze and use this information to provide the Services to our Customers and their Authorized Users.

2.2 Modifying or Deleting Your Information

If you are an Authorized User, you can access certain of the PII associated with your Account via your Account. In order to access and modify the PII associated with your Account however, you must contact the Customer directly. If instructed by our Customer, we'll take steps to delete the applicable information as soon as is practicable, but some information may remain in archived/backup copies for our records or as otherwise required by law.

2.3 Communications from Populi

The Services may include certain communications to Account-holders from Populi, such as administrative messages; these communications are considered part of Populi and you will not be able to opt out of receiving them.

2.4 Communications from Customers

You may also at any time via your Account provide your mobile phone number and opt-in to receive text messages, including emergency notifications and campus alerts, from the Customer where you are employed, engaged or enrolled. You can opt-out of this service at any time via your Account.

Section 3: General

This means that…

We collect certain personally-identifying information from our Customer's Authorized Users. We only use this information to provide the Services to our Customers and their users and also to learn how you use Populi. Most of the information is collected by our Customers so they can run their school. If you want to remove your information from the Customer's Populi site, you'll need to contact the Customer. Even if it's removed, we may retain some of your information for internal uses—but we will not sell it or otherwise use it.

The remainder of this Privacy Policy applies to information that Populi may receive about any users of the Services, including both Account holders (including Customers & Authorized Users) and non-Account holders (each a "User").

3.1 Personally Identifiable Information

We may collect PII through our Site when you provide it to us in order to schedule a demo or request to receive our newsletter.

3.2 Information Collected Using Cookies

We collect certain information through the use of "cookies," which are small text files that are saved by your browser when you access the Services. We may use both session cookies and persistent cookies to identify that you've logged in to the Services and to tell us how and when you interact with the Services. We may also use cookies to monitor aggregate usage and web traffic routing on the Services and to customize and improve the Services. Unlike persistent cookies, session cookies are deleted when you log off from the Services and close your browser. Although most browsers automatically accept cookies, you can change your browser options to stop automatically accepting cookies or to prompt you before accepting cookies. Please note, however, that if you don't accept cookies, you may not be able to access all portions or features of the Services. Some third-party services providers that we engage may also place their own cookies on your browser, some of which may connect to third-party advertisers (we do not knowingly connect to any third-party advertisers). Note that this Privacy Policy covers only our use of cookies and does not include use of cookies by such third parties.

3.3 Information Related to Use of the Services

Our servers automatically record certain information about how a person uses the Services (we refer to this information as "Log Data"). Log Data may include information such as a User's Internet Protocol (IP) address, browser type, operating system, the web page that a User was visiting before accessing the Services, the pages or features of the Services to which a User browsed and the time spent on those pages or features, search terms, the links on the Services that a User clicked on and other statistics. If you are an Account holder, Log Data about you is connected to and used in conjunction with your Account. We use this information to administer the Services and we analyze (and may engage third parties to analyze) this information to improve and enhance the Services by expanding their features and functionality and tailoring them to our Users' needs and preferences. We may use a person's IP address to fight spam, malware and identity theft. We also use the IP Address to generate aggregate, non-identifying information about how the Services are used.

3.4 Communications from Populi

We may use your PII to contact you with Populi newsletters, marketing or promotional materials and other information that you have specifically requested from us. If you decide at any time that you no longer wish to receive such communications from us, please follow the unsubscribe instructions provided in any of the communications.

Section 4: What User Information Do We Share With Third Parties?

This means that…

Your personally-identifying information is sometimes administered via our third-party service providers. Their access to your information is limited to what they need to perform services on our behalf. Sometimes we'll share information in aggregate form (i.e. "We

serve 20,000 students!"). If necessary, we might have to disclose information to comply with the law or to protect people or property.
We will not share any PII that we have collected from you except as described below:

4.1 Information Shared with Third Party Services Providers
We may engage third party service providers to work with us to administer and provide the Services, including service providers who process payments. These third-party services providers have access to your PII only for the purpose of performing services on our behalf.

4.2 Information Shared with Third Parties
We may share aggregated information and non-identifying information with third parties for industry analysis, demographic profiling and other similar purposes.

4.3 Information Disclosed in Connection with Business Transactions
Information that we collect from our users, including PII, is considered to be a business asset. As a result, if we go out of business or enter bankruptcy or if we are acquired as a result of a transaction such as a merger, acquisition or asset sale, your PII may be disclosed or transferred to the third-party acquirer in connection with the transaction, including to enable such third-party acquirer to continue to provide the Services to our Customers and their Authorized Users.

4.4 Information Disclosed for Our Protection and the Protection of Others
It is our policy to protect you from having your privacy violated through abuse of the legal systems, whether by individuals, entities, or governments, and to contest claims that we believe to be invalid under applicable law. However, it is also our policy to cooperate with government and law enforcement officials and private parties. Accordingly, we reserve the right to disclose any information about you to government or law enforcement officials or private parties as we, in our sole discretion, believe necessary:

- To satisfy or comply with any applicable law, regulation, or legal process or to respond to lawful requests, including subpoenas, warrants, or court orders
- To protect our property, rights and safety and the rights, property and safety of third parties or the public in general
- To prevent or stop activity we consider to be illegal or unethical or in violation of our Terms of Service

4.5 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
When handling student education records as defined by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Populi will abide by the limitations and requirements imposed by 34 CFR 99.33(a). Populi will disclose student education records as directed by school officials, or in order to comply with a court order, subpoena, or other legitimate demand by government authorities.

4.6 Gramm-Leach-Billey Act (GLBA)
When handling "Non-public information" records (NPI) for customers considered by the Gramm-Leach-Billey Act (GLBA) as "Financial Institutions", Populi will implement and maintain the safeguards required of "Service Providers" set forth in 16 CFR 314.4(d) of the FTC Safeguards rule.

4.7 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
In our legal agreements, data deletion and security policies, and Services, Populi observes best practices for complying (and helping to enable your compliance) with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If you have any questions about Populi and compliance with GDPR, please contact us at support@populi.co.

Section 5: The Security of Your Information
This means that…
We do everything we reasonably can to keep your information safe and secure, but 100% security is a moving target and we can't guarantee anything.
We take reasonable measures to protect the information that we collect from or about you (including your PII) from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure. Please be aware, however, that no method of transmitting information over the Internet or storing information is completely secure. Accordingly, we cannot guarantee the absolute security of any information.

Section 6: Links to Other Sites
This means that…
Populi may contain links to other websites or services. This Privacy Policy does not apply to those other sites.
The Services (including the Site and our Customers' websites) may contain links to other websites and services. Any information that you provide on or to a third-party website or service is provided directly to the owner of the website or service and is subject to that party's privacy policy. Our Privacy Policy does not apply to such websites or services and we're not responsible for the content, privacy, or security practices and policies of those websites or services. To protect your information we recommend that you carefully review the privacy policies of other websites and services that you access.

Section 7: International Transfer
This means that…
Your information might be stored in a different jurisdiction with different privacy laws. Your PII may be transferred to, and maintained on, computers located outside of your state, province, country or other governmental jurisdiction where the privacy laws may not be as protective as those in your jurisdiction. If you're located outside the United States and choose to provide your PII to us, we may transfer your PII to the United States and process it there.

Section 8: Our Policy Toward Children
This means that…
We do not knowingly collection information from children and if we inadvertently do, we delete it. Our Customers may collect such information, and it is their responsibility to make sure they comply with applicable laws.
The Services are not directed to children under 13 and we do not knowingly collect PII from children under 13. If we learn that we have collected PII of a child under 13 on our Site, we will take steps to delete such information from our files as soon as possible.
We are not responsible for the collection of PII of children under 13 by our Customers and their Authorized Users. It is the responsibility of our Customers and their Authorized Users to utilize the Services in a manner that complies with FERPA and any similar regulations in force in the jurisdiction(s) within which our Customers operate.

Section 9: Changes to Privacy Policy
This means that…
Sometimes we'll need to update this Privacy Policy, and we'll let you know when we do. Any information that we collect is subject to the Privacy Policy in effect at the time such information is collected. We may, however, modify and revise this Privacy Policy from time to time. If we make any material changes to this Privacy Policy, we'll notify you of such changes by posting them on the Services or by sending you an email or other notification, and we'll indicate when such changes will become effective.

Section 10: Contact Information
If you have any questions about this Privacy Policy, please contact Populi at:
info@populi.co
877-476-7854
P.O. Box 9481
Moscow, ID 83843