

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: May–June 2024

Pursuant to §602.26 of Title 34 of U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, this report abstracts from all final actions taken recently by The Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools (COAATS) concerning substantive changes only for schools in the US (Canadian schools are not included in this report). The membership of COAATS has adopted new [Standards of Accreditation](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), effective July 1, 2020. Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#). Past abstracts can be found [here](#).

At its semiannual meeting *June 3-4, 2024*, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **June 4, 2024**—unless otherwise noted.

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

#### **B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary at East Texas Baptist University - Arlington, TX**

To approve the request for an additional one-semester delay (equaling one-year total delay) of the school's next comprehensive visit (*from* fall 2024 *to* spring 2025) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (i.e. to expire July 31, 2025).

#### **Christ School of Theology of the Institute of Lutheran Theology - Brookings, SD**

1. To affirm the school's initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 14 March 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts (academic)
    - Master of Ministry (professional)
    - Master of Chaplain Ministries (professional)
    - Master of Sacred Theology
    - Doctor of Ministry
    - Doctor of Philosophy
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

#### **Crown College Graduate School of Ministry - St. Bonifacius, MN**

1. To affirm the school's initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 19 April 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Christian Studies (academic and professional)
    - Master of Arts in Global Leadership (professional)
    - Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership (professional)
    - Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling (professional)
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

#### **Dallas Theological Seminary - Dallas, TX**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Biblical and Theological Studies
    - Master of Arts in Apologetics and Evangelism

Master of Arts in Bible Translation  
 Master of Arts in Chaplaincy and Ministry Care  
 Master of Arts in Christian Education  
 Master of Arts in Christian Leadership  
 Master of Arts in Christian Studies  
 Master of Arts in Counseling  
 Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies  
 Master of Arts in Jewish Studies  
 Master of Arts in Media Arts and Worship  
 Master of Theology  
 Master of Sacred Theology  
 Doctor of Ministry  
 Doctor of Education  
 Doctor of Educational Ministry  
 Doctor of Philosophy

b. Distance education: Comprehensive

c. Additional locations: offering at least half a degree

7000 Regency Square Boulevard, Suite 100, Houston, TX, 77036

Burke Community Church (9900 Old Keen Mill Road, Burke, VA, 22015)

Passion City Church (2625 Cumberland Parkway SE, Atlanta, GA, 30339)

Hill Country Bible Church (12124 Ranch Road 620 North, Austin, TX, 78750)

Wayside Chapel (1705 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX, 78213)

Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (Avenue Bolivar 30-42, Zone 3, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 01003)

**Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary of Allen University - Columbia, SC**

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 07 March 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.

2. To approve the following educational offerings:

a. Degree programs:

Master of Divinity

Master of Arts in Religious Studies (see report 5a below)

Doctor of Ministry

b. Distance education: Comprehensive

c. Additional locations: None

**Graduate School of Theology and Ministry in Puerto Rico, St. Albert the Great - Bayamon, PR**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.

2. To approve the following educational offerings:

a. Degree programs:

Master of Divinity

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology

b. Distance education: Comprehensive

c. Additional locations: None

**Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Chicago, IL**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.

2. To approve the following educational offerings:

a. Degree programs:

Master of Divinity

Master of Arts

Master of Arts in Ministry

Master of Theology

Doctor of Ministry

Doctor of Philosophy

- b. Distance education: Comprehensive
- c. Additional locations: None

**Princeton Theological Seminary - Princeton, NJ**

To approve the request to move the school's next comprehensive visit for reaccreditation *from* fall 2029 *to* fall 2027.

**Sacred Heart Major Seminary - Detroit, MI**

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts (Theology)
    - Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary - South Bound Brook, NJ**

- 1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 14 March 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts (professional)
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Seminary of the Southwest - Austin, TX**

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts (Religion)
    - Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
    - Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction
  - b. Distance education: Limited
  - c. Additional locations: None

**The Master's Seminary - Sun Valley, CA**

- 1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 28 March 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity (MDiv)
    - Maestria en Ministerio Biblico (MMB) (professional)
    - Master of Theology (ThM)
    - Doctor of Ministry (DMin)
    - Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**United Theological Seminary - Dayton, OH**

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts

- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- Master of Ministry
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Ministry
- Doctor of Theology
- b. Distance education: Comprehensive
- c. Additional locations: None

**Virginia Theological Seminary - Alexandria, VA**

1. To reaffirm the school’s accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts
    - Doctor of Ministry
    - Doctor of Educational Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Limited
  - c. Additional locations:
    - Ming Hua Theological College (Glenealy, Central, Hong Kong) offering the complete DEdMin (visited in spring 2023)

**Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary - Mequon, WI**

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, beginning 18 April 2024 and continuing until 31 July 2031, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2031. (The “retroactive” date of the accreditation is based on a procedure approved by the Board on June 4. The final day of the accreditation visit represents the time at which all information that was considered by the Board had been gathered.)
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Sacred Theology
  - b. Distance education: Limited
  - c. Additional locations: None

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL**

**Oakwood University School of Theology Graduate Department - Huntsville, AL**

1. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024).
2. To approve the Doctor of Ministry program (see Standards 5.1-6).

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

To grant approval for formal *exemption* to offer the following PhD degrees which are currently not approved by the ATS Board of Commissioners: PhD in Intercultural Studies and PhD in Intercultural Education. The school is reminded that as a condition of approval based on Standard 5.15 and per *Policies and Procedures* IV.D.1 and VII.A.6, the Board requires that the school list these unapproved degrees publicly with the approved degrees it offers with a note specifically stating that the exempted degrees are “not approved by the Commission on Accrediting of The Association of Theological Schools but are approved by [school inserts name and web address of recognized accrediting or quality assurance agency].”

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION**

**Christ School of Theology of the Institute of Lutheran Theology - Brookings, SD**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**Crown College Graduate School of Ministry - St. Bonifacius, MN**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary of Allen University - Columbia, SC**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**Saint Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary - South Bound Brook, NJ**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**St. John's Seminary (CA) - Camarillo, CA**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**The Master's Seminary - Sun Valley, CA**

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education (half or more of any approved degree).

**Virginia Theological Seminary - Alexandria, VA**

To grant approval for limited distance education (less than half of any approved degree).

**Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary - Mequon, WI**

To grant approval for limited distance education (less than half of any approved degree).

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION**

**Dallas Theological Seminary - Dallas, TX**

1. To approve the reduction in scope from full degree to less than a full degree of the school's additional locations at:
  - a. 2625 Cumberland Pkwy SE, Atlanta, GA 30339;
  - b. 12124 Ranch Rd 620N, Austin, TX 78750;
  - c. 9900 Old Keen Mill Rd, Burke, VA 22015; and
  - d. 1705 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213.
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan, which notes that all students complete their degrees at these locations through a combination of less than the full program in person/on-site with the balance taken through distance education and that this was clearly communicated with all students at the point of admission, thereby meeting the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

**Hazlip School of Theology of Lipscomb University - Nashville, TN**

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center (formerly Tennessee Prison for Women), 3881 Stewarts Lane, Nashville, TN 37218 (as of May 1, 2024).
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

**Loyola Marymount University Department of Theological Studies - Los Angeles, CA**

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 3883 Baldwin Park Blvd, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (as of May 15, 2022).
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

**Missio Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA**

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at Joy in the City, 4455 N. 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 (as of June 30, 2020).
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

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

1. To grant approval to close the school's additional location at United Church of Christ Conference Office, 1848 Nu'uau Ave., Honolulu, HI 96817 (as of June 1, 2020).
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

**Palm Beach Atlantic University School of Ministry Graduate Department - West Palm Beach, FL**

1. To approve the closure of the school's additional location at 4700 Millenia Blvd #100, Orlando, FL 32812 (as of December 5, 2022), previously approved to offer complete master's-level degrees.

2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.
3. To approve the closure of the school's additional location at Florida Memorial University (FMU) 15800 NW 42nd Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33054 (as of January 13, 2023), approved to offer the complete MDiv (Black Church Concentration) and MA (Christian Studies).
4. To acknowledge that that no teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, since no students have ever been enrolled at the location.

**Perkins School of Theology Southern Methodist University - Dallas, TX**

1. To approve the reduction in scope of master's degree program offerings at the school's four additional locations:
  - a. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street, Houston, TX 77004;
  - b. Saint John's United Methodist Church, 2019 Crawford Street, Houston, TX 77002;
  - c. Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St at Ave U, Galveston, TX 77551; and
  - d. Houston Methodist Hospital, 6565 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77030 (as of August 26, 2024), where complete master's degrees have been offered. The sites are now approved to offer less than half of any approved master's degree. The school will continue to offer 100 percent of the approved Doctor of Ministry degree at the Houston Methodist Hospital.
2. To approve the school's teach-out plans for the full-degree additional locations, since they meet the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

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

1. To approve expanding the approved Bucha, Ukraine location to offer the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standard 5.1-6).
2. To exempt the school from a focused evaluation visit for expanding an existing location in light of the exemption allowed for in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.

**Southeastern University School of Divinity - Lakeland, FL**

1. To grant approval to close the school's two additional locations, previously approved to offer complete master's-level degrees, at:
  - a. Bayside Community Church, 15800 FL-64, Bradenton, FL 34212; and
  - b. The House Modesto, 1601 Coffee Rd, Modesto, CA 95355 (as of April 30, 2024).
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

**St. Joseph's Seminary - Yonkers, NY**

1. To grant approval to reduce the school's additional locations in
  - a. Immaculate Conception Center, 7200 Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston, NY 11362, and
  - b. Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743 (as of August 1, 2024), from full degree to less than half of a degree.
2. To approve the school's teach-out plan, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

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

1. To grant approval for a new additional location at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, 247 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507 (acquired from New York Theological Seminary) where the complete Master of Professional Studies will be offered.
2. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, 247 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507 has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)
3. To grant approval for a new additional location at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, 354 Hunter Street Ossining, NY 10562 (acquired from New York Theological Seminary) to offer the complete Master of Professional Studies.
4. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, 354 Hunter Street Ossining, NY 10562 has the resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)

**Wesley Seminary - Marion, IN**

1. To grant approval for the closure of an additional location at 3777 Priority Way South Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240 (as of April 1, 2024), offering the Master of Divinity and the Master of Arts in



- Ministry degree programs.
2. To acknowledge that no additional teach-out plan is needed per *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2, as no students are enrolled at the location.

### **SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO MISSION, LEGAL STATUS, NAME, OR MAIN LOCATION**

#### **Augustine Institute - Greenwood Village, CO**

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* 6160 S. Syracuse Way, Suite 310, Greenwood Village, CO 80111, *to* 16805 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63034, effective September 1, 2024.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

#### **B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary at East Texas Baptist University - Arlington, TX**

1. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024) regarding the change in governing control.
2. To require a report by the 1st of November 2024, regarding the renewed, legally binding MOU/Letter of Intent containing an updated road map for implementing the merger between East Texas Baptist University and B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary to be concluded by June 2025. The report should include the following items:
  - a. a copy of the renewed, legally binding MOU/Letter of Intent (see Standards 1.4 and 1.6);
  - b. the role of BHC's faculty and leadership in the strategic planning process of the university (see Standards 2.1-4);
  - c. the adoption of a unified, simple, systematic, and sustained process for program and institutional evaluation reviewed and agreed upon by both institutions (see Standards 2.5-8);
  - d. a finalized governing structure for the new institution, B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary at East Texas Baptist University, as it pertains to the relationship between the ETBU's Board of Trustees and B. H. Carroll's Board of Governors with clearly delineated authority and responsibilities following the merger (see Standards 9.1 and 9.3-5).
3. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the school's new main campus, located at 301 South Center, Suite 412, Arlington, TX 76010.

#### **Baptist Seminary of Kentucky – Lexington, KY**

To acknowledge notification of the school's name change *from* Baptist Seminary of Kentucky *to* BSK Theological Seminary and affirm that this does not represent a substantive change, as specified in *Policies and Procedures*, IV.C.1.

*[Commission staff action 5/14/2024 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

#### **Claremont School of Theology - Los Angeles, CA**

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are adequate to support the school's institutional and educational mission at the school's new main campus located at 10497 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles, CA, 90024, USA.

#### **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago - Chicago, IL**

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the school's new main campus, located at 5416 South Cornell Avenue, Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60615.

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

To accept the report of the focused visit committee (spring 2024) regarding main campus relocation, confirming that resources are available, adequate, and appropriate at the school's new main campus, located at 5416 South Cornell Avenue, Fifth Floor, Chicago, IL 60615.

#### **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary - Wynnewood, PA**

1. To approve the relocation of the school's main campus *from* its current location at 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood, PA, 19096, about 20 miles *to* 1400 Evans Road, Lower Gwynedd,

PA, 19002, effective August 20, 2024.

2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation to determine whether the new location has the adequate resources to support the school's institutional and educational mission. (Visit anticipated: fall 2024)

**The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology - Seattle, WA**

To approve an 18-month delay of the school's focused evaluation visit (*from* spring 2024 *to* fall 2025) regarding the school's main campus relocation.

**Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry – Ambridge, PA**

To acknowledge notification of an institutional name change *from* Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry *to* Trinity Anglican Seminary.

*[Commission staff action 6/03/2024 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

**ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING**

**Starr King School for the Ministry - Oakland, CA**

To rescind the requirement of a teach-out plan (by the 1st of September 2024) related to heightened cash monitoring applied by the US Department, as required by the Board in February 2024.

**ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO PUBLIC SANCTION (WARNING, PROBATION, OR SHOW CAUSE)**

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

1. To **withdraw accreditation** (see *Policies and Procedures*, III.J.1), noting that teach-out agreements were accepted in February 2024.
2. To vacate all unfulfilled actions previously required by the Board of Commissioners.
3. To terminate the school's membership in the Commission on Accrediting (see Bylaws 2.13.a).  
[Effective June 21, 2024 per per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.B.1-3]

*Report prepared: June 24, 2024*

**Leah K. Wright** | Accrediting Records Coordinator

**The Association of Theological Schools | The Commission on Accrediting**

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