

## Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: January–February 2025

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 *February 3-4, 2025*, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on the below actions with an effective date of **February 4, 2025**—unless otherwise noted.

### SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

#### **Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - Rochester, NY**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts
    - Doctor of Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

#### **Covenant Theological Seminary - St. Louis, MO**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Counseling
    - Master of Arts (Biblical and Theological Studies)
    - Master of Arts (Theological Studies)
    - Master of Arts in Ministry
    - Master of Theology
    - Master of Arts in Missional Theology (in teach-out)
    - Doctor of Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

#### **Fuller Theological Seminary - Pasadena, CA**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Chaplaincy
    - Master of Arts in Global Missional Leadership
    - Master of Arts in Justice and Advocacy
    - Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership
    - Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry
    - Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Master of Theology (Theology)  
Master of Theology in Intercultural Studies  
Doctor of Ministry  
Doctor of Global Leadership  
Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies  
Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Theology  
Doctor of Philosophy in Theology

- b. Distance education: Comprehensive
- c. Additional locations: 10200 Richmond Ave., Ste. 170, Houston, TX 77042 [full degree]

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

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation approved by virtue of its affiliation with Virginia Theological Seminary for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree program:
    - Master of Divinity
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Grace School of Theology - The Woodlands, TX**

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Ministry
    - Master of Arts (Biblical Studies)
    - Master of Theology
    - Doctor of Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Harvard University Divinity School - Cambridge, MA**

- 1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Religion in Public Life
    - Master of Theological Studies (MTS)
    - Master of Theology (ThM)
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Heritage Christian University Graduate School of Theology - Florence, AL**

- 1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
- 2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Christian Scripture (academic)
    - Master of Ministry (professional)
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

### **Immaculate Conception Seminary of Seton Hall University - South Orange, NJ**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts
    - Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations:
    - 701 Lawrenceville Rd, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
    - 146 Metlars Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854
    - 205 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940

### **Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Metropolitan Campus Department of Theology and History - San Juan, PR**

1. To grant the school initial accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Arts in Religious Education (professional)
    - Doctor of Philosophy
  - b. Distance education: Limited
  - c. Additional locations: None

### **Lincoln Seminary at Ozark Christian College - Joplin, MO**

To approve a one-year delay of the school's comprehensive visit for reaccreditation (from spring 2026 to spring 2027 [the dates of March 8-11, 2027, as previously agreed]) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly (i.e., to expire July 31, 2027) thus enabling the school to gather adequate evaluation data subsequent to the substantive change.

### **Mid-America Reformed Seminary - Dyer, IN**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Theological Studies
  - b. Distance education: None
  - c. Additional locations: None

### **Missio Theological Seminary - Philadelphia, PA**

1. To accept the school's *voluntary withdrawal* from accredited membership in the Commission effective June 30, 2026.
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.
3. To approve an additional one-semester *delay* until fall 2025 (equaling 18 months total delay) of the school's comprehensive visit and to adjust the period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2026].
4. To authorize a focused visit in light of the anticipated closure and in order to verify that the seminary continues to meet applicable Commission *Standards* until closure. (Visit anticipated: spring 2025)

**Saint John's Seminary (MA) - Brighton, MA**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of seven years, until 31 March 2032, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2031.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts
    - Master of Arts in Ministry
    - Master of Theological Studies
  - b. Distance education: Limited
  - c. Additional locations: None

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

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of five years, until 31 March 2030, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2029.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Social Change
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary - Dubuque, IA**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Mission and Discipleship
    - Master of Arts in Reformed Theology
    - Doctor of Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**Winebrenner Theological Seminary - Findlay, OH**

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 March 2035, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in fall 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
  - a. Degree programs:
    - Master of Divinity
    - Master of Arts in Practical Theology
    - Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling
    - Doctor of Ministry
  - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
  - c. Additional locations: None

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO NEW DEGREE PROGRAM LEVEL****Boston College Clough School of Theology and Ministry - Chestnut Hill, MA**

1. To receive the report of the focused evaluation committee (fall 2024) regarding establishing a Doctor of Philosophy program.
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).

**Eastern Mennonite Seminary of Eastern Mennonite University - Harrisonburg, VA**

1. To accept the report of the focused evaluation visit committee (fall 2024) regarding establishing a Doctor of Ministry program.
2. To approve the Doctor of Ministry degree program (see Standards 5.1-6).

**George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University - Waco, TX**

1. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2024).
2. To approve the PhD in Preaching degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).

**Grace School of Theology - The Woodlands, TX**

1. To accept the report of the focused evaluation visit committee (fall 2024) regarding establishing a Doctor of Philosophy program.
2. To approve the Doctor of Philosophy (Theological Studies) degree program (see Standards 5.11-16).

**Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America - Santa Fe Springs, CA**

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

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

**Heritage Christian University Graduate School of Theology - Florence, AL**

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

**SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION**

**Aquinas Institute of Theology - St. Louis, MO**

1. To approve the closure of the school's additional location at Catholic Pastoral Center Offices (7501 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73132) where the approved Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry has been offered.
2. To remove the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from the school's list of approved degrees.
3. To acknowledge that no students remain in the program therefore no teach-out plan is needed.

**Augustine Institute - Florissant, MO**

To list the Florissant, MO site (16805 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63034) as an additional location approved to offer all of the school's full degree programs until the move of the corporate headquarters when that site will become the school's main campus (August 2, 2025).

**Drew University Theological School - Madison, NJ**

1. To grant approval for a new additional location at East Jersey State Prison (1100 Woodbridge Road, Rahway, NJ 07065), opening by June 1, 2025, to offer the complete Commission approved Master of Arts (Religion) degree program.
2. To authorize a focused visit within six months of this substantive change to verify that the location at East Jersey State Prison has the adequate resources, facilities, and personnel described in the school's petition to offer the degree program. (Visit anticipated: fall 2025)

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

1. To accept the report of the focused visit committee (fall 2024).
2. To grant approval for two new additional locations – Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (247 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507) and Sing Sing Correctional Facility (354 Hunter Street, Ossining, NY 10562) to offer the complete Master of Professional Studies.

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

**Augustine Institute - Florissant, MO**

To approve the request to recognize the current address of the school's corporate headquarters at 6160 S. Syracuse Way, Suite 310, Greenwood Village, CO 80111, until August 2, 2025, upon which date the the address of the corporate headquarters will be 16805 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63034.

**Northwest Nazarene Divinity School – Nampa, ID**

To acknowledge notification of an institutional name change *from* Northwest Nazarene University Graduate School of Theology *to* Northwest Nazarene Divinity School, and affirm that this does not represent a substantive change, as specified in *Policies and Procedures*, IV.C.1.2.

*[Commission staff action 1/15/2025 on behalf of the Board of Commissioners]*

## **ACTION TAKEN RELATED TO MONITORING**

### **Interdenominational Theological Center - Atlanta, GA**

To require a teach-out plan by the 1st of April 2025, since the FY 2023 audit names a “going concern” (see Policies and Procedures, III.L.1)..

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

### **Interdenominational Theological Center - Atlanta, GA**

To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standards. The school must address this warning adequately and immediately, or the Board will take appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J. [Effective February 21, 2025, per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.A.1-3]

Standards 10.3 and 10.7 on Financial Resources. The school is at risk of not having “sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” Additionally, the Board authorizes a focused evaluation visit in spring 2025 to assess the school’s financial viability and sustainability in light of this warning. If the school is unable to demonstrate financial viability and sustainability, it will be necessary for the Board to impose probation or issue show cause.

### **Loyola University Chicago Institute of Pastoral Studies - Chicago, IL**

To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standards. The school has two years to address this warning adequately, or the Board will take appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J, which usually means imposing probation.

[Effective February 21, 2025, per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.A.1-3]

Standards 2.6-7 on Educational Evaluation: While progress has been made in identifying artifacts and developing rubrics, the school has an insufficient evaluation process for its educational programs. A structured gathering of data along with a sustained process of analyzing and reflecting upon that data is largely absent. Because of this, data are not available to inform possible educational improvement (“closing the loop”). The school must include in its self-study, in preparation for a comprehensive visit in the spring 2026, clear documentation of how it meets all four parts of Standard 2.6 for each degree (especially parts b, c, and d) with an educational evaluation plan that addresses the items listed in Standard 2.7, including “clear benchmarks for evaluating success.” The school is encouraged to consult the Board’s [A Reflective Guide to Effective Evaluation for Theological Schools](#).

### **Saint John's Seminary (MA) - Brighton, MA**

To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standard. The school has two years to address this warning adequately, or the Board will take other appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J. [Effective February 21, 2025, per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.A.1-3]

Standard 10.3 on Financial Resources. The school is at risk of not having “sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” The school must submit a report by the 1st of November 2026, documenting progress toward financial sustainability, including a financial plan that is “realistic, holistic, and sustainable.” The school’s most recent audit, along with any management letter, must be appended to the report.

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

To issue the following warning because the school, while substantially meeting the Commission *Standards of Accreditation* as a whole, is at risk of not meeting the following specific Standard. The school has two years to address this warning adequately, or the Board will take other appropriate action as described in the *Policies and Procedures*, III.G-J. [Effective February 21, 2025, per *Policies and Procedures*, VI.A.5 (Board Procedure on Effective Date of Accreditation Decisions); cf. VII.A.4-5 and VIII.A.1-3]

Standard 10.3 on Financial Resources: While the school has taken steps to shift its financial model and eliminate budget deficits, it remains at risk of not having “sufficient and stable revenue streams and financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability.” It must submit a report by the 1st of November 2027, regarding operating results that demonstrate a trajectory toward a consistent pattern of surpluses over time. The report should include the school’s plans for ensuring sufficient and stable financial resources to achieve its mission with educational quality and financial sustainability, the FY 2026 and 2027 audits and management letters (if available), the school’s analysis of its FY 2028 operating revenues and expenditures, and budget projections for two to three years.

*Report prepared: February 24, 2025*

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

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

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