

Abstracted Summary of Final Actions: November 2021

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. Any older references would correspond to the [pre-2020 accrediting documents](#) and are currently subject to the Board-approved implementation procedures [posted here](#). Information on individual schools can be found by accessing our [member school list](#). Past abstracts can be found [here](#).

At its Reader Panel meeting conducted via videoconference on November 15, 2021, the Board of Commissioners of COAATS voted on and ratified the below actions with an effective date of **November 22, 2021**—unless otherwise noted.

ON-SITE VISIT AS FOLLOW-UP TO COMPREHENSIVE ACCREDITATION VISIT CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY

To meet normal requirements for an on-site evaluation that could not be met by means of a virtual visit per Board-approved guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, a follow-up, on-site focused visit was authorized when safe and reasonable to do so. For each of the schools listed below, the Board reviewed the resulting report by the on-site focused evaluation committee, as required by the Board following the school's most recent (virtual) comprehensive visit, and voted to receive the report of the evaluation committee concerning the onsite focused visit and to affirm the findings of the (virtual) comprehensive evaluation visit committee—including that each school's facility resources meet the Commission Standards:

Grace Mission University Graduate School - Fullerton, CA

Nazarene Theological Seminary - Kansas City, MO

Pentecostal Theological Seminary - Cleveland, TN

Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies - Jacksonville, FL

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary - Boynton Beach, FL [effective February 2, 2021]

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - Crestwood, NY

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO PERIOD OF ACCREDITATION

General Theological Seminary - New York, NY

To approve a one-year *delay* of the school's comprehensive visit (*from* fall 2023 *to* fall 2024) and to adjust the school's period of accreditation accordingly [i.e., to expire March 31, 2025].

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO DISTANCE (ONLINE) EDUCATION

Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University - Fort Worth, TX

To grant approval for comprehensive distance education.

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RELATED TO ADDITIONAL LOCATION

Gateway Seminary - Ontario, CA

1. To grant approval to relocate the school's additional location in Vancouver, WA *from* 3200 NE 109th Ave, Vancouver, WA 98682 *to* 9810 NE 76th St, Vancouver, WA 98662. This site is approved to offer complete master's-level degrees.
2. To *exempt* the additional location in Vancouver, WA from a focused visit since the school meets the exemption criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.
3. To approve the school's teach-out plan regarding Vancouver, WA since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

4. To remind the school that even in periods of administrative transition, attention to policies and procedures for substantive change need appropriate attention.
5. To grant approval to relocate the school's additional location in Centennial, CO *from* 7393 S. Alton Way, Centennial, CO 80112 *to* 10390 Bradford Rd, Littleton, CO 80127. This site is approved to offer complete master's-level degrees.
6. To *exempt* the additional location in Littleton, CO from a focused visit since the school meets the exemption criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.D.4.
7. To approve the school's teach-out plan regarding Centennial, CO, since it meets the criteria for evaluating teach-out plans described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2.

Northern Baptist Theological Seminary - Lisle, IL

1. To approve the closing of the school's additional location at 7522 S Greenwood Ave, Chicago, IL 60619, where the complete MA in Urban Leadership had been offered.
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.

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

Reformed Theological Seminary - Jackson, MS

1. To approve the relocation of the school's [COAATS-designated] main campus by June 1, 2022, about 10 miles, *from* 5422 Clinton Blvd, Jackson, MS 39209 *to* 4268 I 55N, Jackson, MS 39211.
2. To authorize a focused evaluation visit to the new campus location within six months of the relocation (visit anticipated fall 2022).
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.

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

Previous versions of the Standards of Accreditation and the Policies and Procedures used the term "notation" to refer to instances where a member school was not meeting or not fully meeting one or more standards. In June 2020, the membership and Board adopted a new set of Policies and Procedures that replace the term "notation" with "warning," describing the new term as follows (III.G): "Issuing a warning is a public action (the lowest level of three public sanctions; see III.H-I for the other two) that is taken when the Board determines that an accredited school substantially meets the standards but is at risk of not meeting one or more standards." Per the Board-approved [Implementation Procedures](#), any school that received a notation prior to June 2020 must address that notation in light of the newer Standards of Accreditation (effective July 1, 2020).

New York Theological Seminary - New York, NY

To require a report by April 1, 2022, providing a teach-out plan that meets the criteria described in *Policies and Procedures*, III.L.2. A teach-out plan is required for any institution placed on probation as a precautionary step to protect students, should the conditions which led to imposing probation (effective July 1, 2021) not be adequately resolved by the institution within the timeframe specified (a period of 24 months: June 2021 *to* June 2023).

Report prepared: December 1, 2021

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