

Reformed Theological Seminary's renewal application to
operate as an out-of-state institution in Maryland in
accordance with COMAR 13B.02.01

OOS RENEWAL

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Application for Renewal Approval for Out-of-State Degree-Granting
Institutions to Operate in Maryland

Please Note: A separate application form must be completed and submitted with all supporting documentation for each proposed location in Maryland. If an additional, new location is being proposed, an Application for Renewal of Approval must be submitted for that location.

PREVIOUSLY APPROVED LOCATION IN MARYLAND.

Please provide the complete mailing address.

Fourth Presbyterian Church/5500 River Road/Bethesda, MD 20816

PROPOSED START DATE OF CONTINUED OPERATION. September 1, 2018

Applications should be submitted at least 5 months prior to the proposed start date.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INSITUTION APPLYING FOR APPROVAL.

Name of Institution: Reformed Theological Seminary

Web Address: www.rts.edu

OPEID Code: n/a

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, ID Code -- Title IV eligibility.

Chief Executives Officer: Ligon Duncan

Mailing Address: 5422 Clinton Boulevard/Jackson, MS 39209

Telephone: 601-923-1600

Email: lduncan@rts.edu

Institutional Liaison: Name and title of the individual who will serve as liaison to the Maryland Higher Education Commission:

Name: Jennifer McGahey

Title: Office Administrator & Registrar

Mailing Address: 1651 Old Meadow Road, Suite 300/McLean, VA 22102

Telephone: 703-448-3393

Email: jmcgahey@rts.edu

***** CERTIFICATION *****

I hereby affirm that the answers given in this application and its attachments are accurate and complete and further agree to comply with the *Annotated Code of Maryland* and State regulations governing the operation of out-of-State degree-granting institutions (COMAR 13B.02.01).

4/5/18
Date

[Signature]
Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Please Submit All Information To:

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Division of Planning and Academic Affairs
6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-3268
acadprop@mhec.state.md.us

A copy of these regulations can be found at the Maryland Higher Education Commission's web site www.mhec.state.md.us (under Academic Approval Process) along with an on-line application form.

I. DURATION OF APPROVAL

Approval to operate at a previously approved location in Maryland must be renewed annually. However, "during of after the fifth year of operation in Maryland and during any subsequent renewal cycle, an out-of-State institution may apply for approval to operate in Maryland for an extended period of time up to 5 years." COMAR 13B.02.01.08C(1)

n/a

If the location for which you are applying has been annually approved for at least five years, do you wish to seek approval to operate in the State for an extended period of time of up to 5 years?
☐ Yes, we wish to be approved for _____ years.

II. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

n/a

Only a complete application can be acted upon. While separate application forms must be completed and submitted for each approved location, the following Supporting Documentation needs to be included only once for each entire package of applications. **CHECK EACH ITEM AS ATTACHED.**

☐ Catalogs and Other Institutional Publications. COMAR 13B.02.01.20A(1)

Have your catalogs, other institutional publications, or awards changed since they were last submitted? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please submit new copies.

☒ Application Fee. (Must accompany all renewals) COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(2)

The institution shall submit a non-refundable application fee in the amount of (a) \$7,500 for up to two degree programs and (b) an additional \$850 for each degree program over two programs. The institution's check should be made payable to: Maryland Higher Education Commission. The application renewal fee will be waived for renewals of out-of-state institutions operating at Regional Maryland Higher Education Center.

- ☒ Accreditation. (Must accompany all renewals) COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(g)

Provide a copy of the most recent letter of approval (notification) from an organization recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. Along with your most recent notification of institutional accreditation, please provide evidence that you are in compliance with that organization's policies and procedures related to off-campus educational activities. If any of your proposed programs require program accreditation provide evidence of that accreditation.

- ☒ Registration as an Out-of-State Corporation. (Must accompany all renewals)
COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(f)

To transact interstate business in Maryland, the institution must qualify with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation by making the certification required in the Corporations and Associations Article, §7-202, Annotated Code of Maryland. A public institution is not required to qualify as a foreign corporation. However, a business entity affiliated with a public institution or a private institution (profit or non-profit) must qualify as a foreign corporation. The Foreign Corporation Qualification Form may be obtained from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, Room 809, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 or on-line at: www.dat.state.md.us. Once qualified, the institution must provide a copy of the certificate of good standing issued by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

- ☒ Certificate of Compliance With Fire and Safety Codes (Must accompany all renewals)
COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(o)

Please provide a certificate for each approved location for indicating that the proposed facility has been inspected and is found in compliance with local and State ordinances pertaining to fire and safety.

- ☐ Board of Trustees Resolution of Financial Solvency (Must accompany all renewals)
COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(e)

Please provide a resolution from your Board of Trustees addressed to the Secretary of Higher Education stating that your institution is financially solvent.

- ☐ Advertisements COMAR 13B.02.01.07D(3)(p)

Are there new advertisements in print format related to your programs in Maryland?
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please provide copies of the new advertisements.

- ☒ Enrollment Data as Prescribed by the Secretary. (Must accompany all renewals)
COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(q)

Please provide the information requested on the Student Enrollment Data Form found at the end of this application.

- ☐ Teach-out Plan (Must accompany all renewals) COMAR 13B.02.01.08B(4)(j)(iv)

The institution must provide a copy of its teach-out plan allowing enrolled students to complete their programs if the institution decides to cease operation in Maryland.

II. APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire, properly completed with supporting documentation, shall serve as an application for approval to operate in Maryland under the *Code of Maryland Regulations* (COMAR) 13B.02.01. It must be completed for each proposed location.

1. Programs.

➤ CURRENTLY OFFERED PROGRAMS.

INSTRUCTIONS. Please enter the requested information on your **CURRENTLY OFFERED PROGRAMS** in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-1: Current Programs") to this application with the required information.

(a) Provide a list of your currently offered programs at this location. For each program provide the following information: (1) the full title of the program; (2) the degree or certificate to be awarded; (3) the mode of instructional delivery; (4) the number of credit hours (semester or quarter); and (5) whether they are offered at the parent campus.

Program Title	Degree	Mode of Instruction	Total Credit Hours	Offered on Main Campus Yes / No
<i>Example: Organizational Management</i>	<i>M.S.</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>36 sem</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Example: Business Administration</i>	<i>B.S.B</i>	<i>Distance Ed.</i>	<i>120 sem</i>	<i>Yes</i>
HT508: Classics of Personal Devotions	n/a	Classroom	1 credit	Yes
PT518: Pastoral Ministry	n/a	Classroom	2 credits	Yes
PT526: Worship	n/a	Classroom	3 credits	Yes

➤ NEW PROGRAMS

INSTRUCTIONS. Is the institution proposing any new programs at this location? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-1: New Programs") to this information with your responses to the following for each new program:

(a) Provide a list of the new programs at this location. For each new program provide the following information: (1) the full title of the program; (2) the degree or certificate to be awarded; (3) the mode of instructional delivery; (4) the number of credit hours (semester or quarter); and (5) whether they are offered at the parent campus.

Program Title	Degree	Mode of Instruction	Total Credit Hours	Offered on Main Campus Yes / No
<i>Example: Organizational Management</i>	<i>M.S.</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>36 sem</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Example: Business Administration</i>	<i>B.S.B</i>	<i>Distance Ed.</i>	<i>120 sem</i>	<i>Yes</i>

- (b) If the information does not appear in the catalog or publication you submitted provide (1) a description of the curriculum; (2) the objectives of each course; and (3) a course schedule for the proposed location

- (c) Please provide a brief description of the student population to be served by the proposed new programs.

2. Educational Need. Before the Commission may evaluate the readiness of an out-of-State institution to operate or award new degrees in the State, including the offering of an instructional program or a degree level not previously approved, the institution shall present evidence demonstrating the educational need to establish operations, offer programs, and award the degrees in question in the State. In addition, the out-of-State institution shall demonstrate that the proposed program, for which the institution is making application, meets a critical and compelling regional or Statewide need and is consistent with the Maryland Postsecondary Education. COMAR 13B.02.01.06A&C

INSTRUCTIONS: Please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-2: Educational Need") to this application and respond to the following questions for each new program:

- (a) What critical and compelling Regional or Statewide (Maryland) need and demand do your proposed programs meet? In responding to this question provide documentation as indicated below:

(1) If the programs serve occupational needs, present data projecting market demand and the availability of openings in the job market to be served by the new programs for which the institution is making application. This information may include workforce and employment projections prepared by the federal and State governments, the availability of graduates in the State or region, marketing studies done by the institution or others, and material from professional and trade associations.

N/A

- (2) If the programs serve societal needs (include the traditional liberal arts education), provide a

Description of how the proposed programs will enhance higher education in Maryland and contribute society

See Attachment A-2: Educational Need

- (b) If similar programs exist in the State, what are the similarities or differences in your program in terms of the degrees to be awarded, the areas of specialization, and the specific academic content of the programs?

See Attachment A-2: Educational Need

- (c) Is a Maryland employer sponsoring/supporting the application for the program(s) to be offered at this location?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please attach a letter of support from the employer addressed to the Assistant Secretary, Planning and Academic Affairs. The letter should outline the employer's reasons for selecting the institution and its programs and state the benefits to the employees who participate in the program

3. Administrative Staff. The out-of-State institution shall provide for an on-site administrative staff responsible for overall administrative operation of educational activities including counseling, advising, testing orientation, financial aid services, and maintenance of academic records. In addition to being responsible for the administration of the policies and procedures of the parent institution, the designated administrators are responsible for meeting the expectations set forth in this chapter [of the Regulatory Standards of the State of Maryland for Out-of-State Institutions]. The duties and size of the staff shall be adequate for the size of the educational activities offered. COMAR 13B.02.01.15

INSTRUCTIONS: Has any previously reported Administrative Staff information changed since your last approval at this location? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment labeled (labeled "A-3: Administrative Staff Changes") to this application with any changes to the following questions:

- (a) How are you planning to meet the above standard on Administrative Staff?

N/A

- (b) Who will be assigned to carry-out each of these duties? Please include a curriculum vitae/resume for each administrator.

N/A

4. Faculty

INSTRUCTIONS: Has any previously reported Faculty information changed since your last approval at this location? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment labeled (labeled "A-4: Faculty Changes") with any changes to the following questions:

(a) List all faculty that are to teach in the first year (or cycle) of the programs at this location. For each faculty member provide the following information: COMAR 13B.02.01.08(4)(m)

- (1) the course(s) the faculty might soon teach;
- (2) the degrees the individual holds
- (3) the degrees areas of specialization; and
- (4) whether or not the faculty member is full-time or part-time (adjunct) at your parent institution

(b) Please include a curriculum vitae/resume for each potential faculty member. For those faculty who are yet to be hired include a job description and minimal qualifications.

5. Library Resources. Out-of-State Institutions offering programs or courses, or both, in Maryland, shall provide adequate and appropriate library resources within State boundaries and within reasonable distance of the instructional site. Usage statistics shall be kept to determine to what extent these resources are available and accessible. COMAR 13B.02.01.17A

INSTRUCTIONS: Has any previously reported library information changed since your last approval at this location? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-5: Library Changes") to this application with any changes to the following questions.

(a) How are you planning to meet this standard on Library Resources? Briefly describe the types of materials and titles that you will make available to your students and how they will access them. Will there be provision for bibliographic instruction and/or library orientation?

N/A

6. Student Services. COMAR 13B.02.01.18 concerns student services and activities. These shall realistically reflect the stated objectives, purposes, and philosophy of the out-of-State institution. Further, an out-of-State institution shall ensure that all students have access to a well developed program of counseling, testing, advisement, orientation, financial aid, career development, and placement. The institution may determine the specific organization of services, as well as the resources and staffing provided, as long as provision for these services are made. Student activities that complement the instructional program are particularly encouraged. COMAR Section .18 also requires that the out-of-State institutions keep complete and accurate records of admission, enrollment, grades, scholarships, transfer of credits, transcripts, graduates, and other essentials in accordance with standard practice. This includes the physical security and confidentiality of such records. The Section requires as well, a published statement of student rights, privileges, and responsibilities and the school's adherence to its student grievance procedures.

INSTRUCTIONS: Has any previously reported Student Services information changed since your last approval at this location? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-6: Student Services") to this application with any changes to the following questions.

(a) How do you plan to implement the requirements for Student Services cited above?

N/A

(b) Regarding student records describe the security measures the institution takes to ensure the confidentiality, physical, and electronic security of your record-keeping system.

N/A

(c) Does the institution have a published statement of rights, privileges, and responsibilities of students?

☐ Yes ☐ No How will it make this available to its students at the proposed instructional site? _____
If this statement is in the Catalog you submitted with the application, please indicate the page number: _____
If not in the Catalog you submitted, please provide us with a copy of the statement.

(d) Does the institution have a published student grievance procedure? ☐ Yes ☐ No If this procedure is in the Catalog you submitted with the application, please indicate the page number _____. If not in the Catalog you submitted, please provide us with a copy of the grievance procedure.

7. **Facilities**. (See COMAR 13B.02.01.19).

INSTRUCTIONS: Has any previously reported Student Services information changed since your last approval at this location? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes to either question, please enter the requested information in the spaces provided below, or create an attachment (labeled "A-7: Facilities") to this application with any changes to the following questions.

(a) Has a specific facility been inspected and approved for use as a classroom/laboratory space and been found in compliance with local and State ordinance pertaining to fire and safety? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(1) If yes, please provide a copy of the Certificate of Compliance.

(2) If no, the Certificate of Compliance must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the start of classes.

(b) Describe any special instructional facilities and equipment (computers, audio-visual equipment, etc.) that will be used and available to students in this location.

N/A

(c) Describe what provisions are being made for periodic repair and maintenance of buildings and grounds. What measures are being taken for campus security and fire protection? If dangerous or toxic materials are being handled, what provisions are being made for safe storage, handling and disposal?

N/A

(d) Describe the office (and conference) space available to full and part-time faculty and administrators.

N/A

8. Distance Education. "Distance education" means course work for academic credit delivered by telecommunicated instruction to a physical space specifically reserved for the purpose of receiving the instruction, for example, a teleclassroom, and requires the payment of tuition or fees for the instruction. "Distance education" does not include telecommunicated instruction at the student's initiation via an individual personal computer. COMAR 13B.02.01.03(8). An institution operating in Maryland and delivering instruction in Maryland by distance education shall provide evidence to the Secretary of compliance with the standards of good practice found in COMAR 13B.02.01.21.

INSTRUCTIONS. Is the institution providing distance education as defined above? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, please contact the staff at the Maryland Higher Education Commission for a copy of the Standards of Good Practice and provide evidence of compliance as an attachment (labeled "A-8: Distance Education") to this application

A-2: Educational Need

- (a) *What critical and compelling Regional or Statewide (Maryland) need and demand do your proposed programs meet?*
- (2) *If the proposed programs serve societal needs (including the traditional liberal arts education), provide a description of how the proposed programs will enhance higher education in Maryland and contribute to society in general.*
- (b) *If similar programs already exist in the State of Maryland, what are the similarities or differences in your program in terms of the degrees to be awarded, the areas of specialization, and the specific academic content of the programs?*

While there may be several seminaries in the state of Maryland, a quick Google search will show that there are few to none that are committed to the Reformed Faith. Below are the Purpose, Mission and Vision statements for Reformed Theological Seminary. They convey the unique approach to theological education which can only add value to the higher education offered in the state of Maryland, in addition to area churches.

RTS Purpose

The purpose of RTS is to serve the church in all branches of evangelical Christianity, especially the Presbyterian and Reformed family, by preparing its leaders, with a priority on pastors, and including missionaries, educators, counselors, and others through a program of theological education on the graduate level, based upon the authority of the inerrant Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Bible, and committed to the Reformed faith as set forth in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and the *Larger and Shorter Catechisms* as accepted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America as its standard of doctrine at its first General Assembly in 1789. This program shall be characterized by biblical fidelity, confessional integrity, and academic excellence, and committed to the promotion of the spiritual growth of the students. The breadth of this ministry will include multiple campuses and extensions as led by the Lord.

RTS Mission

The mission of Reformed Theological Seminary is to serve the Church by preparing its leaders, through a program of graduate theological education, based upon the authority of the inerrant Word of God, and committed to the Reformed Faith.

RTS Vision

Reformed Theological Seminary exists to glorify the Triune God and to serve His Church in all branches of evangelical Christianity, especially Presbyterian and Reformed churches, by providing Reformed graduate theological education that is globally accessible. RTS equips its students for ministry, primarily through pastoral preparation, to be servant leaders marked by "A mind for truth, A heart for God."

One of our primary reasons for seeking approval to operate in Maryland is to facilitate this theological education to the over 25% of our student body that currently reside in Maryland. As you can see from the attached testimonial statements, the need is great.

We are applying to only offer a maximum of 3 courses per year in the state of Maryland, therefore we do not plan to award any degrees. The courses offered will assist our students in completing either the

Master of Divinity, Master of Arts (Religion), or Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) degree from our main campus in McLean, VA.

RTS Student Testimonials

Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) was my first choice first and foremost because of the doctrine that it teaches. As a student who is 1/3 of way through the program I am proud to be an RTS student and treasure what I have learned so far.

I also wanted to take this time to voice a request for RTS to continue to offer classes in Maryland. Often I spend about 3 hours in traffic round trip each time I commute to school. It would be greatly appreciated to have classes available in MD to cut down on the commute.

~S.P., Master of Divinity Student, Howard County

As a resident of Damascus, Maryland, I've benefited from the accessibility of Reformed Theological Seminary for Marylanders and from their general presence in the DMV region. Their continued presence in Maryland will prove to be a great benefit for students like myself who are pursuing a Reformed seminary education in a region where no other Reformed institutions exist

~Z.M., Master of Arts (Biblical Studies), Damascus, MD

Accreditation



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

February 22, 2013

Michael Milton
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Blvd
Jackson, MS 39209-3099

Dear Dr. Milton:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in February 2013 and included on its agenda the report of the joint ATS/SACS comprehensive evaluation committee. The board also reviewed the institution's self-study. After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission standards and procedures, the board voted:

1. To reaffirm accreditation of Reformed Theological Seminary for a period of nine years (spring 2022).

[Note: Because the visiting committee report was considered by the Board of Commissioners nearly a year following the visit, the term of accreditation is nine years, ten years from the time of the visit.]

2. To approve the following degree programs:

Jackson, Mississippi (main campus)

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy and Counseling (MA in Marriage and Family Therapy and Counseling)

Master of Arts (MA)

Masters of Theology (ThM) discontinued

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Doctor of Philosophy (Intercultural Studies) [PhD (Intercultural Studies)] discontinued

3. To approve the following extension sites and/or distance learning programs:

Atlanta, Georgia, site, 1580 Terrell Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia 30067

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA [Biblical Studies])

Master of Arts (Religion) (MA [Religion])

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Charlotte, North Carolina, site, 2101 Carmel Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA [Biblical Studies])

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MA [Theological Studies])

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Orlando, Florida, site (Oviedo), 1231 Reformation Drive, Oviedo, Florida 32765

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA [Biblical Studies])

Master of Arts (Theological Studies) (MA [Theological Studies])

Master of Arts in Counseling (MA in Counseling)

Master of Arts (Christian Thought) (MA [Christian Thought]) discontinued

Masters of Theology (ThM) discontinued

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Michael Milton
February 22, 2013
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Washington, DC, site, 1651 Old Meadow Road, Suite 300, McLean, Virginia 22101
Master of Divinity (MDiv)
Master of Arts (Religion) (MA [Religion])

East Java, Indonesia, site, Bukit Hermon No 1, Malang 65151, East Java, Indonesia
Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Sao Paulo, Brazil, site, Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Graduate Center at Mackenzie University,
Rua Maria Borba, 15-3° Andar – Vila Buarque - Sao Paulo, SP– CEP 01221-040
Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

To grant approval to offer a comprehensive distance education program.

4. To encourage that attention be given to maintaining and enhancing the following distinctive strengths:
 - a. An exemplary assessment program that demonstrates the extent to which students have met the educational goals of the degree programs.
 - b. A well designed Quality Enhancement Plan, "Our Muslim Neighbors," that addresses an identified curricular gap as well as one of the ATS five themes.
 - c. A positive collaborative and collegial atmosphere across the RTS system among administration, faculty, staff, and students.

5. To take actions regarding the following area of needed improvement:

To require a report by January 1, 2014, demonstrating the means by which the school assesses that the students have the knowledge, competence or skills that would normally be provided by the specific course for which they have been granted advanced standing (Commission Standard ES, sections 7.4.1 and 7.4.2).

In a separate action, the board considered the seminary's petition to offer the complete Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) at the approved Houston, Texas, extension site (8300 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024).

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission standards and procedures, the board voted:

6. To grant approval to offer the complete Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) at the Houston, Texas, extension site (8300 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas 77024) that had been previously approved to offer 49 percent of the MAR. All students enrolled in the MAR degree will transfer into the new MABS degree.

The actions of the board are effective February 5, 2013. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tisa Lewis, Director
Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation

/sb

CC: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

June 16, 2015

J. Ligon Duncan
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Blvd
Jackson, MS 39209-3099

Dear Dr. Duncan:

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in June 2015 and included on its agenda Reformed Theological Seminary's petition requesting approval to offer the Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA[Biblical Studies]) (academic MA/Standard D) degree at the Washington, DC, complete-degree extension site.

The board noted that the school has had approval to offer the complete MAR (academic MA/Standard D degree) at its Washington, DC site (1651 Old Meadow Road, Suite 300, McLean, Virginia 2210) since 1998. In 2008 the seminary received approval to offer the complete MDiv there. The seminary has approval to offer the complete MA (Biblical Studies) degree at sites in Charlotte, NC; Houston, TX; Marietta, GA; and Oviedo, FL. Assessment, faculty, library, student services, and other resources appear to be in place to offer this 66-hour MA (Biblical Studies) degree at the approved Washington, DC site. The addition of this degree offering at the site will have minimal costs, primarily for advertising.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission standards and procedures, the board voted:

To grant approval to offer the complete Master of Arts (Biblical Studies) (MA[Biblical Studies]) (academic MA/Standard D degree) at the approved Washington, DC complete-degree granting site at 1651 Old Meadow Road, Suite 300, McLean, Virginia 22101.

The actions of the board are effective June 5, 2015.

NOTE: Such approval expects the requested substantive change will be implemented within a year of the June 5, 2015, approval date. If the change cannot be implemented within that timeframe, the school must submit a satisfactory explanation for the delay and a modified timeline for implementation. Absent implementation of the change or the granting of a request for additional time, the approval will expire one year after the initial grant date. In such cases, the school will need to submit a new petition seeking permission to implement the change after that one-year period (*Policy Manual*, Appendix 3).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tisa Lewis, Senior Director
Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation

/lan

cc: Robert Cara



January 15, 2013

Dr. Robert C. "Ric" Cannada, Jr.
Chancellor and Chief Executive officer
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Boulevard
Jackson, MS 39209

Dear Dr. Cannada:

The following action regarding your institution was taken at the December 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges:

The Commission on Colleges reaffirmed accreditation. No additional report was requested. Your institution's next reaffirmation will take place in **2022** unless otherwise notified.

Please submit to your Commission staff member, preferably by email, a **one-page** executive summary of your institution's Quality Enhancement Plan. The summary is due **February 15, 2013**, and should include on the same page the following information: (1) the title of your Quality Enhancement Plan, (2) your institution's name, and (3) the name, title, and email address of an individual who can be contacted regarding its development or implementation. This summary will be posted to the Commission's Web site as a resource for other institutions undergoing the reaffirmation process.

All institutions are requested to submit an "Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Student Learning" as part of their "Fifth-Year Interim Report" due five years before their next reaffirmation review. Institutions will be notified 11 months in advance by the President of the Commission regarding its specific due date.

We appreciate your continued support of the activities of the Commission on Colleges. If you have questions, please contact the staff member assigned to your institution.

Sincerely,

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW:sf

cc: Dr. Steven M. Sheeley

Course descriptions from the College's catalog

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Campus prefixes for course numbers:

01-Jackson / 02-Orlando / 03-Charlotte / 04-Atlanta / 05-Houston / 06-Washington DC / 08-Memphis / 09-New York City / 00-Distance Ed / 11-Dallas

00HT504 · 01HT504 · 02HT504 · 03HT504 · 04HT504 ·
05HT504 · 06HT504 · 09HT504 · 11HT504 | 3 hours

History of Christianity II. A continuation of HT502, concentrating on great leaders of the church in the modern period of church history from the Reformation to the 19th century.

00HT506 · 01HT506 · 04HT506 | 2 hours

Church and the World. This is a survey course on the major cultural, theological, and historical developments of the Christian Church in the 20th century to the present. The course will deal with the impact of Christianity on contemporary culture as well as include key figures and movements.

02HT508 · 03HT508 · 04HT508 · 05HT508 · 06HT508 ·
11HT508 | 1 hour

→ **Classics of Personal Devotions.** Devotional writings from the history of the church, as well as from more contemporary Christians, are read and discussed to deepen the student's knowledge of and love for God.

06HT600 | 2 hours

Five Doctors of the Church. An elective seminar exploring five great theologians of the Church: Athanasius, Basil, Augustine, Aquinas, and Calvin. The seminar includes lectures and student presentations.

06HT605 | 2 hours

Calvin's Institutes. An elective seminar exploring the history, development and theological content of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. The seminar includes lectures and student presentations.

00HT607 · 02HT607 · 03HT607 | 2 hours

American Presbyterianism. A survey of the history of American Presbyterianism from its roots in the Calvinist reformed tradition to the present. The course focuses on key historical events and controversies that shaped Presbyterian denominations, major leaders who influenced Presbyterian theology and its prominent institutions, movements that reflected Presbyterian leadership of American religions, and the reciprocal relation between Presbyterianism and American culture.

03HT610 | 2 hours

Ministry in a Postmodern Context. This course will concentrate on both intellectual and social aspects of the postmodern condition. The goal will be to describe the postmodern context, to reflect on both challenges and opportunities, and to suggest a "third way" beyond wholesale acceptance or rejection of current cultural trends.

03HT612 | 2 hours

Christ, Culture and Contextualization. This course will explore a biblical theology of culture, evaluate different models for Christian cultural engagement, and develop a biblical perspective on the principles and practice of contextualization. Attention will be given to the application of cultural analysis and contextualization in church ministry.

02HT623 | 2 hours

Gospel and Race. An introductory exploration of the intersection between the Gospel and racial issues. Attention will be paid to biblical-theological material, the history of race relations especially in the United States, and sociological data. Students will seek to work through these issues toward practical steps for ministry application in their local ministry contexts.

02HT624 | 2 hours

Reformation Readings of Paul. This course offers in-depth analysis of reformational readings of Paul, realizing that underneath the Lutheran, Reformed, and Anglican reformations was a concern to be faithful to Paul's teachings freshly reinterpreted. Students will gain experience in engaging primary sources in the history of biblical interpretation capably as well as familiarity with broader trends, texts, movements, cultural issues, and pastoral concerns that shaped reformational theology.

01HT702 | 3 hours

00HT702 · 03HT702 · 04HT702 | 2 hours

History and Theology of the Puritans. This survey of the historical and cultural background of 17th century Puritanism in Great Britain and North America includes an examination of leading theologians, such as John Owen, Richard Sibbes, Thomas Goodwin, Samuel Rutherford, and Thomas Hooker, and of selected texts.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Campus prefixes for course numbers:

01-Jackson / 02-Orlando / 03-Charlotte / 04-Atlanta / 05-Houston / 06-Washington DC / 08-Memphis / 09-New York City / 00-Distance Ed / 11-Dallas

01PT508 · 02PT508 · 03PT508

04PT508 · 06PT508 | 2 hours

Prerequisite: PT506, Jackson and Atlanta only.

Communication I. This course introduces the theological framework and basic skills required for interpreting and communicating the Bible within the context of the church's ministry (both formal and informal).

01PT510 · 03PT510 · 04PT510 · 06PT510 | 2 hours

02PT510 1 hour

Prerequisite: PT508.

Preaching Laboratory I. Students will preach multiple sermons. Women and other non-ministerial candidates will substitute additional elective course hours for all Preaching Labs.

01PT512 · 03PT512 · 04PT512 · 06PT512 | 2 hours

Leadership. The historical development of pastoral theology and biblical principles of leadership are examined. The ordinary means of grace, strategic planning, and budgeting are discussed.

04PT513 · 06PT513 | 2 hours

The Christian Life. The purpose of this course is to assist the student in growth toward a deeper relationship with the Lord and more mature Christian interaction with the world in which we live.

01PT514 | 1 hour

09PT514 | 3 hours

Living the Christian Life in Secular Culture.

This seminar assists the student in understanding and relating to secular culture. Art forms, political and economic structure, and other elements of culture are examined.

00PT516 · 01PT516 · 02PT516

03PT516 · 04PT516 · 06PT516 | 3 hours

Pastoral Counseling. An overview of current trends in counseling theory and practice and the role of counseling in public, private and church settings. Basic counseling skills taught in this course include interviewing, assessment, and therapeutic listening in a laboratory situation. Application is made to premarital, family crisis, grief and substance abuse counseling, with emphasis on developing strategies and applying scriptural principles.

03PT518 · 04PT518 · 06PT518 | 2 hours

→ **Pastoral Ministry.** A study of general pastoral care, biblical and professional standards of ministerial conduct, self-image, etiquette, interpersonal relationships, typical problem areas, and possible pitfalls for pastors.

01PT520 · 02PT520 · 03PT520

04PT520 · 06PT520 | 2 hours

Church Polity. Students examine the biblical data relative to church government and the Book of Church Order. The organization and function of church courts, including discipline and appeals, are considered, and parliamentary procedure is emphasized.

01PT522 · 02PT522 · 03PT522

04PT522 · 06PT522 | 2 hours

Prerequisite: PT510. For Orlando, PT524.

Communication II. A continuation of Communication I. This course continues to develop the skills required for interpreting and communicating the Bible. Special emphasis is given to sermon composition, including its constituent parts, as well as to the different ecclesial contexts of sermon delivery (e.g., weddings, funerals).

02PT524 | 1 hour

01PT524 · 03PT524 · 04PT524 · 06PT524 | 2 hours

Prerequisite: PT522. For Orlando, PT510

Preaching Laboratory II.

Students will preach multiple sermons. Women and other non-ministerial candidates will substitute additional elective course hours for all Preaching Labs.

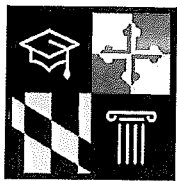
02PT526 · 03PT526 · 04PT526

06PT526 · 00PT526 | 3 hours

01PT526 | 2 hours

→ **Worship.** The purpose of this course is to provide students with the biblical foundations for worship. This course will convince students that gathered worship is legitimate, necessary, important, and should be conducted biblically in both form and content. In addition, the course will address the crucial matters of music, congregational singing, contextualization, "worship styles," and more. The goal is to prepare students to be biblical worshippers, to help others be biblical worshippers, and to be effective leaders in worship.

Recent Approval Letter



MHEC

Creating a state of achievement

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Anwer Hasan
Chairperson

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

August 31, 2017

Dr. Ligon Duncan
President
Reformed Theological Seminary
5422 Clinton Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39209

Dear President Duncan:

The Maryland Higher Education Commission has received an application from the Reformed Theological Seminary to offer courses in Maryland as part of its Master of Divinity or Master of Arts in Religion at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 5500 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20816. As required by COMAR, the Commission circulated the program proposal to the Maryland higher education community for comment and objection. No objections were received during the 30-day circulation period. I am pleased to inform you that the Reformed Theological Seminary is authorized to offer the courses listed below until August 31, 2018.

Approved courses:

- HT 508 Classics of Devotion (1 credit)
- PT 526 Worship (3 credits)
- PT 518 Pastoral Ministry

An electronic renewal form and the regulations for out-of-state institutions are available on the Commission's website under "Academic Approval Process" at www.mhec.maryland.gov. In order to operate at the approved locations after the stated expiration date, the renewal application should be completed and submitted to this office no later than five months before the institution proposes to commence operation for the academic year 2018-2019. If applicable, the use of VA benefits for these programs should be coordinated through Ms. Trish Gordon-McCown, Associate Director of Veterans. She can be reached at 410-767-3098.

Please keep us informed of any changes contemplated in your offerings in Maryland. We look forward to continuing the cooperative relationship developed between your institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

Sincerely,

Dr. James D. Fielder
Secretary

Cc: Ms. Jennifer McGahey, Office Administrator and Registrar, Reformed Theological Seminary

JDF:MJK:jmc
17268 Reformed Theological Seminary OOS Renewal