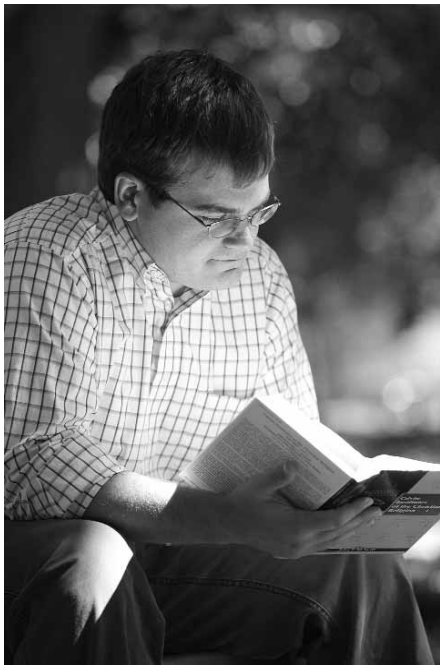
Beeson School of Divinity



Administration

Timothy F. George, Ralph W. Beeson Dean and Professor
Paul R. House, Associate Dean and Professor
Burch R. Barger, Student Recruitment and Admission Officer
Jerry W. Batson, Pastoral Leadership Specialist and Associate Professor
Thomas L. Fuller, Director, Ministry Leadership Development
J. Michael Garrett, Theological Librarian, Director of Research and Media Services
James C. Pounds, Jr., Director of the Extension Division
James T. Prince, Director of External Relations
Bridget C. Rose, Curator of the Chapel
Mark A. Searby, Director of Doctor of Ministry Studies
Kurt D. Selles, Director of Global Center and Assistant Professor

Faculty

Charles T. Carter, James H. Chapman Fellow of Pastoral Ministry
Lyle W. Dorsett, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism
Allen P. Ross, Beeson Professor
Frank S. Thielman, Beeson Professor
Wilton H. Bunch, Professor
Fisher H. Humphreys, Professor
Kenneth A. Mathews, Professor
J. Norfleete Day, Associate Professor
Patricia A. Outlaw, Associate Professor
Robert Smith Jr., Associate Professor
Carl L. Beckwith, Assistant Professor
Mark S. Gignilliat, Assistant Professor
M. Sydney Park, Assistant Professor
Gerald L. Bray, Research Professor
Calvin A. Miller, Research Professor and Distinguished Writer-in-Residence

History

On February 9, 1988, the Board of Trustees of Samford University authorized the establishment of a School of Divinity beginning in the 1988-89 academic year. In one sense this action fulfilled the founding purpose of the University adopted in 1841, which provided for "the establishment of a Theological Institution, connected with the college hereinafter established."

In December 1988, the Samford Board of Trustees voted to name the school the Beeson School of Divinity in honor of Ralph Waldo Beeson and his late father, John Wesley Beeson. Ralph Beeson provided the largest gift from a living individual in Samford history to establish the only divinity school at that time at a Baptist college or university in the nation.

In its first year, Beeson School of Divinity secured the dean, four full-time faculty, and two adjunctive faculty, and enrolled 32 students.

The School of Divinity, like other entities of Samford University, is open to persons from all denominations. The confessional context in which the faculty teaches is defined by the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963. The school offers quality theological education in a Christian university setting from an explicitly evangelical perspective. Non-Baptist faculty teach in accordance with their own convictions on matters of denominational distinctives.

Graduate Programs and Requirements

Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
Master of Divinity with Emphasis in Church Music (M.Div.)
Master of Divinity/Juris Doctor (M.Div./J.D.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration (M.Div./M.B.A.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Music (M.Div./M.M.)
Master of Divinity/Master of Science in Education (M.Div./M.S.E.)
Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.)
Master of Theological Studies/Juris Doctor (M.T.S./J.D.)
Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

At right are brief summaries of the degree requirements for the M.Div., M.T.S., and D.Min. degrees, as well as joint degrees. Students seeking to enter a joint degree program must meet admission requirements for both schools participating in the joint program. Please refer to the Beeson School of Divinity Bulletin for further information on all curricular listings. To obtain a divinity school bulletin, application forms, or additional information, write the Director of Admissions, Beeson School of Divinity, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama 35229, or call 1-800-888-8266 or (205) 726-2066.

Master of Divinity

Admission to the master of divinity (M.Div.) program requires a bachelor's degree from a recognized institution. The M.Div. is the flagship degree of the Beeson School of Divinity. This degree requires at least 96 credits, with not less than two-thirds of these credits being completed at Samford. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 is required.

The M.Div. with emphasis in church music, offered through collaboration with the School of Music, is designed for persons who desire a stronger foundation in biblical, historical/theological, and ministry studies as preparation for ministry through music. This program includes all of the music components of the master of music degree, combined with core requirements from the master of divinity degree. The degree concludes with a recital and an oral comprehensive examination. (See School of Music for details.)

Master of Divinity Required Courses	Course Credits	Total Required Credits
Biblical Studies		**32**
Biblical Interpretation	2	
Old Testament Theology	3	
New Testament Theology	3	
Introduction to Biblical Greek	6	
Greek Exegesis	6	
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	6	
Hebrew Exegesis	6	
Historical and Theological Studies		**15**
Church History	6	
Christian Theology	6	
Christian Ethics	3	
Ministry Studies		**33**
Spiritual Formation	6	
Evangelism and Church Growth	3	
Christian Missions	2	
Christian Preaching	6	
Worship Leadership	2	
Pastoral Counseling	3	
Denominational Polity	2	
Ministry Leadership Development	9	
Electives		**16**
Total Required Credits		**96**

Master of Theological Studies

Admission to the master of theological studies (M.T.S.) program requires a bachelor's degree from a recognized institution. The M.T.S. degree is a general academic degree requiring at least 60 credits, with not less than half of these credits being completed at Samford. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 is required.

Master of Theological Studies Required Courses	Course Credits	Total Required Credits
Biblical Studies		**23-26**
Biblical Interpretation	2	
Old Testament & New Testament Theology	6	
Old and New Testament Exposition/Exegesis	6	
Hebrew and/or Greek	9-12	
Historical and Theological Studies		**15**
Church History	6	
Christian Theology	6	
Christian Ethics	3	
Spiritual Formation		**4**
Christian Missions		**2**
Electives		**13-16**
Total Required Credits		**60**

Doctor of Ministry

Admission to the doctor of ministry (D.Min.) program requires a master of divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited school. As an advanced professional degree, admission requires a GPA of 3.00. Probationary admission is possible in some cases with a slightly lower average. Applicants must be engaged currently in vocational Christian ministry, with a minimum of three years of ministry experience since completing the master of divinity degree or its equivalent. The D.Min. degree requires 42 credits.

Doctor of Ministry Required Courses	Total Required Credits
On-Campus Seminars	
First Year – Two two-week Foundation Seminars	**12**
Second Year – Two one-week Ministry-Related Seminars One two-week Foundation Seminar	**12**
Third Year – Two one-week Ministry-Related Seminars One one-week Project Proposal Writing Seminar	**9**
Three Semesters of Approved-Field Supervision Concurrent with Seminars	**3**
Ministry Research Project Written Project Report (Dissertation)	**6**
Total Required Credits	**42**

Joint-Degree Programs

M.Div./M.B.A.

The M.Div./M.B.A. joint-degree program, offered by the Beeson School of Divinity and the School of Business, allows students to pursue the master of divinity degree and the M.B.A. degree concurrently. The program is designed to enrich the educational opportunities available to students in the separate disciplines by encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to ministry preparation and organizational problems that directly impact churches and other religious institutions. Students take 82 credits of coursework in the divinity school and 39 credits in the business school. Students interested in this joint program should apply to the School of Business for admission into the M.B.A. program at the conclusion of the first year of the M.Div. program.

M.Div./M.S.E.

The M.Div./M.S.E. joint-degree program combines work in the Beeson School of Divinity and the School of Education and Professional Studies. Twelve credits of education-degree coursework are accepted as part of the elective requirement of the M.Div. degree. Crossover credit from the divinity degree to the education degree is determined on a case-by-case basis as may be allowable within government regulations concerning teacher certification. Students normally are required to complete the first year of the M.Div. before beginning work in the School of Education and Professional Studies.

M.Div./J.D.

The M.Div./J.D. joint-degree program, offered in collaboration between the Beeson School of Divinity and the Cumberland School of Law, allows students to use 15 credits from each degree as crossover electives for the other degree, thus reducing the credits for both professional degrees from 186 to 156. Students must complete their first year of law school before beginning work in the divinity school.

M.Div./M.M.

The M.Div./M.M. joint-degree program, offered in conjunction with the School of Performing Arts, allows students to use credits from each school as part of the other school's degree, thus reducing credits for both degrees from 134 to 115. Divinity students must qualify for admission to the M.M. program no later than the beginning of the third semester of M.Div. work.

M.T.S./J.D.

The M.T.S./J.D. joint-degree program allows students to use 12 credits from each degree as crossover electives for the other degree, thus reducing the credits for both professional degrees from 150 to 126.

Nondegree Divinity Programs

Extension Division

The Extension Division is a nondegree program of lifelong theological education that prepares and equips Christian leaders for service in God's Kingdom. This program was begun in 1947 and became part of Beeson School of Divinity in 1988. Students who complete extension division courses earn certificate credit and continuing education units (CEUs).

The Extension Division offers instruction that is Biblically based, ecumenical, and administered with the highest integrity. The desired outcome of this program is transformed people who serve God in His Kingdom with excellence, confidence, and kindness.

Beeson School of Divinity and Samford University cooperate with local Christian associations and organizations in providing these courses for adult students from various educational backgrounds. The Extension Division curriculum includes biblical, theological, and practical ministry courses led by qualified and experienced instructors.

Over the last six decades, thousands of ministers and lay persons have received invaluable training through the Extension Division's local centers, prison centers, and on-campus classes and conferences. Approximately 35 of these schools operate across the state of Alabama.

Entrance Requirements

Classes are offered on a semester-to-semester basis. All students applying for admission to Extension Division classes must be at least 18 years of age and will be considered without regard to race, color, or national or ethnic origin. The Extension Division reserves the right to refuse admission or readmission to any student or prospective student.

Proficiencies/Certifications

Students can earn certificate credit based on the number of course hours that the individual has completed. Continuing education units (CEUs) are available upon request. Units of credit do not apply to a college degree.

For further information contact:

Extension Division
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama 35229
Phone: (205) 726-2731 or (205) 726-2338.

Global Center

The Global Center in the Beeson School of Divinity exists to help people know their world, help people serve God in the world, and help the world know God through Jesus Christ. It serves as a research and networking center for the dissemination of information on Christian mission worldwide.

The Global Center exhibit area highlights cross-cultural Christian witness, and major issues of concern for the twenty-first century that affect that witness. Exhibit area computers offer a wealth of material on global issues and Christian ministry through carefully selected and regularly updated subscription-based Internet services and CD-ROMs.

Global Center staff is involved in teaching; speaking in church and academic settings; hosting conferences; facilitating short-term missions, mission research, and publishing.

For additional information please contact:

The Global Center
Beeson School of Divinity
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama 35229-2268
Phone: (205)726-2170
Fax: (205)726-2271
Web site: http://www.samford.edu/groups/global/

BEESON SCHOOL OF DIVINITY TUITION AND FEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-2008*

Description of Expense	Student Classification	Payment Regulations	Expense	Payment Due Date (1)
Tuition - Master's Degree				
Less than 9 credits	Master's Degree Divinity Students Part-time	Deposit nonrefundable See Refund Policies	$460/credit	$200 deposit upon acceptance and remainder on or before e-bill payment due date
9 to 16 credits	Master's Degree Divinity Students Full-time	Deposit nonrefundable See Refund Policies	$4,845/semester	$200 deposit upon acceptance and remainder on or before e-bill payment due date
More than 16 credits	Master's Degree Divinity Students Full-time	Deposit nonrefundable See Refund Policies	$460/credit	$200 deposit upon acceptance and remainder on or before e-bill payment due date
Tuition - Doctor of Ministry				
Per-credit	Doctor of Ministry Students	Deposit nonrefundable See Refund Policies	$270/credit	$200 deposit upon acceptance and remainder on or before e-bill payment due date
Continuation Fee	Doctor of Ministry Students granted extension beyond fourth year	See Refund Policies	$1,000	$200 deposit upon acceptance and remainder on or before e-bill payment due date
Extension Division**				
Regular and Institute Program	All Extension Division Students	See Refund Policies	$40/course	On or before e-bill payment due date
Fees				
Application Fee for Divinity School Admission	All Divinity Students	Nonrefundable	$25/application	At time of application submission
Application Fee for Extension Division Admission	All Extension Division Students	Nonrefundable	$8 /application	At time of application submission
Application Fee for Doctor of Ministry Program	All Doctor of Ministry Students	Nonrefundable	$50/application	At time of application submission
Books and Supplies (Divinity)	All Divinity Students		$1,225 (estimate)	Cash/check/credit card at time of purchase
Books and Supplies (Doctor of Ministry)	All Doctor of Ministry Students		$815 (estimate)	Cash/check/credit card at time of purchase
Books and Supplies (Master of Divinity)	All Master of Divinity Students		$1,225 (estimate)	Cash/check/credit card at time of purchase

* For complete details and additional information, contact the Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Beeson School of Divinity, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229–2252 or phone (205) 726-2991 or (800) 888-8266.

** For complete details and additional information, contact the Extension Division, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229-2252 or call (205) 726-2731 or (205) 726-2338.

NOTE: See p. 32 for a list of General Miscellaneous Fees that apply to ALL students.

(1) Charges incurred after the e-bill has been generated for the semester/term are due on or before the e-bill due date (see Payment Schedule on p. 32 for e-bill generation and payment due dates). Charges incurred during the drop/add period are due when incurred. Classes may be canceled for non-payment.