

**Grace College and Theological Seminary**  
**School of Ministry Studies**  
**Assessment Report Executive Summary**  
**2011-2012**

**Introduction**

The School of Ministry Studies is comprised of the college's Department of Biblical Studies and the Seminary. The college awards four undergraduate degrees as well as a M.A. in Ministry Studies. The Seminary awards two ATS accredited doctoral degrees, an accredited M.Div., and an accredited master's degree.

The following *Annual Assessment Report Summary* includes results from the School of Ministry Studies' 2011-2012 *Assessment Plan* in which planned evaluations occurred in all the School of Ministry Studies' academic programs. The results have been used by the School of Ministry Studies to evaluate how best to serve students through academic programs that are effectively aligned with the mission of the institution and the purpose of the school. The data collected from this assessment plan will be used to evaluate the school's goals, outcomes, and activities.

Assessment methods and criteria are typically assignments, projects, presentations, or other direct measures of student learning that measure the desired outcomes of the course, but are reported in aggregate in the program's *Assessment Plan and Results*.

**Doctor of Missiology**

All the desired learning outcomes were realized in 2011-2012. They demonstrated the ability to, within a cross-cultural context, define and establish biblically appropriate missiological principles and strategies; critically evaluate leadership methods and models to establish biblically appropriate strategies for influence and leadership; determine cultural biases that influence communication, leadership, and relationships; develop a presentation, strategy, or problem for application; apply a socio-anthropological research method to a problem. Assessment results support the activities of the program. The English D.Miss. program continues to progress and the program intends to continue evaluating the factors that promote successful completion of the Professional Research Project for Korean-speaking students.

**Doctor of Ministry**

Assessment results indicate that all the desired learning outcomes were realized in 2011-2012. Learners engaged in self-assessment and external evaluation to identify areas in need of personal growth and ministry development; developed strategies for realization of personal growth and resilience; critically evaluated culturally-relevant methodology; evaluated their own cultural biases and developed strategies to provide culturally-sensitive leadership; developed a well-reasoned strategy to address issues and trends affecting the 21<sup>st</sup> century local church; analyzed and critiqued methods to evaluate and determine biblically sound strategies to address cultural trends; and conduct professional research to evaluate and address a problem related to ministry. The

program intends to continue monitoring the assessment results to emphasize the content and educational activities that lead to effective teaching and learning.

### **Master of Divinity**

As with other programs, the M.Div. assessment plan relied on multiple assignments and projects designed to achieve a particular goal. The project chosen as the method to assess a particular goal may vary from year to year depending on the cycle of courses offerings.

The M.Div. program realized all its outcomes with the exception of one, for Goal 2, in which only two of the three criteria were met. This methodology and criteria were related to the Exegetical Project intended to be one measure of students' ability to apply biblical languages and exegetical principles and tools to the accurate translation, analysis, and interpretation of biblical text through construction of a research paper or sermon. This result provides the opportunity for the program to re-evaluate the success of the assigned projects in fulfilling the desired outcomes.

Other outcomes realized by the M.Div. program related to the development of a biblically consistent personal theological statement that displays understanding of personal theological commitments; confrontation of areas for personal growth and spiritual dependence; development of Christ-like leadership; evaluation of personal and cultural biases and development of a strategy for leadership and service that is culturally-sensitive; application of a sound theological foundation for senior leadership through a well-researched project; application of exegetical tools and skills learned in translation, analysis, and evaluation of biblical texts; and demonstration of a biblically sound approach to ministry methods, communication, and application of Scripture to relationships and leadership within a cross-cultural context.

A final outcome that was realized, application of a sound theological foundation and demonstration of the knowledge and skills for chaplaincy leadership, yielded an opportunity for the program to re-consider in the future how it will assess this knowledge and skills in a way that is more closely aligned with the desired goal and outcome.

### **Master of Arts Degrees**

Each of the desired outcomes for the Master of Arts degrees was achieved. As in other programs, evaluation of the assessment results created the opportunity to determine how successful the methods and criteria (i.e., a professional project) were in measuring the degree to which learners developed a biblically consistent theological commitment in light of history, theology, and orthodoxy. By changing the measurement tool, the program expects to achieve the outcome at the same level, but better equip the student for ordination.

Learners also achieved outcomes related to their application of interpretive tools to accurately explain Scripture; confrontation of personal areas of growth and spiritual dependence; development of professional and Christ-like leadership; evaluation of personal and cultural biases and development of a strategy to lead, serve, and motivate others in culturally-sensitive ways in the local church; evaluation of leadership styles and personal preferences to employ strategies to

support the local church; an demonstration of a biblically sound approach to ministry and effective leadership in a cross-cultural context.

### **Biblical Studies Department**

Assessment results indicated that, as desired, students engaged the Scripture through their core liberal arts and biblical studies courses in order to have a foundational understanding of how to study, interpret, and teach accurately a passage or book to those they serve in either a local church or international ministry context. Although the Biblical Studies Department achieved the outcome identified for this goal, it intends to further evaluate assigned projects to insure that it is fulfilling this goal and its desired outcome.

Students achieved the outcomes related to developing one of three specialization areas (local church, intercultural, or youth ministry) to develop the foundational skills needed to effectively minister to that target audience.

Although the desired outcome was achieved through which students interacted with the essential doctrines of the Christian faith to understand and express the orthodox view of God and theology in a context that is culturally and audience specific, it was achieved at a level slightly lower than other outcomes. The Biblical Studies Department plans to continue to evaluate the success of projects intended to measure this outcome to determine their effectiveness and any changes needed. Doing so will strengthen the department's understanding of the most effective measure tools for this outcome.

Students achieved the outcome related to personal strengths, weaknesses, and biases that can limit the effectiveness of their ministries and spiritual leadership.

### **M.A. in Ministry Studies**

The M.A. in Ministry Studies program realized each of its outcomes with the exception of those related to Goal 1, in which students would engage in critical evaluation of their personal character and cultural awareness needed to effectively lead in a ministry context. This particular goal had four desired outcomes and several methods of assessment. In part, the outcomes were not achieved because several students did not complete the assignment. The program is planning ways to evaluate whether the assigned methods and criteria were the most successful means of determining achievement of the outcomes, including more opportunities for formative assessment before the end of the semester.

Other outcomes achieved in 2011-2012 related to students' demonstration of sound biblical interpretation and preparation of a passage of Scripture for ministry proclamation, creation of a seminar on Bible study, and construction of a personal theology; presentation of evidence of the ability to perform ministry activities; completion of several papers related to the critical areas of ministry leadership; and self-evaluation of personal and cultural biases that expose the need for culturally-sensitive ministry.

### **Conclusion**

The clear majority of outcomes were achieved by the School of Ministry for the 2011-2012 year. In very few instances were outcomes not achieved and, in those cases, the School of Ministry is either continuing to monitor the outcomes to determine trends and patterns or is making a change in method of assessment to assure a more robust, effective, and accurate measurement of students' learning.