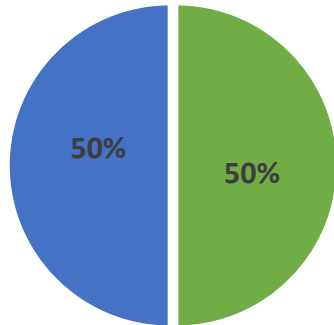


# Degree Program Survey Summary

Fall 2019

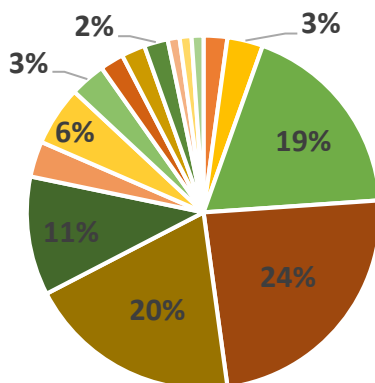
92 responses

## Have you studied towards an MDiv at NOBTS?



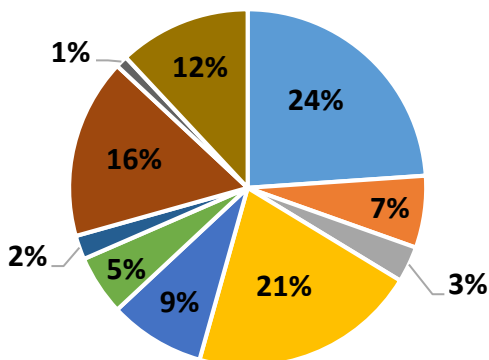
No – 46 students – 50%  
Yes – 46 students – 50%

## When did you begin study at NOBTS?



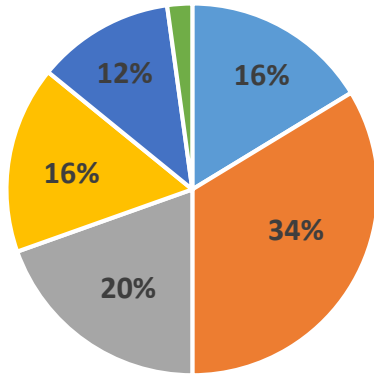
2019 – 2 students – 2%  
2018 – 3 students – 3%  
2017 – 17 students – 19%  
2016 – 22 students – 24%  
2015 – 18 students – 20%  
2014 – 10 students – 11%  
2013 – 3 students – 3%  
2012 – 5 students – 6%  
2011 – 3 students – 3%  
2010 – 2 students – 2%  
2009 – 2 students – 2%  
2007 – 2 students – 2%  
2006 – 1 student – 1%  
2004 – 1 student – 1%  
2003 – 1 student – 1%

## Please describe your current ministry service?



Pastoral – 22 students – 24%  
Music Ministry – 6 students – 7%  
Educational Ministry – 3 students – 3%  
Youth Ministry – 19 students – 21%  
Children's Ministry – 8 students – 9%  
Missions/Church Planting – 5 students – 5%  
Counseling/Social Work – 2 students – 2%  
Volunteer Ministry – 15 students – 16%  
Teaching/Academic – 1 student – 1%  
Other – 11 students – 12%

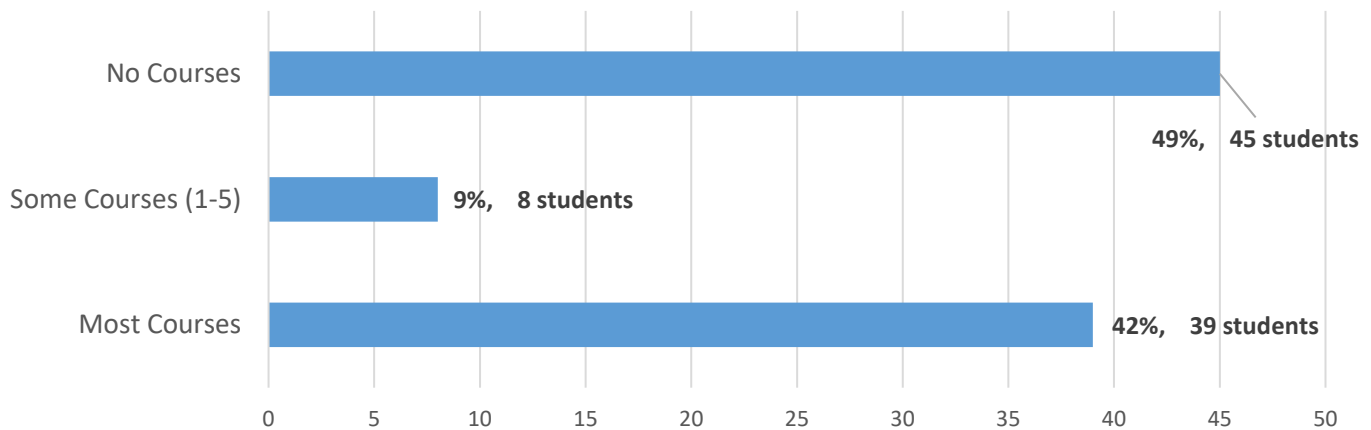
## How many years have you served in your current ministry role?



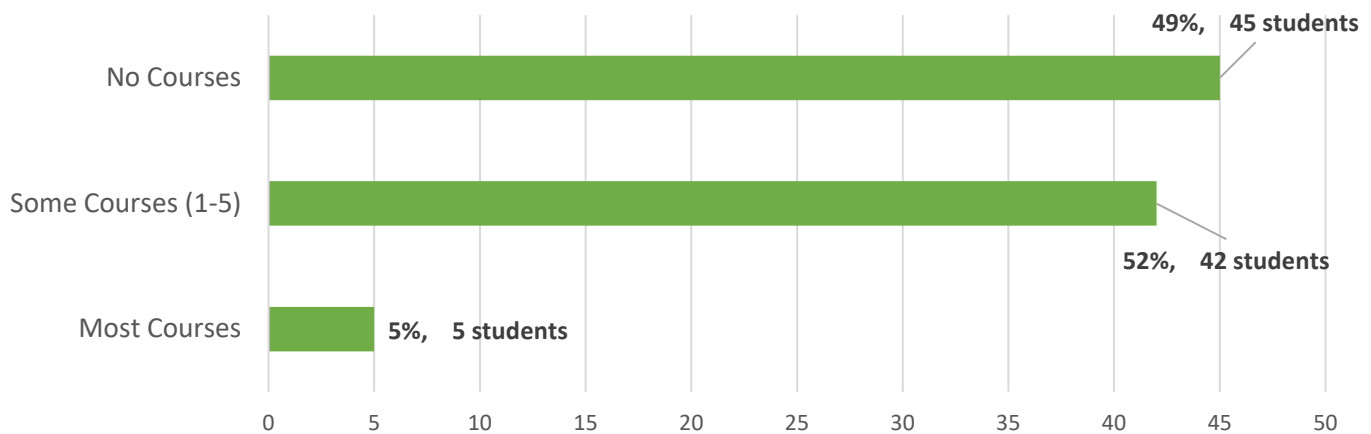
Less than 1 year – 15 students – 16%  
1-3 years – 31 students – 34%  
3-5 years – 18 students – 20%  
5-10 years – 15 students – 16%  
10-20 years – 11 students – 12%  
More than 20 years – 2 students – 2%

## Delivery Systems

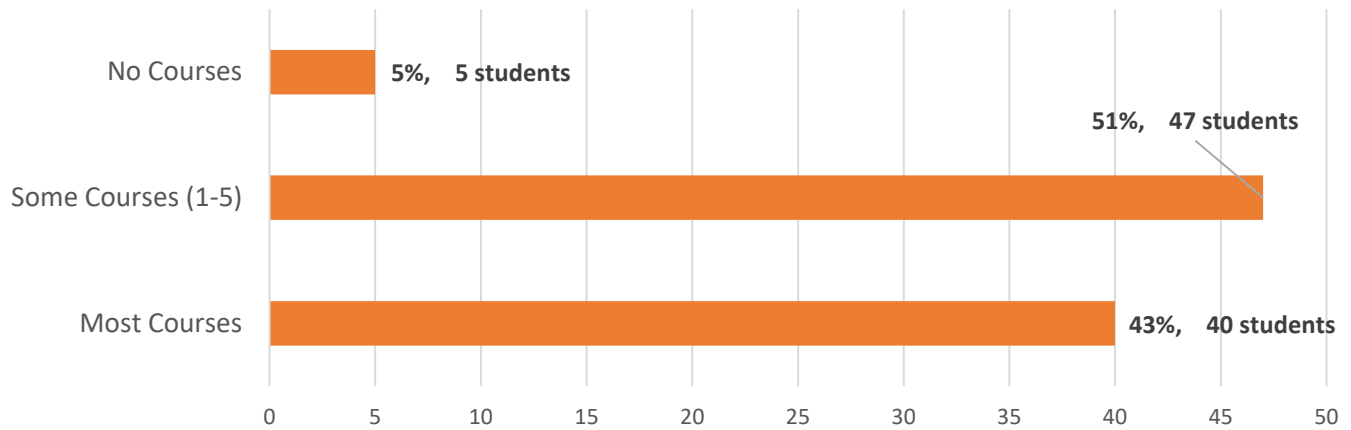
### NOBTS Regular Classroom Courses



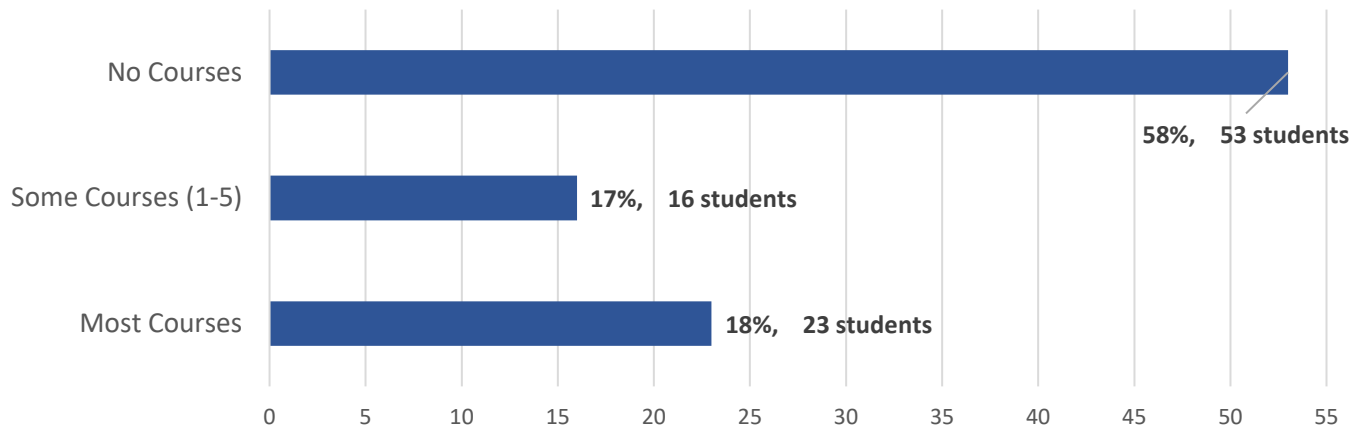
### Hybrid Courses on NOBTS Campus



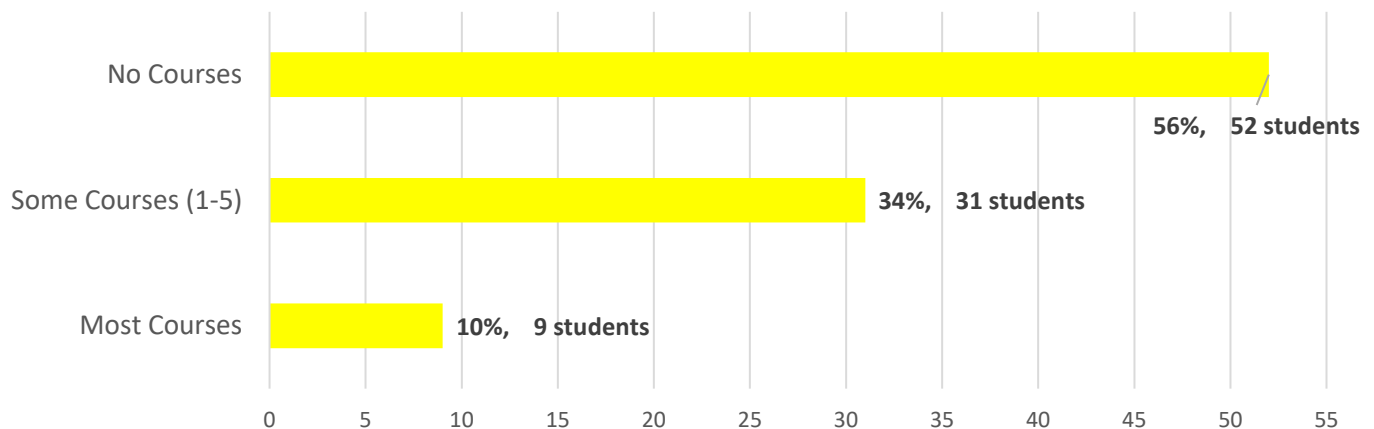
## Internet Courses



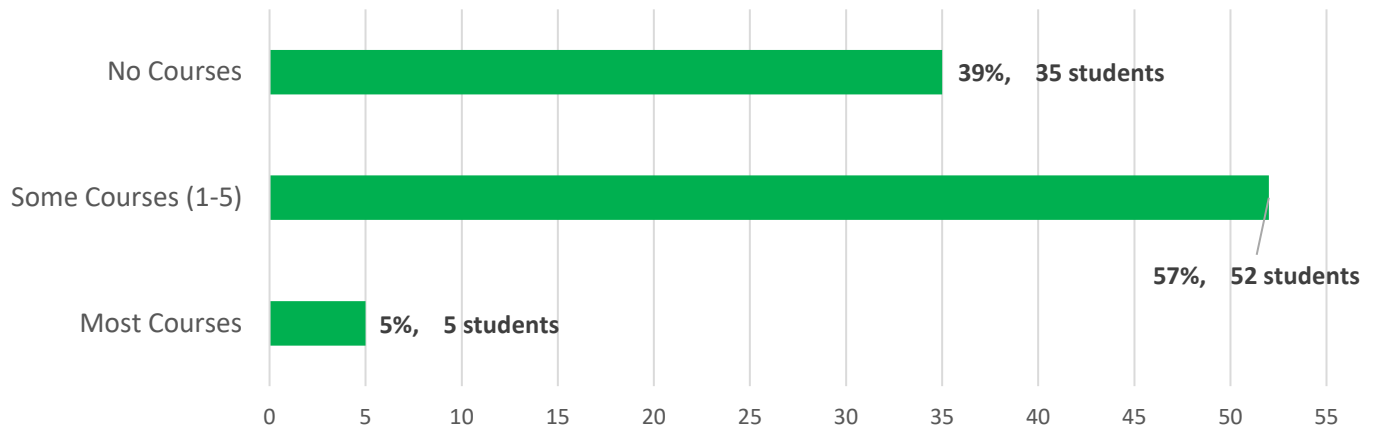
## Extension Center Courses with a Local Professor



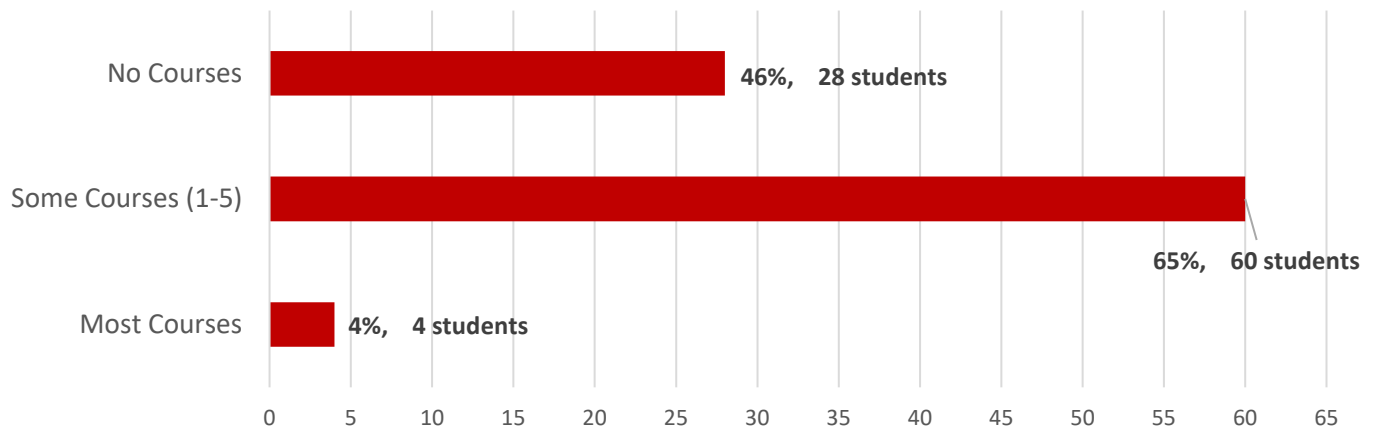
## Extension Center Courses Taught by CIV



## Workshop Courses

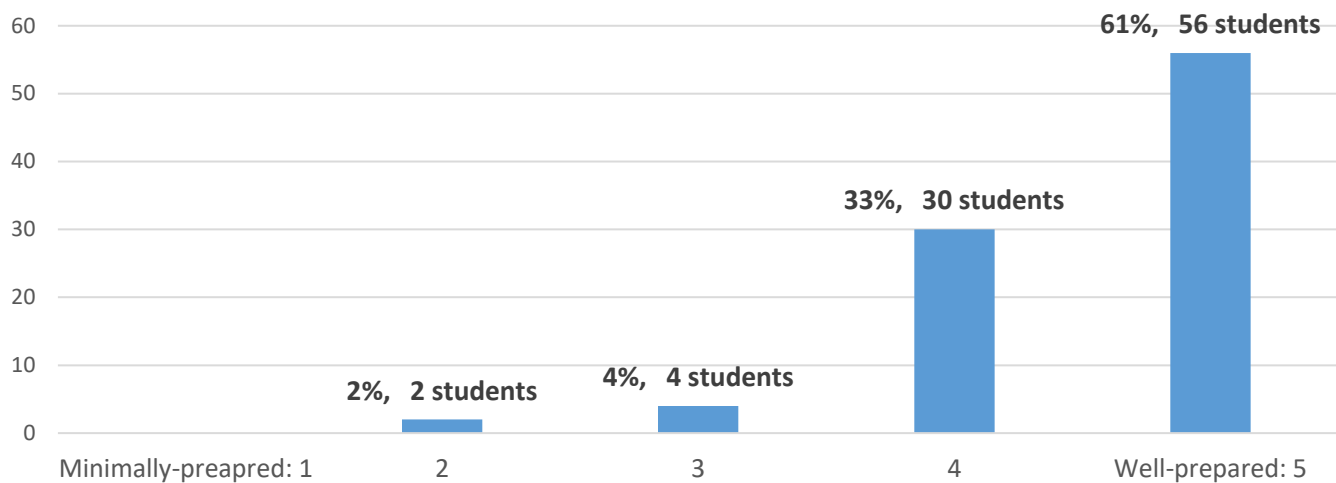


## Mentoring Courses

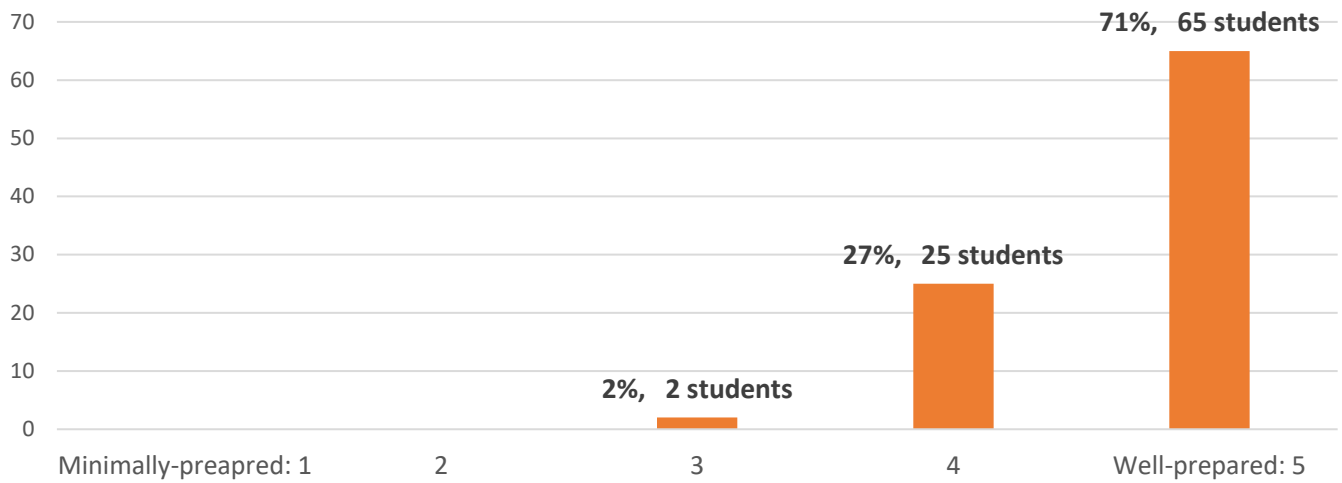


## Core Competencies

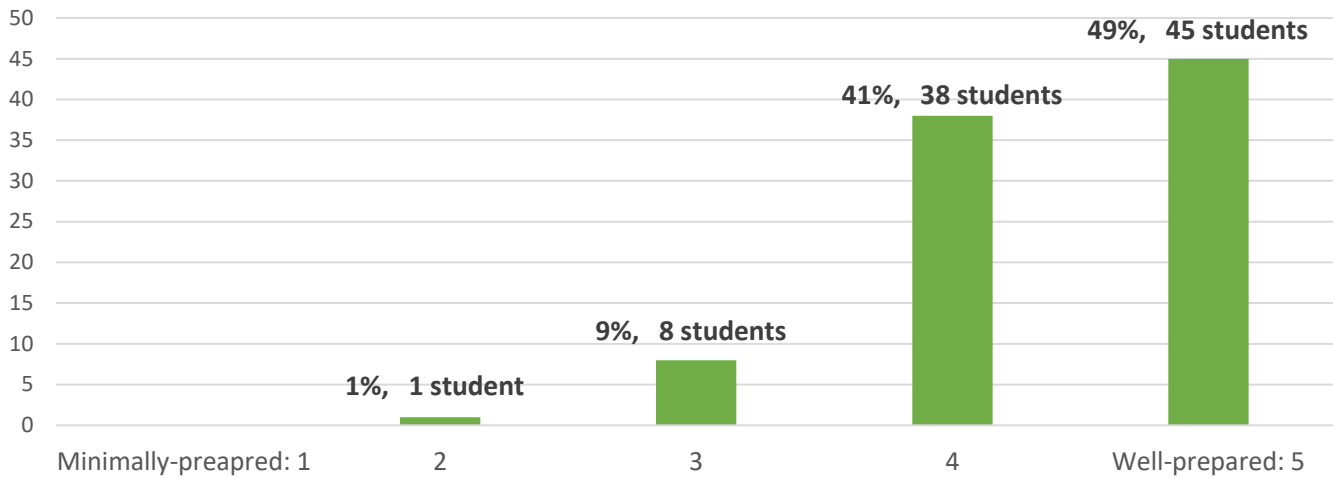
**In your ministry context, how well do you feel NOBTS prepared you to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church?**



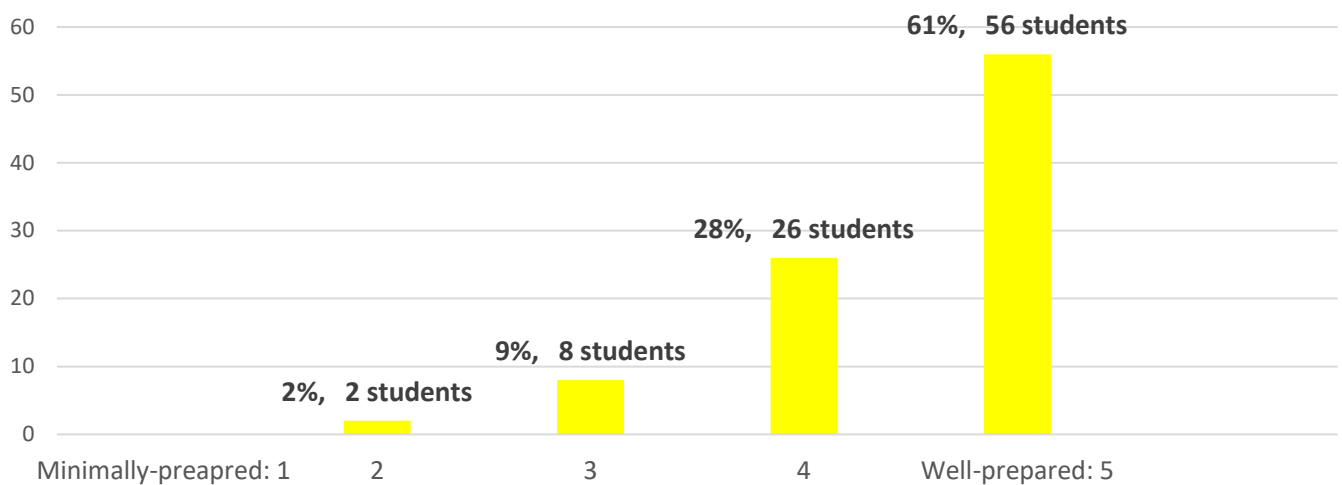
**Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately**



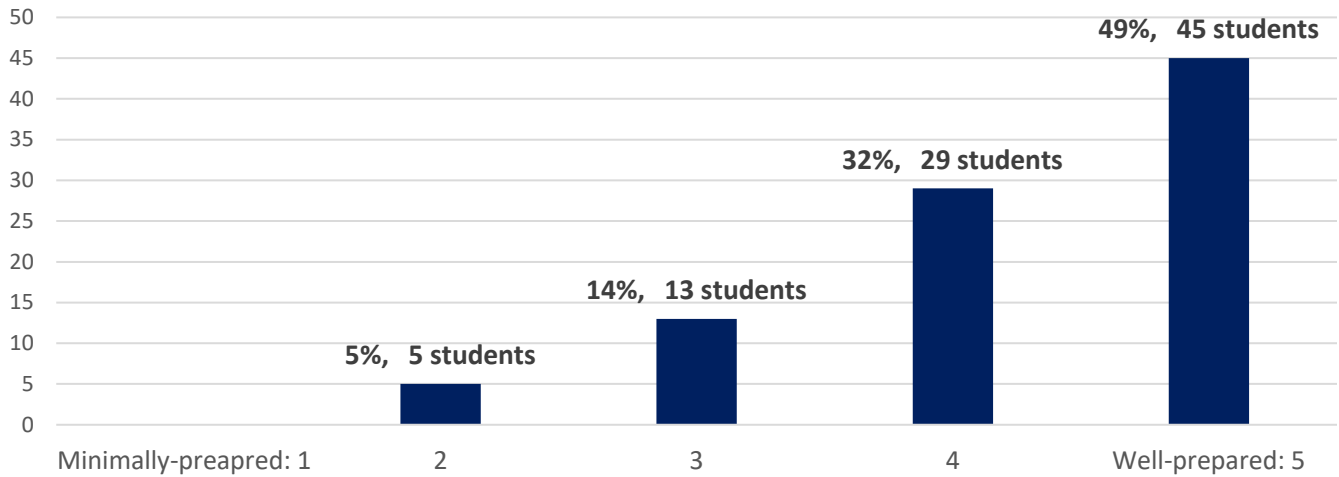
**Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.**



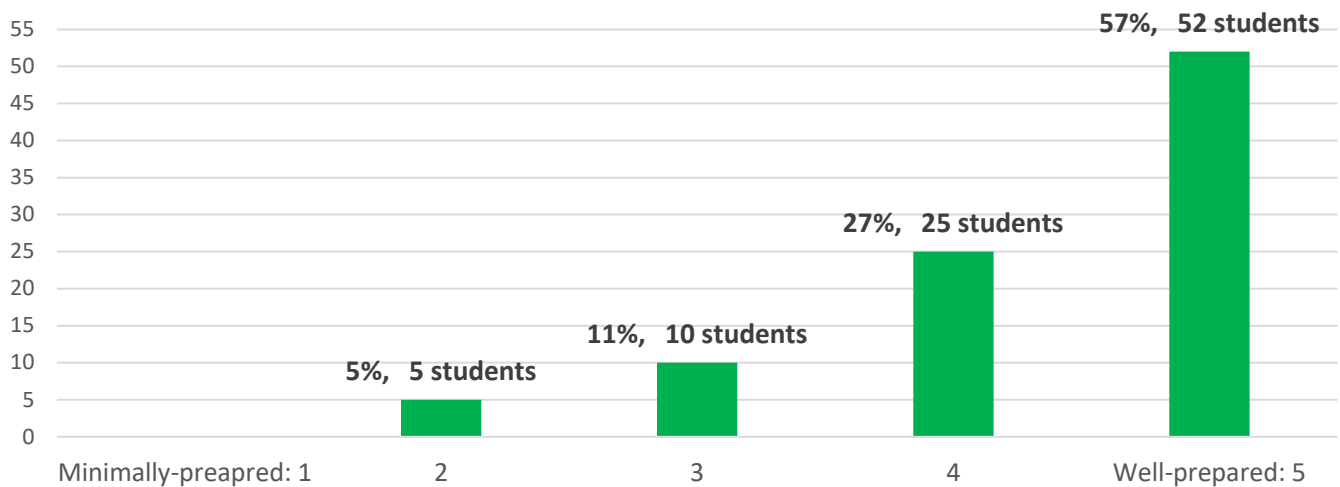
**Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.**



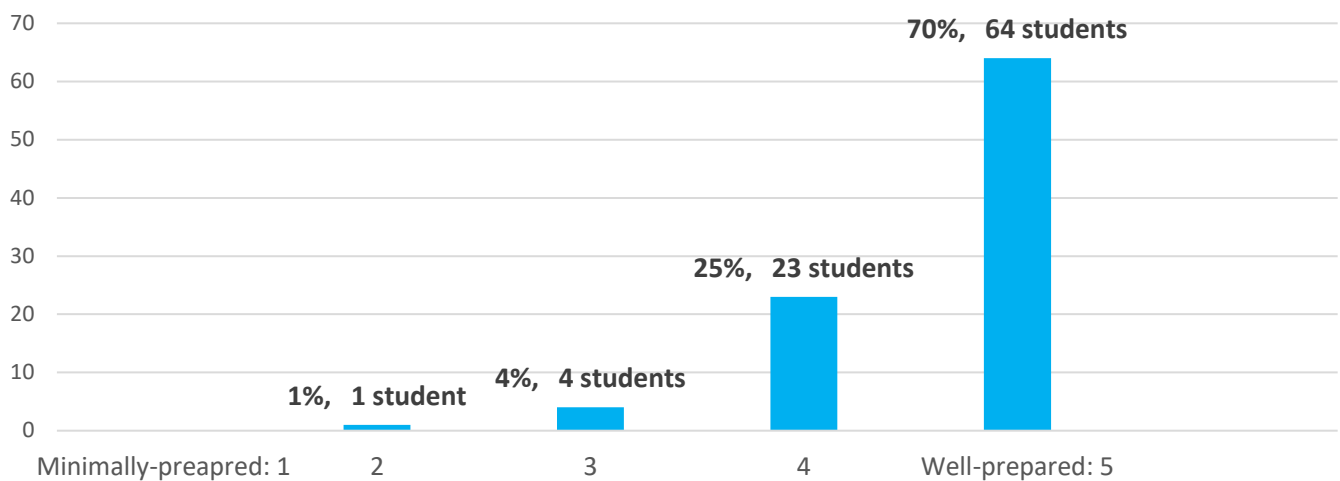
**Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.**



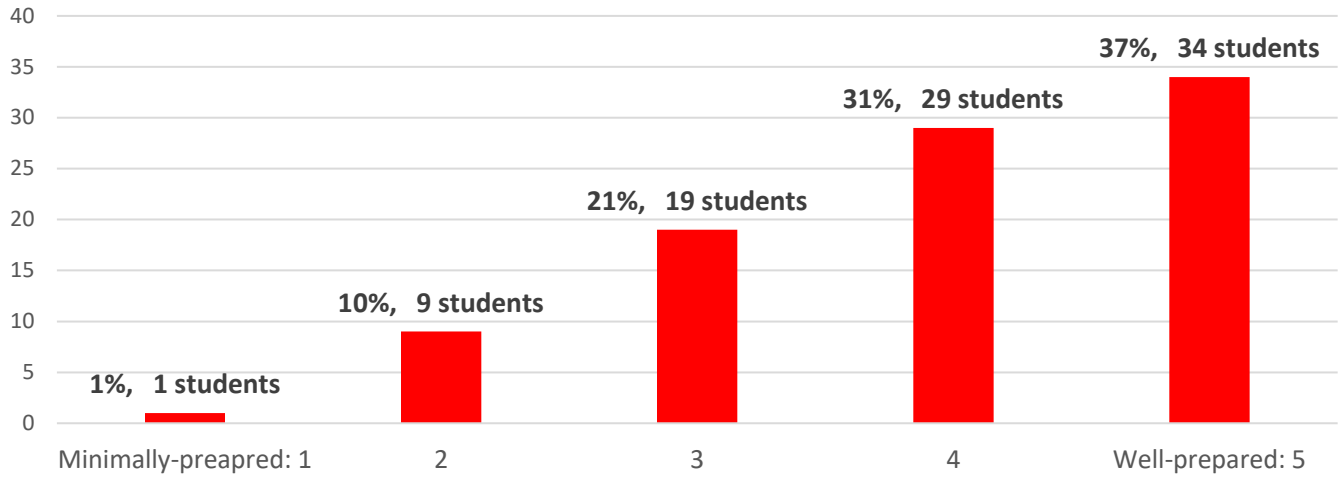
**Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.**



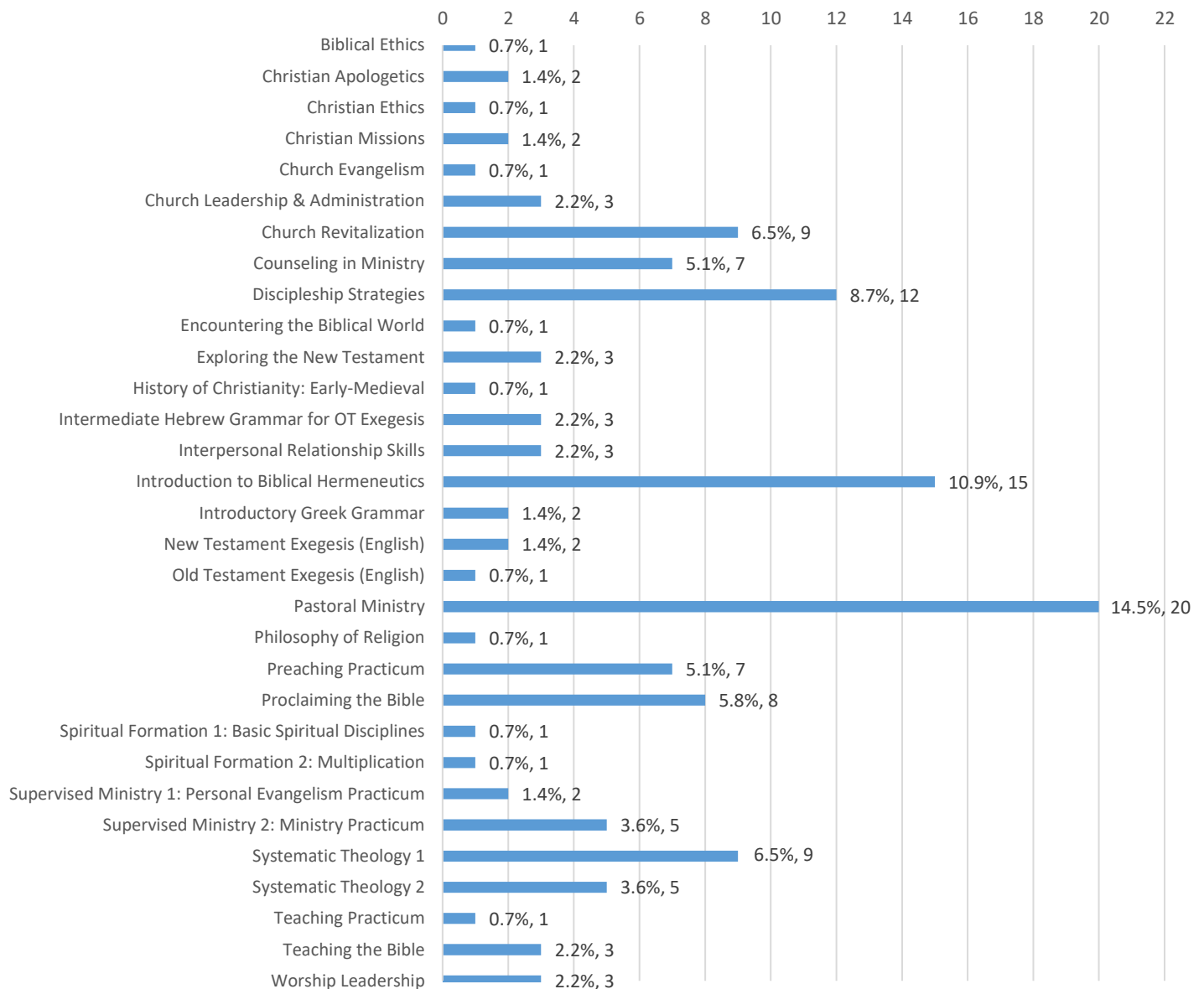
**Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.**



**Worship Leadership: to facilitate worship effectively.**



**Of the courses listed below, identify the 3 courses which have MOST equipped you to fulfill your calling:**



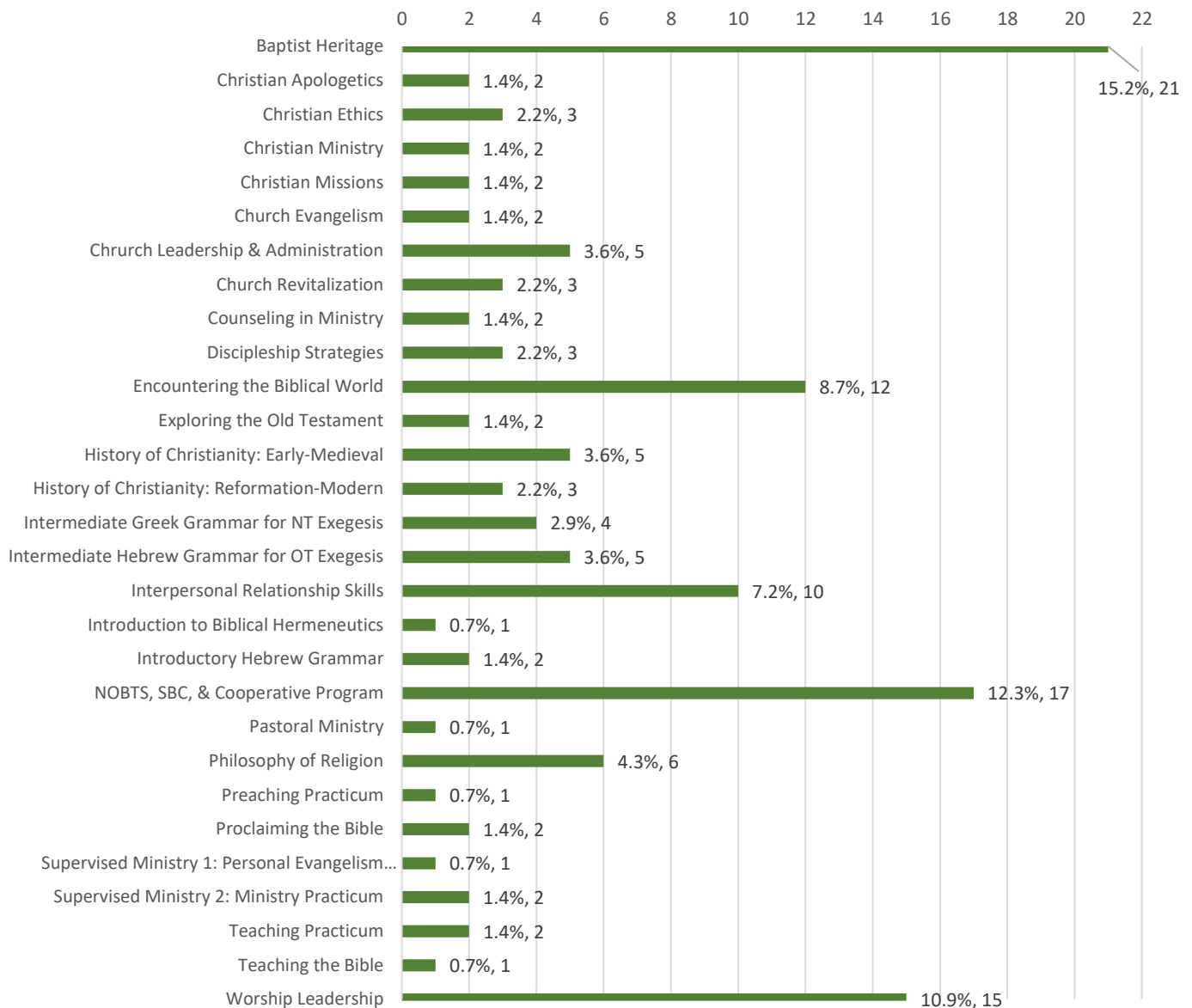
**Comments:**

- Death, Loss, and Grief taught me more how to deal with people, especially those in grief or pain, more so than any other class and most of ministry is dealing with people, whether they are in pain or not.
- Very fortunate to have had passionate professors
- These classes were very important.
- Along with these, I would add Church Evan/ church revit., Pastoral ministries, and preaching classes.
- This is really hard to pick. I really loved the Systematic Theology courses. Both Supervised Ministry courses were taught by a fantastic, practical pastor (Ryan Whitley). I loved Renaissance and Reformation, that's probably my favorite course but I can't say it equipped me most.
- I believe NOBTS has equipped me to serve well in the local church.
- Honestly the classes were heavily affected by the professor. I found that classes taught by other pastors were some of the best ones!



- in addition Church Revitalization and Philosophy of Religion
- The Death, Loss, and Grief class might have been the most formational and practical class I've ever taken in seminary.
- All the Courses has help me to succeed in my calling.
- I've grown so much as a minister and as a Christ-follower in the last two years and I owe much of that growth to the study that I have done through classes at NOBTS.
- These courses are most beneficial because I use something from them in my ministry context every day.
- Love my history classes. They were so engaging and relevant. All of the Evangelism/Revitalization classes I took were incredibly impactful.
- All courses were great and well prepared

**Of the courses listed below, identify the 3 courses which have LEAST equipped you to fulfill your calling:**



## Comments:

- All of the classes were helpful, but if I had to choose any these would be the three.
- It is very difficult to answer the above question. I have learned at least one thing from each class I have taken. Each class has enhanced my ministry and I am grateful for each of them and the profs. I hated to choose any. They are all beneficial but I had to choose the ones that do not fit the ministry context I'm in currently.
- Interpersonal relationship skills was completely superfluous in a degree program that already requires 84 credit hours. Exploring the Old Testament cannot be taught in 8 hybrid sessions via CIV and needs to be updated. Encountering the Biblical World was just really, really boring. I think it could be helped some by emphasizing culture more and geography less.
- I chose the above courses simply because they were the least helpful.
- These courses (also Preaching Practicum) did not necessarily unequip me. It is just these courses had inconsistencies in instruction. e.g. whereas I followed what the syllabus stated, the grader offered feedback stating I did not follow his/her criteria resulting in a lower grade. In addition, on Blackboard, I followed what the textbook asked for, but received a lower grade because I did not follow the grader's criteria, mentioned after the fact.
- Worship leadership is too disjunct, honestly learned more about worship leading in undergrad at another school.
- These classes were by no means a waste of my time, but perhaps could be revamped and improved.
- This question was hard however. My choices were for interpersonal relational skills mainly. It did not teach me anything practical that I could use in my contexts. The Cooperative program was nice to learn but had nothing to do with me fulfilling my calling and supervised ministry 2 only because I am currently serving as a pastor and it seemed redundant. It is best for the student that has never had any vocational ministry experience.
- I think all of these classes helped me in some way, but I could still minister effectively without these courses. Furthermore, Church Revitalization was almost exactly the same course as Church Evangelism. I was given no new information or preparation.
- It is not that these classes were not enjoyable but that it was difficult to see the benefit in ministry. Interpersonal was taught over CIV which was difficult to relate and understand.
- Proclaiming the Bible used the oldest textbooks. They were not very relevant.
- For the ones I struggled with I found the work focused on strategies already out of date, or useful in too narrow a context, rather than timeless principles. The rate of change for the practical side of ministry is too high for the institution to keep up with, what I valued most were the timeless principles and the theological and biblical foundations to give me a strong grounding and context.
- I did not take worship leadership. It was one of two classes I could have taken to finish with a M.Div. Instead I opted for 3 MAs. The other two I do not think they are necessary for my current job although I think they are essential to a well-rounded Christian Education.

## Which course or subject do you wish you had taken in your studies?

- Christian Apologetics
- Some sort of preaching course
- apologetics
- Other hermeneutic classes
- Some course dealing with the pastor's first 6 months in a new church

- While I took the preaching practicum, I would have enjoyed taking the teaching practicum as well. I also loved the only mentor class I took, I would do more of these for sure if I had to do it over again.
- I wish there had of been a general psychology course. Not on counseling but the brain and psychology and the Christian worldview
- I took all I wanted!
- Christian Apologetics
- Logic
- I wish I had taken church planting with George Ross. I did not know the Lord was going to call me into planting/replanting when I began my seminary journey.
- A greek exegesis
- Church Planting
- More book studies.
- Principles of Church Planting
- Christian Missions
- I wish I was able to take the bivocational class that was offered to Caskey students
- I wish I had taken a course that prepared me to understand and engage Muslims.
- anything Technology-based
- I have taken everything I wanted to take. Maybe a Hebrew exegesis on Isaiah
- More exegesis course and upper level preaching courses
- a dedicated class on church growth strategies
- Death, Loss, and Grief
- Church Administration
- More Discipleship/pastoral ministry classes
- Greek
- more course in Chaplaincy
- Encountering the Biblical World
- I wish proclaiming the Bible was two semesters there is so much to learn about building a sermon to preach. I wish the class was not as dense and fast. Too much to learn in too quick of a time, especially something as important as preaching and teaching the word of God.
- C.S Lewis Class with Dr.Stewart the last time it was offered was in 2013
- More classes in preaching particular genres or more exegetical classes
- Death, Loss, and Grief
- Proclaiming the Bible
- Several courses were offered under the M. Div. Philosophy Specialization that I wanted to take as electives that were listed on the program sheet that I was unable to find sections for such as World Religions: Eastern Religions, Christianity and the Sciences, and Postmodernity and Contemporary Theological Thought.
- Greek 2
- Christian Apologetics
- I wish I would have taken less preaching courses and more evangelism courses. The preaching courses were not as helpful as I had hoped. Nothing wrong with them, but they were more of an introductory level preaching.
- more on the languages
- Church Leadership
- Greek/Hebrew
- Honestly, I wish I had taken a few classes on sermon preparation. I literally mean classes that teach you how to write a well prepared sermon.

## **What course of study (currently non-existent at NOBTS) do you think should be offered to develop leaders in the local church and its ministries?**

- Any class that trains people on how to relate to people and handle people is most needed. I believe that if one cannot relate to people it will be difficult to effectively do ministry.
- Courses dealing with LGBT and transgender issues (legal issues)
- Something along the lines of how to detect burnout in your ministry and then how to prevent it. Also a class on how to leadership styles must change in keeping with the growth matrix of the church.
- "I would like to have had more classes concerning preaching and study prep. If I were not in a church I would have graduated with only preaching a few times and writing a few sermons. The majority of my time in a week is spent studying for sermons (only had 2 classes that specifically dealt with this) and people with problems (I believe only 2 classes again) and administrative issues (1 class.).
- Also I think you should have more mentor classes and maybe develop a class where a different local pastor comes in each week and shares about a certain topic that he is strong in, share some of his struggles, and have a Q and A time.
- Urban Children's Ministry
- I think there should be classes available on dealing with and ministering to cult members (Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, New Age, etc.).
- additional spiritual formation classes and separating church leadership and administration into two different classes
- Trauma-Informed Pastoral Counseling - There are way too many situations where pastors are ill-equipped to handle traumatic instances.
- singles ministry
- A course that equips the pastor to develop other leaders more effectively.
- I would say a course that helps keep one's church and ministry safe from sexual abuse and other dangers we are facing in the church today.
- Non-Profit Management and Leadership
- Teaching the Bible
- Technology and ways to reach the digital age
- I think Church Communications is a growing and expanding field as technology continues to advance. Pastors and other decision-makers in the church should be knowledgeable of the opportunities available for pre-evangelism through the website, social media, and mobile apps. Leaders in ministry need to understand how targeted groups (women, teens, unchurched, singles, etc.) interact with technology and utilize the most effective means to reach them.
- An analysis of why church attendance or overall Christian adherence is decreasing rapidly in a pluralistic/secular world. Instead of focusing solely on simplistic Great Commission/evangelism/etc., analysis from a secular point of view to fulfill totality. A broader perspective instead of strictly Southern Baptist frames of reference.
- A class on technology
- Courses on Ecclesiology
- a class on Karl Barth
- Discipleship Implementation
- Preaching Practicum 2
- Media and Tech
- I believe more courses on actually preaching the Bible.
- Cults and Religions

- A class that helps a pastor deal with angry people in the church. Maybe even dealing with depression in the church.
- Engaging Culture & Engaging Human Diversity
- None, but seriously revamp Revitalization. It's important!
- Leading and developing small groups
- A course over Church Law and finances or over Technology in the Church
- I'm not sure what it would be called, and it may simply fall under a current class, but an extended section or course that looks at churches that have had major crises and how to properly handle issues when a superior, staff member or congregant brings up issues or criticisms.
- A course on identifying and addressing heresy
- There was very little content throughout my degree that talked about gospel invitations in preaching. This is one of the most practical things missing from the curriculum. I think the history of invitations should be explored as well as practical tips.
- How to develop strategic growth plans or an operating system for churches. Like what Intentional Churches group runs
- How to effectively use social media
- More Leadership Courses
- I think the courses that are offered from NOBTS are enough to help train and equip those in or going in ministry.
- Interpersonal Skills
- Business aspects of the church
- Budget and Finance
- Counseling courses