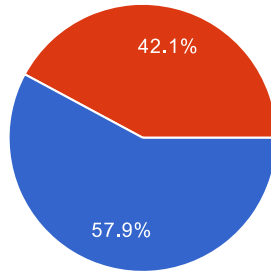


178 responses

[View all responses](#)[Publish analytics](#)

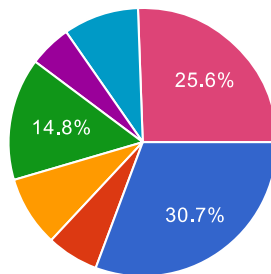
Summary

Have you studied towards an MDiv at NOBTS?



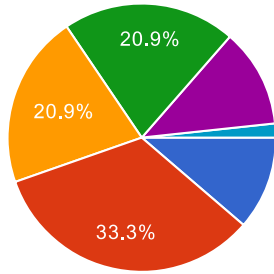
Yes	103	57.9%
No	75	42.1%

Please describe your current ministry service?



Pastor	54	30.7%
Youth Pastor	11	6.3%
Minister of Education	15	8.5%
Volunteer Ministry	26	14.8%
Worship Leader	9	5.1%
Teaching	16	9.1%
Other	45	25.6%

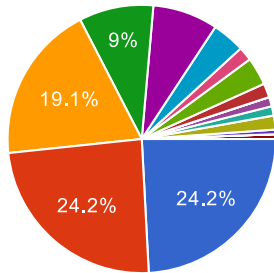
How many years have you served in your current ministry role?



10-20 **21** 11.9%

More than 20 years **3** 1.7%

When did you begin study at NOBTS?



2014	43	24.2%
2013	43	24.2%
2012	34	19.1%
2011	16	9%
2010	14	7.9%
2009	7	3.9%
2008	3	1.7%
2007	6	3.4%
2006	3	1.7%
2005	0	0%
2004	2	1.1%
2003	2	1.1%
2002	3	1.7%
2001	1	0.6%
2000	0	0%
Before 2000	1	0.6%

NOBTS regular classroom courses [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	64	36%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	29	16.3%
Most Courses	85	47.8%

Hybrid courses on NOBTS campus [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	76	42.7%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	87	48.9%
Most Courses	15	8.4%

Internet courses [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	45	25.3%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	90	50.6%
Most Courses	43	24.2%

Extension center courses with a local professor [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	106	59.6%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	34	19.1%
Most Courses	38	21.3%

Extension center courses taught by CIV [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	109	61.2%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	57	32%
Most Courses	12	6.7%

Workshop courses [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	44	24.7%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	119	66.9%
Most Courses	15	8.4%

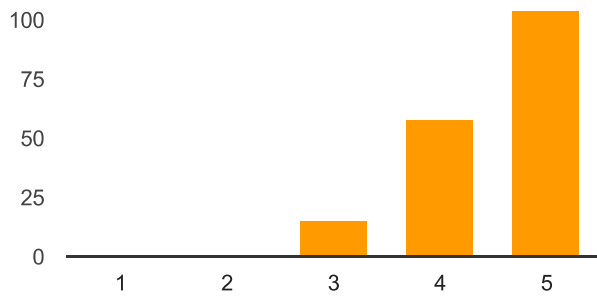
Mentoring Courses [Which delivery systems did you experience at NOBTS in your graduate courses?]



None	151	84.8%
Some Courses (1-5 courses)	27	15.2%
Most Courses	0	0%

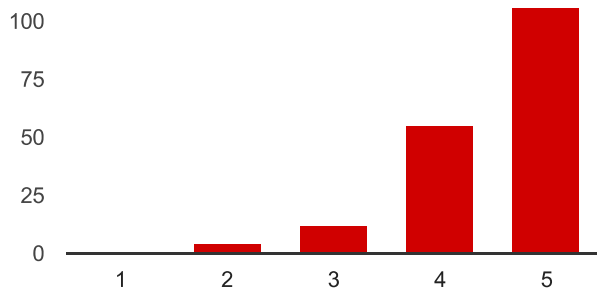
Core Competencies

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?



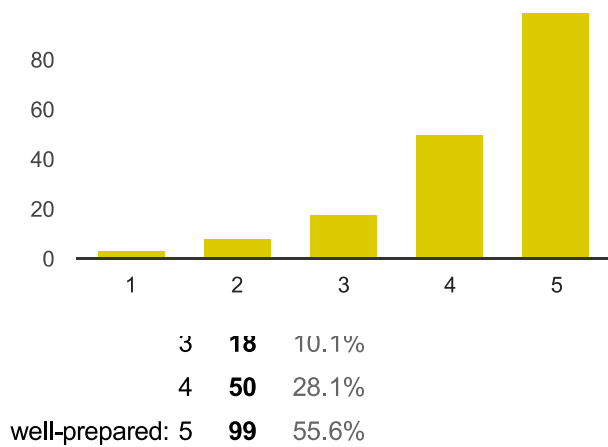
minimally-prepared: 1	0	0%
2	1	0.6%
3	15	8.4%
4	58	32.6%
well-prepared: 5	104	58.4%

Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately

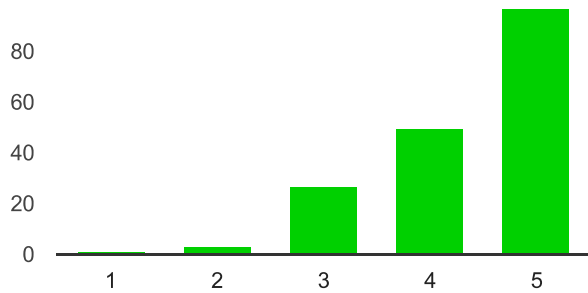


minimally-prepared: 1	1	0.6%
2	4	2.2%
3	12	6.7%
4	55	30.9%
well-prepared: 5	106	59.6%

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

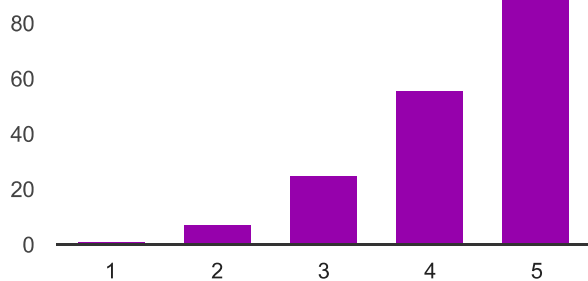


Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.



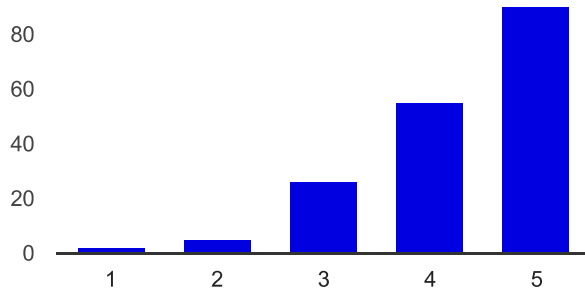
minimally-prepared: 1 **1** 0.6%
 2 **3** 1.7%
 3 **27** 15.2%
 4 **50** 28.1%
 well-prepared: 5 **97** 54.5%

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



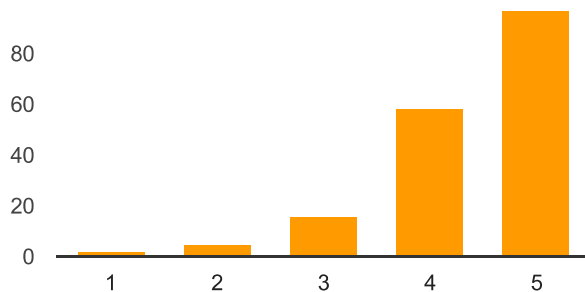
minimally-prepared: 1	1	0.6%
	7	3.9%
	25	14%
	56	31.5%
well-prepared: 5	89	50%

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.



minimally-prepared: 1	2	1.1%
	5	2.8%
	26	14.6%
	55	30.9%
well-prepared: 5	90	50.6%

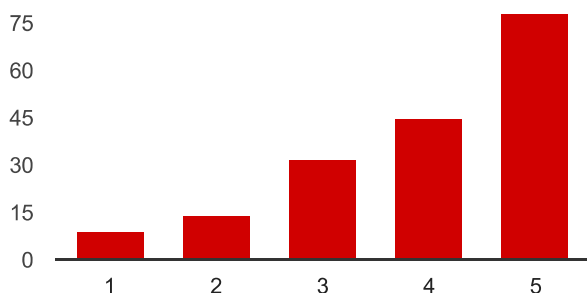
Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.



minimally-prepared: 1	2	1.1%
	5	2.8%
	16	9%
	58	32.6%

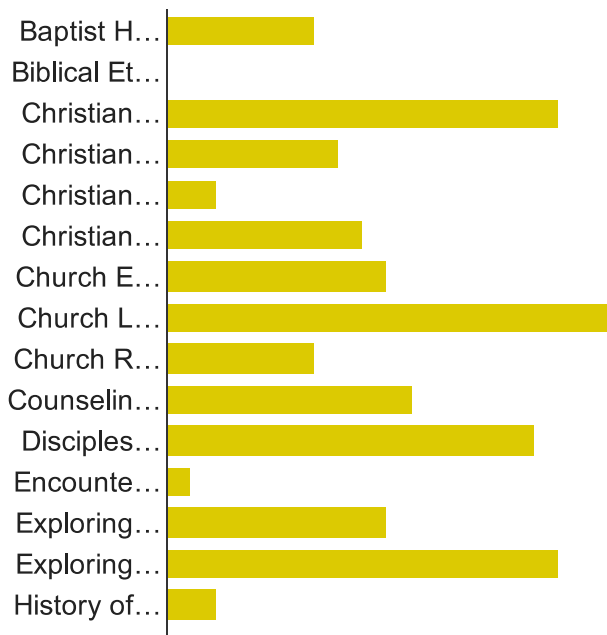
well-prepared: 5 **97** 54.5%

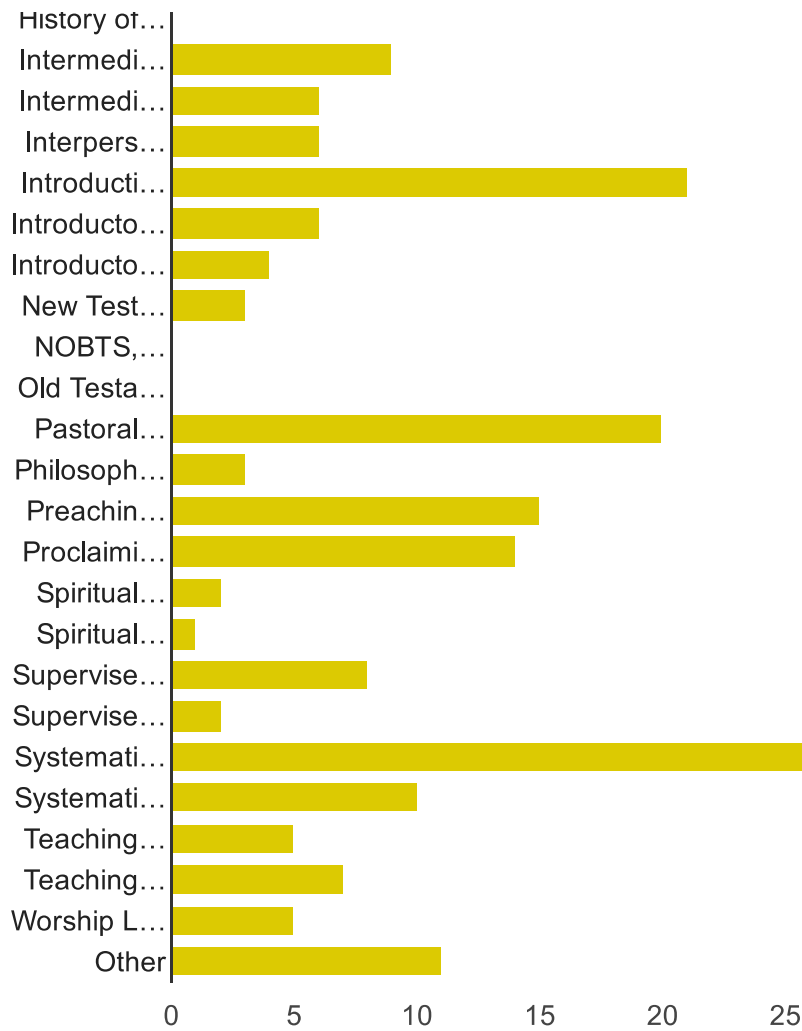
Worship Leadership: to facilitate worship effectively.



minimally-prepared: 1 **9** 5.1%
 2 **14** 7.9%
 3 **32** 18%
 4 **45** 25.3%
 well-prepared: 5 **78** 43.8%

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





Baptist Heritage	6	5.8%
Biblical Ethics	0	0%
Christian Apologetics	16	15.5%
Christian Ethics	7	6.8%
Christian Ministry	2	1.9%
Christian Missions	8	7.8%
Church Evangelism	9	8.7%
Church Leadership and Administration	18	17.5%
Church Revitalization	6	5.8%
Counseling in Ministry	10	9.7%
Discipleship Strategies	15	14.6%
Encountering the Biblical World	1	1%
Exploring the New Testament	9	8.7%
Exploring the Old Testament	16	15.5%
History of Christianity: Early-Medieval	2	1.9%
History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern	0	0%

Intermediate Greek Grammar for NT Exegesis	9	8.7%
Intermediate Hebrew Grammar for OT Exegesis	6	5.8%
Interpersonal Relationship Skills	6	5.8%
Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics	21	20.4%
Introductory Greek Grammar	6	5.8%
Introductory Hebrew Grammar	4	3.9%
New Testament Exegesis (English)	3	2.9%
NOBTS, SBC, and Cooperative Program	0	0%
Old Testament Exegesis (English)	0	0%
Pastoral Ministry	20	19.4%
Philosophy of Religion	3	2.9%
Preaching Practicum	15	14.6%
Proclaiming the Bible	14	13.6%
Spiritual Formation 1: Basic Spiritual Disciplines	2	1.9%
Spiritual Formation 2: Multiplication	1	1%
Supervised Ministry 1: Personal Evangelism Practicum	8	7.8%
Supervised Ministry 2: Ministry Practicum	2	1.9%
Systematic Theology 1	26	25.2%
Systematic Theology 2	10	9.7%
Teaching Practicum	5	4.9%
Teaching the Bible	7	6.8%
Worship Leadership	5	4.9%
Other	11	10.7%

Comments:

All of the Exegesis courses I took prepared me the most.

There are many other classes that helped me greatly, but these three still stand out as some of the most formative.

I would rate my counseling courses above all the listed courses.

There were far more than these 3 really almost all were vital in helping shape my leadership

This is a seminary for preachers!

Church Leadership and Administration was also helpful but presented as more of a survey course. It should be spaced out over multiple classes as to go more in depth with each topic and allow for more growth and development of skills necessary to lead a church.

The discipleship curriculum needs to be boosted; there are not enough offerings in discipleship.

This is a tough one but I picked these three for there direct impact on my equipping. Obviously I could include Systematic 2 and all of the evangelism, preaching and church planting classes I took but these were most helpful.

This is an unfair question! Most of my classes were excellent in equipping me holistically, and each served an important purpose. I should be allowed to list more than three :)!

Language studies (grammar and exegesis, greek and hebrew) have been of utmost value in terms of classroom preparation for ministry.

The languages and hermeneutics are vital in preparation to preach. I also thoroughly enjoyed studying church history and theology.

Worship Leadership - I struggled with, but "worship" not music.

Classes which taught me how to handle the Bible rightly have been most beneficial!

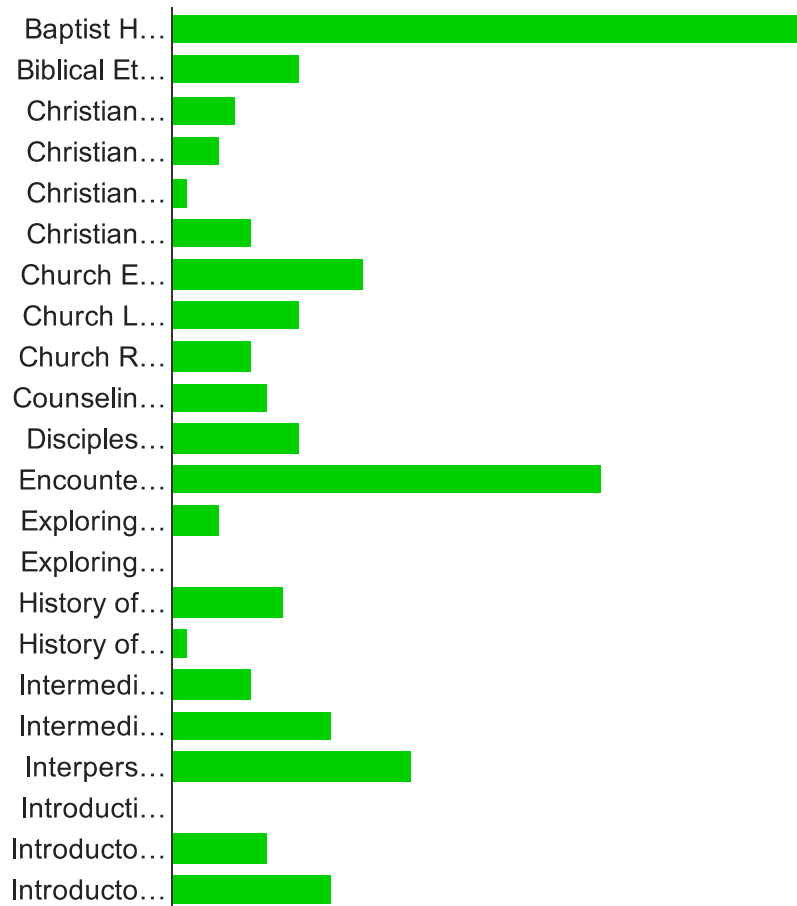
These courses all had a great balance of terrific scholarly resources as well as more devotional resources. The teachers obviously prepared for class.

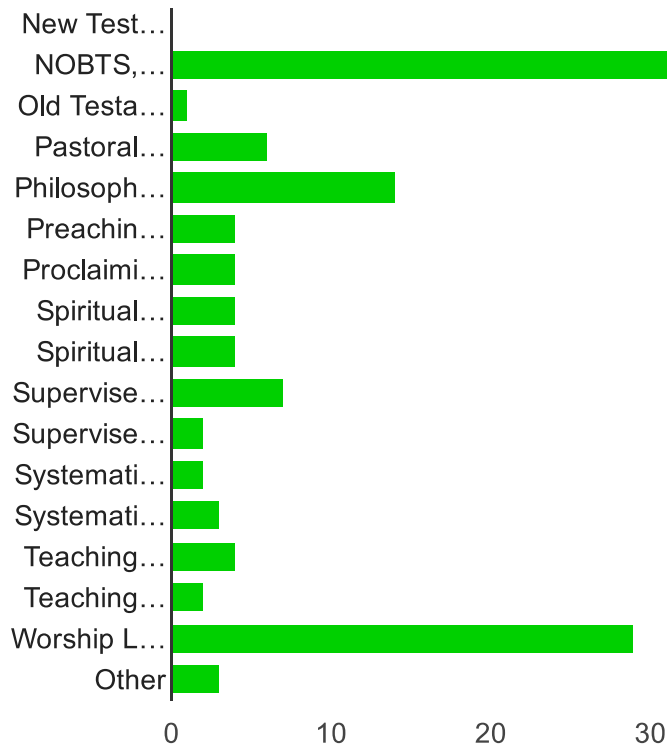
Hermeneutics was definitely one of the best, as well as digging into the languages. Apologetics was a close one too, namely because I went out and shared the Gospel by myself while taking that one and not because it was required but because the studies made we WANT to go out and share.

It is challenging to pick three (3) courses which have most equipped me to fulfill my calling since all of the courses work together in a synergistic fashion. For me, the most helpful courses are the Discipleship Strategies course and those which included practicum components.

My calling is to serve the Lord by Evangelism and Church planting. So it is very helpful for me in order to accomplish my calling.

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





Baptist Heritage	40	38.8%
Biblical Ethics	8	7.8%
Christian Apologetics	4	3.9%
Christian Ethics	3	2.9%
Christian Ministry	1	1%
Christian Missions	5	4.9%
Church Evangelism	12	11.7%
Church Leadership and Administration	8	7.8%
Church Revitalization	5	4.9%
Counseling in Ministry	6	5.8%
Discipleship Strategies	8	7.8%
Encountering the Biblical World	27	26.2%
Exploring the New Testament	3	2.9%
Exploring the Old Testament	0	0%
History of Christianity: Early-Medieval	7	6.8%
History of Christianity: Reformation-Modern	1	1%
Intermediate Greek Grammar for NT Exegesis	5	4.9%
Intermediate Hebrew Grammar for OT Exegesis	10	9.7%
Interpersonal Relationship Skills	15	14.6%
Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics	0	0%
Introductory Greek Grammar	6	5.8%
Introductory Hebrew Grammar	10	9.7%

New Testament Exegesis (English)	0	0%
NOBTS, SBC, and Cooperative Program	36	35%
Old Testament Exegesis (English)	1	1%
Pastoral Ministry	6	5.8%
Philosophy of Religion	14	13.6%
Preaching Practicum	4	3.9%
Proclaiming the Bible	4	3.9%
Spiritual Formation 1: Basic Spiritual Disciplines	4	3.9%
Spiritual Formation 2: Multiplication	4	3.9%
Supervised Ministry 1: Personal Evangelism Practicum	7	6.8%
Supervised Ministry 2: Ministry Practicum	2	1.9%
Systematic Theology 1	2	1.9%
Systematic Theology 2	3	2.9%
Teaching Practicum	4	3.9%
Teaching the Bible	2	1.9%
Worship Leadership	29	28.2%
Other	3	2.9%

Comments:

I want to note that I enjoyed these classes. They were beneficial in a number of ways, and they helped me to think through things more fully. Worship Leadership in particular helped me better understand worship styles and backgrounds. But I think these could either be shortened or combined with other courses to the same effect.

By far the least helpful class I took in seminary was encountering the biblical world. Everybody has access to maps now. I learned almost nothing in the class.

I chose the above three because I am apart of a Presbyterian Church.

I really did not want to choose the two I chose
everything is going well.

My studies were for an MDIV in Christian Education

These three were good courses, but I had to put three it said:)

While informative, these courses did little to prepare me for further ministry. They either presented information that I had already learned or the professors were not skilled in delivering the content in a format conducive for learning.

None of the courses I marked were bad courses to have.

Being apart of a Presbyterian Church, these 3 courses where not helpful.

I pick bap heritage and the cooperative program class because I am not sure they are necessary for equipping other than being a thoroughly equipped baptist. I also picked christian ethics because I didn't find it as useful as other related philosophy or theology classes. Lets be honest we sound awful saying any of these classes was least helpful.

Being limited to 3 courses that have equipped me was difficult. I have benefited from others in ways that add to my overall strength as a pastor. I also do not believe the "least equipped"

section should imply that I did not benefit. After all, least favorite is still a favorite.

While I enjoyed these classes and got great help from them, I felt like the evangelism, pastoral ministry, and leadership facets of these classes need some "modern updating." I don't know how to succinctly put this, but sometimes I felt like it was assumed that I was going to be a pastor of a small/mid size Southern Baptist church in a conservative Bible belt town- but the reality is that the South and the culture around us is changing drastically, and many of us feel called to the city long-term. One of the most frustrating things in Pastoral Ministry was that we spent about 3 weeks on the topic of "ordination"- which I think definitely deserved discussion, but I wanted so much to learn about other topics that are important. These are just a few thoughts- I just think the classes (or at least the way they are presented) could be revamped to be more productive and challenging and thought-provoking for a variety of ministry contexts.

These classes offered some beneficial information and practices, but much of the information was not terribly helpful.

Encountering the biblical world was by far the most useless class I have ever taken. I learned nothing and the class was extremely out dated. It should be moved off the required course list or added to another course

It is a great privilage for me to attend eith NOBTS

Christian Missions was an information overload that did not add much to my understanding of the missionary's work in the field. Christian Ministry was very generic and covered in other courses. I.R.S. had some helpful content but could have been absorbed into another course, It did not seem to warrant the attention of a Master's level course.

I do not think this survey should be mandatory

I've enjoyed all of my courses. Even the ones I found least valuable were still valuable to me. There is much still to learn even upon graduation. I know that if I were to retake the same course load I'd still benefit.

Church Evangelism: The professor presented several models from the 60's in the Jesus Freak movement. When presented with several more recent models, he seemed to scoff at them and say that he did not like those models. I was really looking forward to this class and left disappointed. Christian Ethics: I had two professors that co- taught this class. One of the professors was the most boring professor I had ever had in my life, the other professor was awesome. Everyone in the class had the same thoughts. Encountering the Biblical world- It was a memorization class I do not remember now and served no purpose as I can loo

Church Evangelism: The professor used many evangelism approaches from the Jesus Freak movement. I brought up some current evangelism approaches and the professor scoffed at them and said he did not think these would work. It was very focused on tracks and surveys, but not on directing a conversation towards the gospel in a normal conversation. Encountering the Biblical world- It was a map memorization map (none of which I remember) that did not get practical. I have a map in front of me when I am preparing a sermon, so the class seemed pointless. Ethics: I had 2 professors for the class, one was awesome, the other was very boring. I love Hebrew. I believe the reason it was so "non-equipping" for me is because of the professor, Dr. Sexton. He is a genuinely nice fellow, just not a great grammar professor.

I feel like the courses were necessary but perhaps could have been structured differently.

Some of these classes could have been done well, but they weren't. Pastoral Ministry in particular was very disappointing to me. I think that class could be done so well, and could really prepare students for what it means Biblically to operate in ministry. Unfortunately this was not the case. I also found that my preaching course, which I really wanted to use to improve my ability in this area, did not lay a foundation for excellence.

I believe all three of these courses are important. I believe Supervised Ministry 1 needs to be reevaluated, I did not find it very effective. Also, encountering the Biblical World is a great concept. However, I believe that archeology comes to life when one actually sees the importance of particular findings in light of the Biblical story. I learned more about archeology and the Biblical world by taking exegesis classes. I don't mean to be negative, I loved my seminary experience and will miss these days tremendously, but I do want to give some constructive criticism.

Multiple classes undermined the work that we do in Theology and Hermeneutics, such as the textbook in Spiritual Formation (Get out of the Boat). Also, the methods taught in Supervised Ministry 1 were suspect at best; furthermore the professor of that class was constantly antagonistic toward his Millennial students and seemed to make no effort to hear us or appreciate us. I was so annoyed at Supervised 1 because it has such potential, yet we were forced to memorize (and promptly forget) an ineffectual method tailored for Boomers in Southern Churches, not for all people in multiple contexts. I also put Encountering the Biblical World on here because the blackboard shell (and the study maps on it) were such a nightmare to navigate (old information, confused documents). Church evangelism made the list too, not because of the content, but because of the arbitrary tests.

Hands down of every course at NOBTS that I took, Exploring the Biblical World was the worst. I had such high hopes for the course, but it was dry, random and the slideshows and stories were disconnected from the content and the tests.

I dislike this question because all the classes were enriching. However, I know you need feedback. The only reason for selecting Introductory Greek is because I rely on software programs for understanding Greek.

It is challenging to pick three (3) courses which have least equipped me to fulfill my calling since all of the courses work together in a synergistic fashion. Baptist Heritage is important in understanding distinctive Baptist teachings and in learning of the diversity of baptistic religious groups, but I am not sure how it would apply to my ministry context. Servant Leadership was selected since I do not anticipate becoming a pastor. Interpersonal Relationship Skills had some interesting concepts, but one of the textbooks was a secular book. This was an issue for me in a few courses, not just this course. I do not categorically object to the use of secular textbooks on a limited basis when it is warranted, especially when no explicitly Christian textbook exists. However, I prefer that the discussions include ways the material is opposed to Christian teaching as well as ways they are compatible.

I have plan to work on languages of Greek and Hebrew. But after class I forgot it because I do not practice it. Next time I have plan to work on it. But everything in NOBTS lesson plan is perfect.

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

Christian Apologetics

Death, Loss and Grief

death, loss, and grief

Teaching the Bible

Worship Leadership

none

Introductory Greek Grammar

Counseling

Pastoral Ministry

Preaching Practicum

None

Heresy study

Introduction and Intermediate Greek

New testament

More Hebrew Exegesis

I took everything I wanted to take

Counseling in Ministry

Textual criticism

I think the courses in the MDiv are sufficient.

Wish we had more time to study more individual exegesis of books of the Bible

Death, Loss, and Grieving

NONE

worship leadership earlier would have been great

PREA6330 - Logos Bible Software

More Preaching Courses

More Hebrew / Jewish studies.

Preaching Biblical Doctrine

Church Revitalization

More of the interpersonal and conflict management type.

There were not any courses that I wish I could have taken during my studies. I was well pleased with all the course offerings that were given to me.

Logic or Epistemology

Systematic theology

Systematic Theology

more preaching

I wish I had taken more counseling courses

counseling

The Book of Acts with Dr. Stevens

more preaching

Apologetics writing (or something on church planting or parachurch ministries)

More Hermeneutics Classes

More of the individual Books of the Bible Exegesis

New Testament Exegesis

Homiletics

I would have focused and taken more biblical language classes because these are most difficult to explore autonomously.

More Exegesis courses

More Exegesis

More on other world religions, more apologetics

Proclaiming the Bible

study of other religion

Death, Loss, and Grieving by Dr. Bozeman. It was the one class everyone kept raving about that I never could fit into my schedule (and by the time I knew about it, it was already too late to really figure it out!).

Old Testament Theology

Doctrine of the Trinity

no specific course

Church planting

More courses in preaching and biblical hermeneutics

Grief, Loss, and Pain, Christian Devotional Classics

Children's Ministry

Counseling in Ministry

Discipleship

More old testament

Youth and Family Discipleship

Any course that was more practical in helping me with church functions and dealing with people.

Hermeneutics

More apologetics

Death, Loss, and Grief or Christian Devotional Classics

Education

Hebrew

More philosophy, more theology, more missions, more language

More exegesis

Global Worship Perspectives

A course on Islam or specialized apologetics.

Philosophy of Religion

More theology and philosophy

More biblical studies courses, more useful preaching courses.

I wish I had taken an evangelism course earlier than I did.

I should of taken more bible exposition classes.

More Dr. Stevens courses, especially Revelation in Greek.

Death, Loss, and Grief.

If I had time, I would take additional apologetics courses

More courses in spiritual warfare in the local church

Church planting and Multiplication

None

counseling class

Church Revitalization

more counseling

Spiritual Warfare in the Local Church CHPL6282/6382

Church Planting and Multiplication

Christian Devotional Classics

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?

None

Spiritual Warfare

N/A

Ministry practice

I think a course should be offered about implementing a leadership structure in low income areas to help grow leadership from these neighborhoods.

I don't know

a course in church counseling

There is more need for practical leadership based courses

We could benefit from more a more focused study of things we often take for granted (sound equipment in church buildings, for example). I would also love to see a course specifically on prayer.

a class on things not taught in seminary

A counseling certificate—many people have asked about one.

Conflict Management

Church government (historical and biblical ways to govern the local church)

Youth Ministry

Inner Healing

none that I can think of at this time

Church Planting

I have no idea

Marketplace Ministries

Cultural Diversity

A class on ministry failure (an aspect of church leadership and administration but could have used more on it). Maybe a class on the difficulties of ministry.

Yes.

Leading through crisis

Conflict Management and Change Navigation

For me personally, I think some type of course particularly for bi-vocational pastors. Bi-vocational pastors are typically overlooked on courses and there is not much information out there for them.

Apologetic Preaching

Church in the 21st century or Marketing for the Church. Many of the courses I took had methodologies and ministry systems rooted in the mid-20th century. We are now nearly headed into the second fifth of this century. Many of the strategies, methodologies, and ministry systems presented are dated. I had to view these through a filter of what to ignore and what to keep but augment to fit in today's context. Marketing for the Church is not something we like to think about but is necessary. The church must become inventive when deciding how to present her message. Everyone is vying for the attention of people in our communities. How can the church rise above the noise and present a clear but not condescending picture that our message is more important than the messages of the rest of the world. Gone are the days of people flocking to churches because they are "supposed" to, "ought" to, or even because they are seeking answers. They are turning to other places. The church has to get serious about letting people know that the answers to life's questions are found in Christ. A church sign with a lame limerick or an occasional mass mailer will not do the job. We need training on how to grab and keep the attention of our Post-Christian society.

How to read the whole bible

How to read the whole Bible

marketplace ministry

Conflict management

Can't think of one.

systematic theology

History of the Jewish People (from the 4th Century B.C. to 1st Century A.D.)

practical ministry processes

Something about arts and media

Class specifically on prayer

I would suggest to count years of job/ministry experience within the Baptist Partnership Program.

I don't know of one that is non-existent, but the discipleship curriculum needs work. The President of the school states that discipleship is the biggest component missing from our evangelism, but there is not even an option to get a discipleship concentration - that doesn't make sense.

Bi-Vocational Pastor

More Ministry Practicum

Not so much a class but maybe more of a non-academic career/"calling" counselor to help with next steps.

Many other seminaries require two semesters of Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey. I think that two semesters for each would provide a better foundation for Bible teaching. Apologetics or Exegesis for Youth and/or Children's Ministry

A course on the changing American culture/politics, more on doctrine of other denominations study or talking with local church pastors

I would combine the spiritual formation classes into one 2-3 hour course (it was weird to figure out scheduling, and it would bring more focus and synergy into the class). I would actually suggest adding a third semester of theology. Theology more than any other class I felt like I had to rush through topics without getting to really "saturate" myself in the grease of that discussion. I think a longer time sitting in those topics would bring out more flavor in our understanding of God and scripture, in my opinion. I think a class on ministry to different age groups (children, youth, college, single, married, adult, etc) would have challenged me personally. Just a few thoughts!

Advanced Hermeneutics

Biblical/Narrative Theology

Ministry in the Black Church

do not know of any

a course on personal finance, minister taxes, and church finances

Outreach Experiences

I believe NOBTS has done an effective job of offering multiple, diverse courses of study for equipping leaders for the local church.

Reformed Theology

Old & New Testament - straight from Bible, not books on Old or New Testa.

Community Involvement

Church Revitalization / Church Government - Bylaws - Business - Finances

Healthy debate

Christian music

NONE

Practical courses in church life.

NOBTS offers a great variety.

Most seminaries require two semesters of New and Old Testament survey. I think this would lay a better Biblical foundation.

Historical Theology

Time management

I do not have an answer

Reaching people cross culturally

Finances, budgeting

Church financing and budgeting

2 semesters of New/Old testament instead of 1

Suburban Ministry

The basic MDiv program definitely needs more, more, more original language exegesis courses!
Other than that I cannot think of anything.

A course of Church Finances and Administration

organizational leadership/communication

I don't know of any in particular. I think really great classes are offered at the Seminary, but that quality is poor.

Church Conflict

Class focused specifically on church government and working as a team. Could call it "Church Politics 101". :)

case study of local church and talk with pastor of the church

New Testament Theology and Philosophical Hermeneutics (more often)

Methods for sharing the Gospel with various worldviews.

I don't know...

Spiritual warfare in the local church needs to be mandatory to all degree programs.

Practical Evangelism and Outreach

community development, more urban studies, etc.

Heresy study

None

Community Development/urban studies courses, etc

preaching the bible

The curriculum is robust and comprehensive.

There were no mentoring courses till just now. I wish I had been able to take one of those.

I would like to see a course regarding the relationship between Christianity and psychology. A good starting point is Johnson, Eric L., and Stanton L. Jones, eds. *Psychology & Christianity: Four Views*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. [1.] What is Psychology? [2.] Is Psychology a science? (Not in relation to the DSM. True science must agree with Scripture.) [a.] Compare "Alcohol Use Disorder" (DSM 5 pp. 490-497) with "being a drunkard" (Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-9; 1 Peter 4:1-5). [b.] Compare "General Personality Disorder: Criteria A" as a marked deviation from cultural expectations (DSM 5, p. 646) with "Christians being counter-cultural" (John 14:6; John 15:17-21; John 16:2; John 17:14-17; 1 Peter 4:1-5). [c.] Compare "General Personality Disorder: All Criteria (DSM 5, pp. 646-647) with "Christian persecution" as experienced by Kim Davis, the clerk of court of Rowan County, Kentucky who was jailed September 2015 for refusing to issue marriage licenses to homosexuals. It could be argued that Davis matches the DSM 5 criteria, yet Scripture is consistent on its view of homosexuality as a spiritual and moral issue (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:21-24; Genesis 19:5-13; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Matthew 19:4-5; Romans 1:23-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; Jude 1:7). [d.] Compare "Gender Dysphoria" (DSM 5 pp. 451-460) with "God creating humanity as

male and female” (Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 22:5; 1 Corinthians 14:33) and the possible role of demonic influences in bringing confusion (Genesis 3:1; 1 Kings 22:19-22; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9). [e.] Compare the treatment of “mental” disorders through pharmacological intervention that affects the human brain with the Christian perspective of the “mind/body problem” which was covered in PHIL5300 Philosophy of Religion. [3.] Is Psychology a science? (Likely yes in relation to the secular use of story in media such as movies, television, and music.) Compare the secular use of story with Scripture as it relates historical events in story form in order to teach spiritual lessons (1 Corinthians 10:1-11; 2 Peter 2:5-8). It is my belief that all stories teach moral lessons even when a moral is not explicitly stated. It is my belief that the secular culture has a better understanding of this than the church in general does and uses it to profoundly alter cultural perspectives on morality without the church being aware of it. Further, I believe that the church places itself in grave danger when it uncritically attempts to integrate secular theories of psychology and secular theories of teaching into its practices. The types of transformation which secular theories of teaching address are not the same type of transformation that spiritual sanctification brings to the believer through the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of Scripture in the context of a community of faith. God has given the ministry of the care of souls to His Church. We need to stop ceding this trust to non-believers. {Interestingly, in writing this I wonder whether this might make a good doctoral thesis. While I am unable to pursue such a degree as this time for several reasons, including financial limitations, the option of a self-published book is intriguing.}

Outreach and Evangelism

More Church and pastoral leadership classes

Number of daily responses

