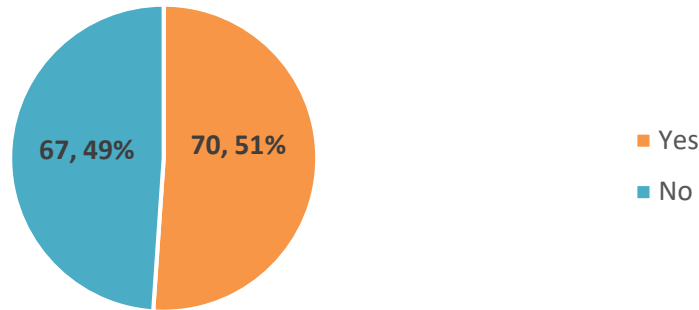


Degree Program Survey Summary

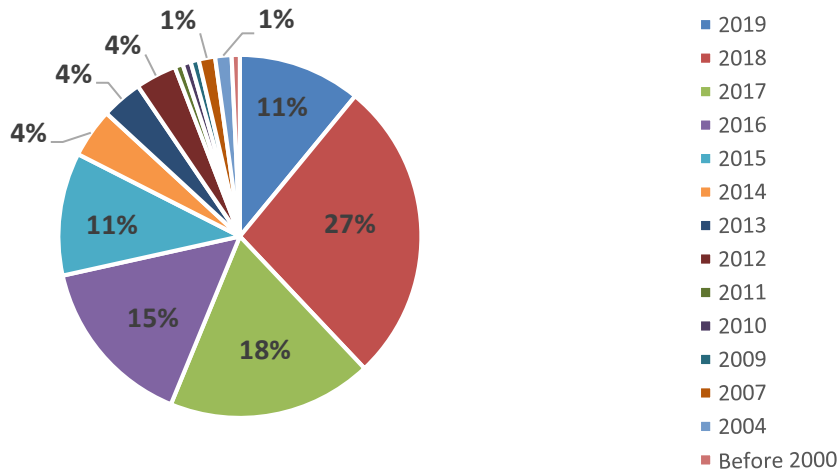
Spring 2021

137 responses

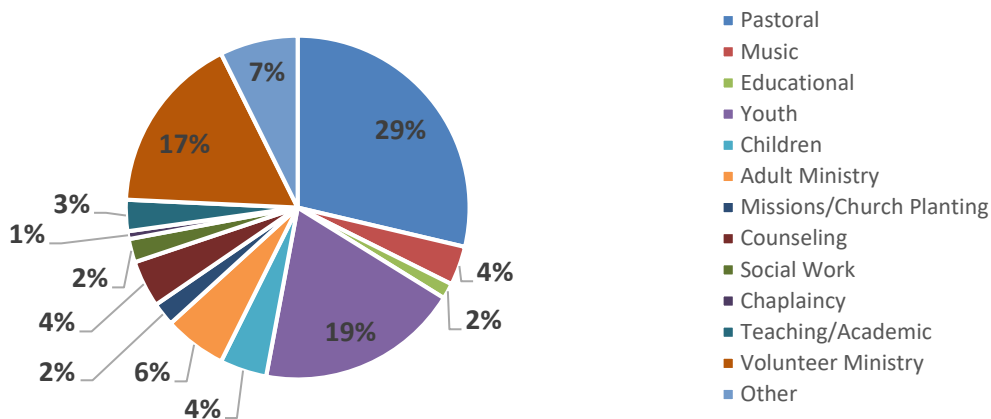
Have you studied towards an MDiv at NOBTS?



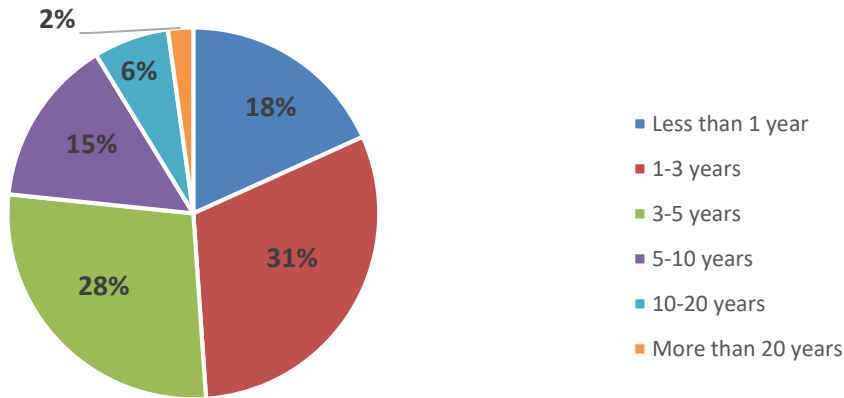
When did you begin study at NOBTS?



Please describe your current ministry service?

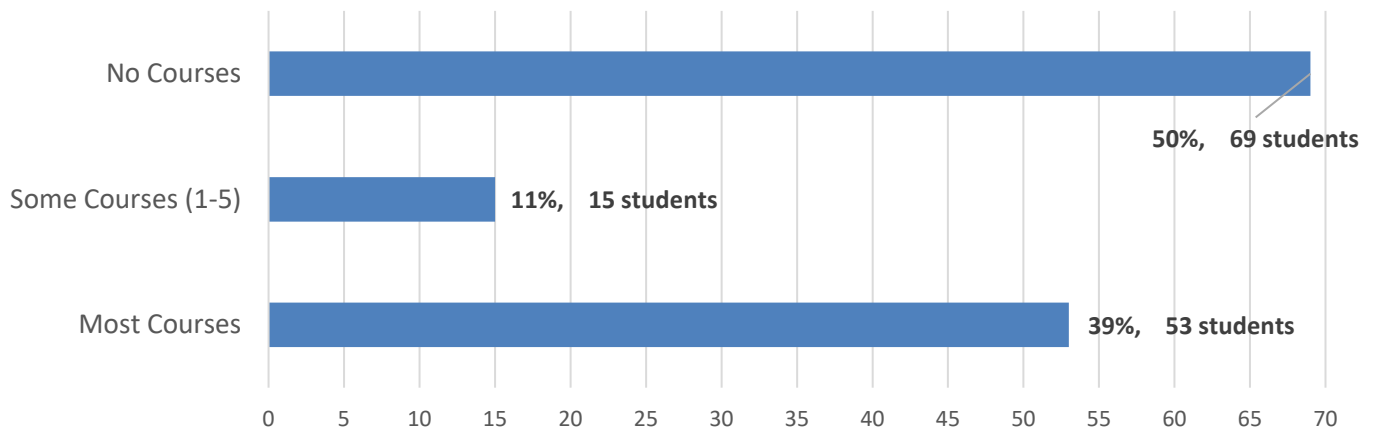


How many years have you served in your current ministry role?

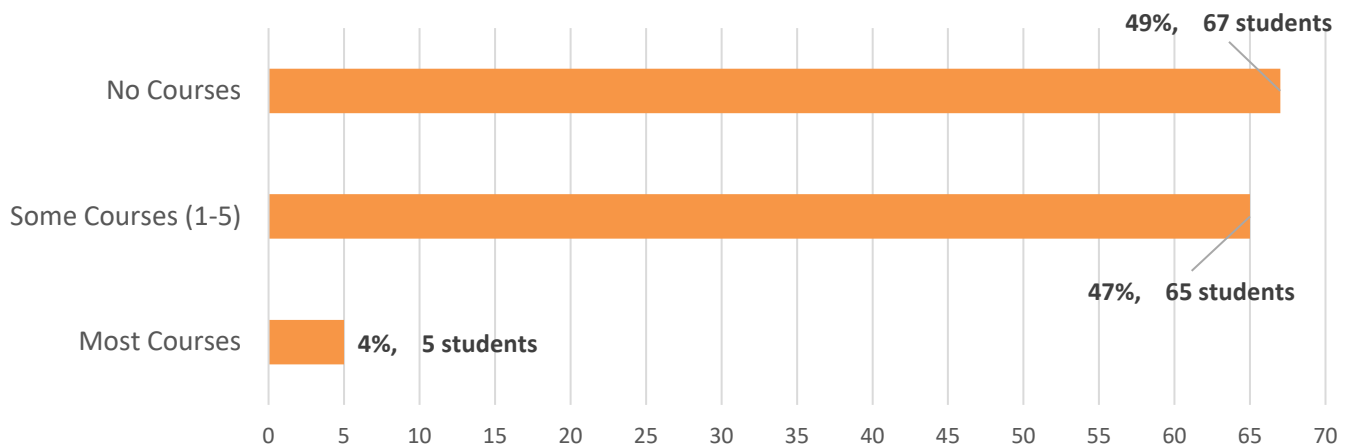


Delivery Systems

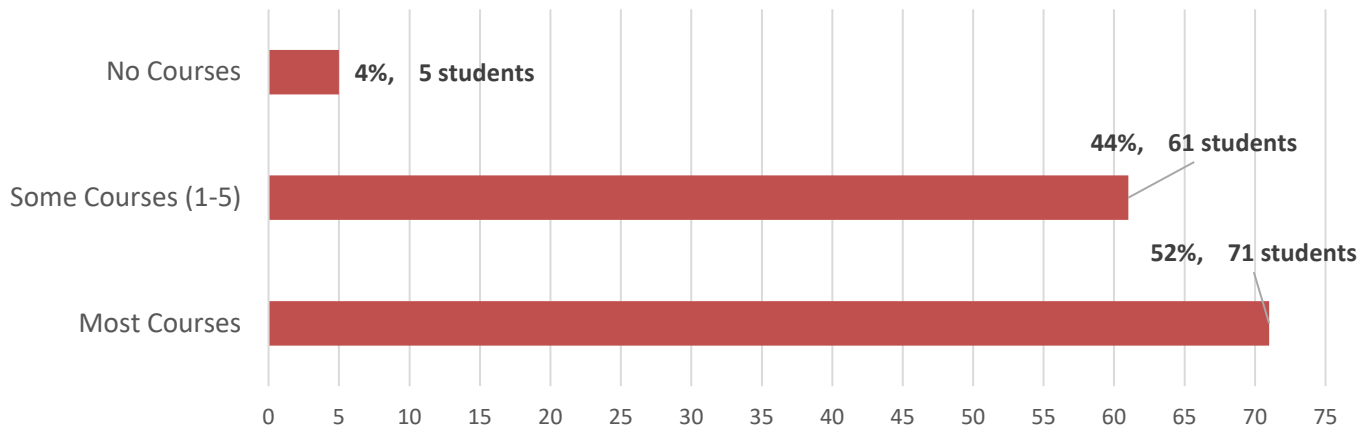
NOBTS Regular Classroom Courses



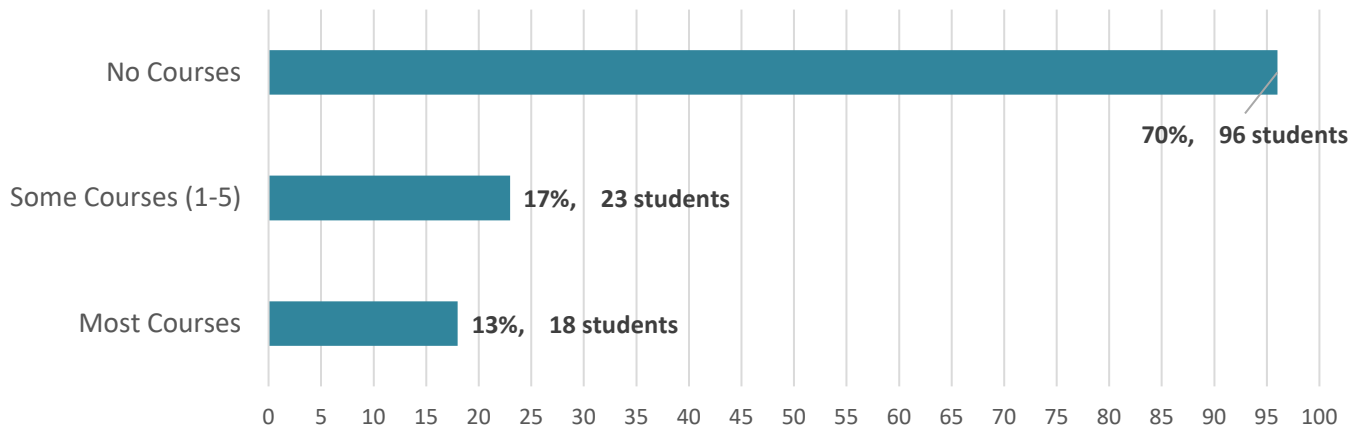
Hybrid Courses on NOBTS Campus



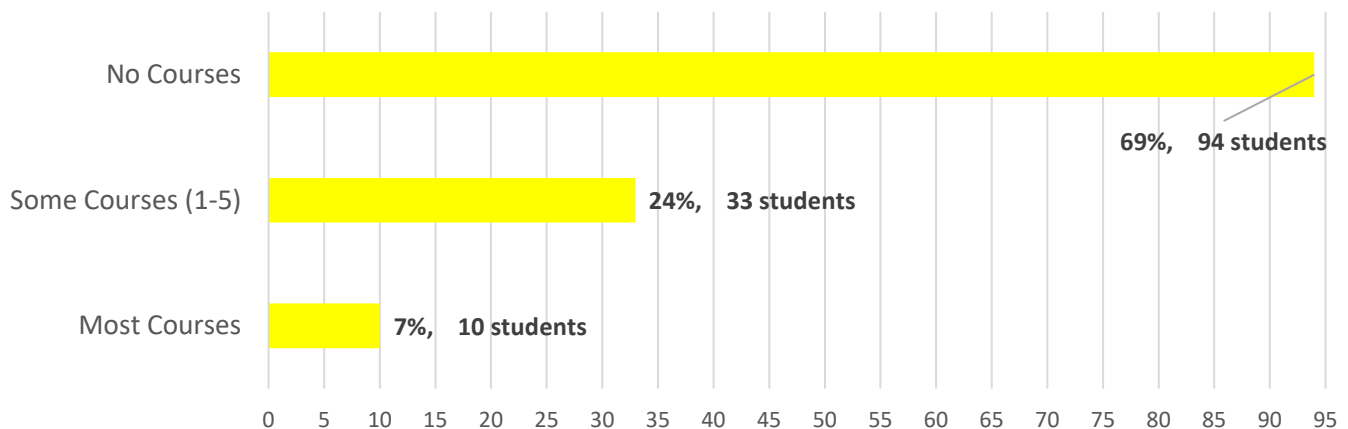
Internet Courses



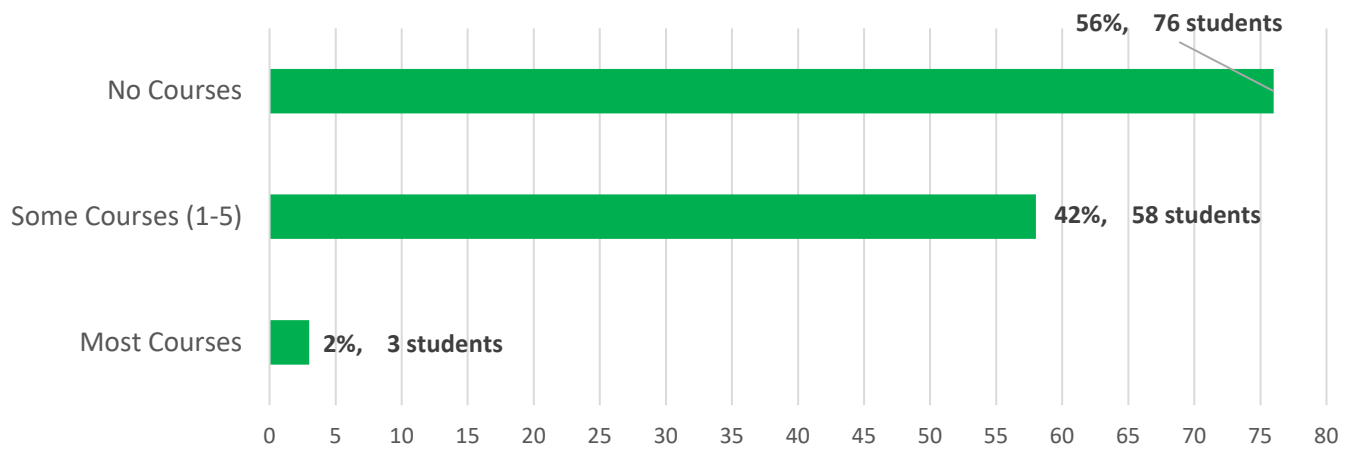
Extension Center Courses with a Local Professor



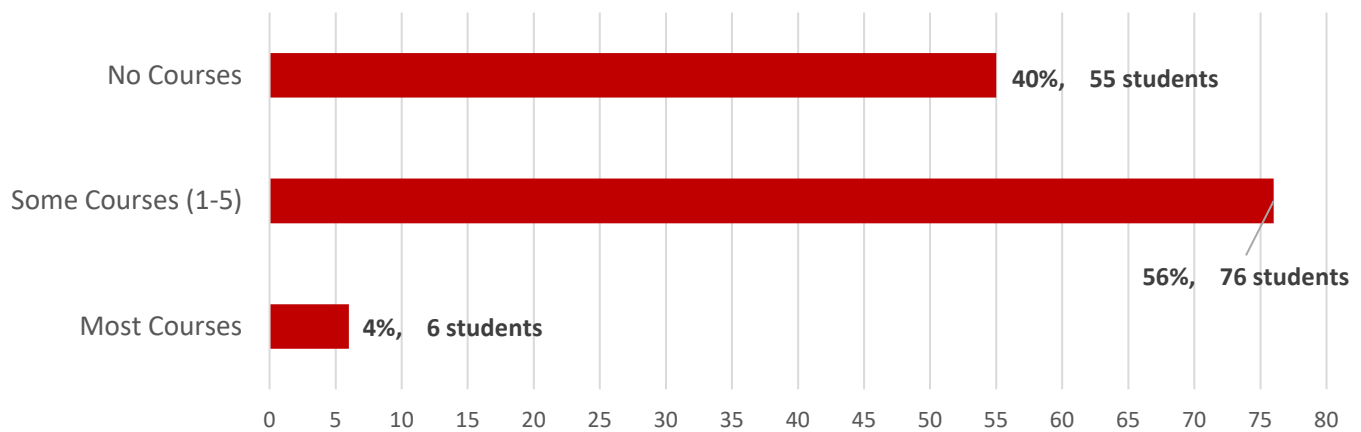
Extension Center Courses Taught by CIV



Workshop Courses

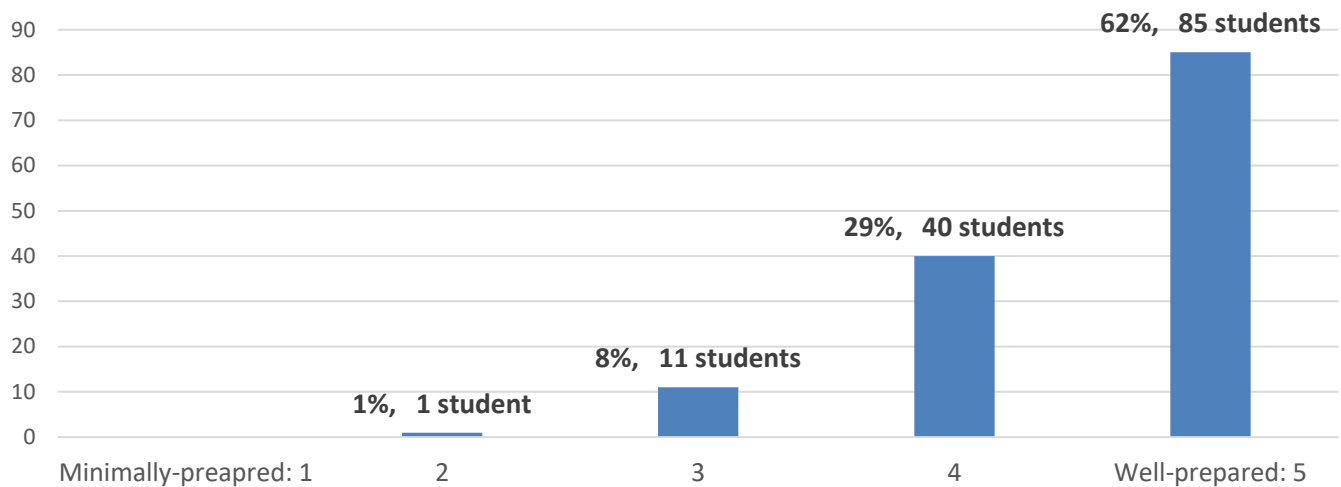


Mentoring Courses

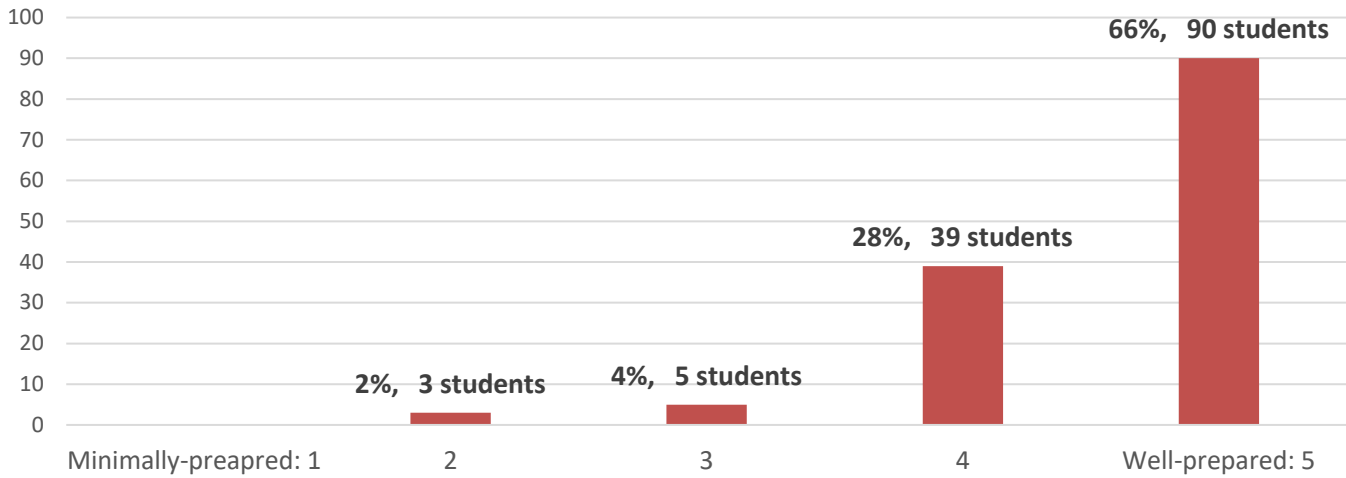


Core Competencies

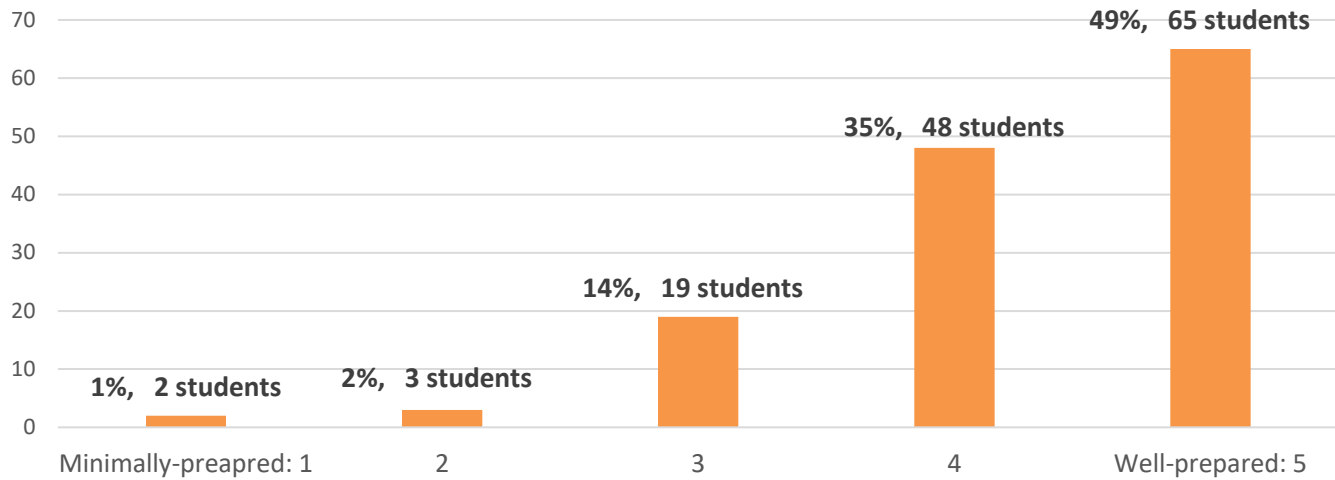
In your ministry context, how well do you feel NOBTS prepared you to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church?



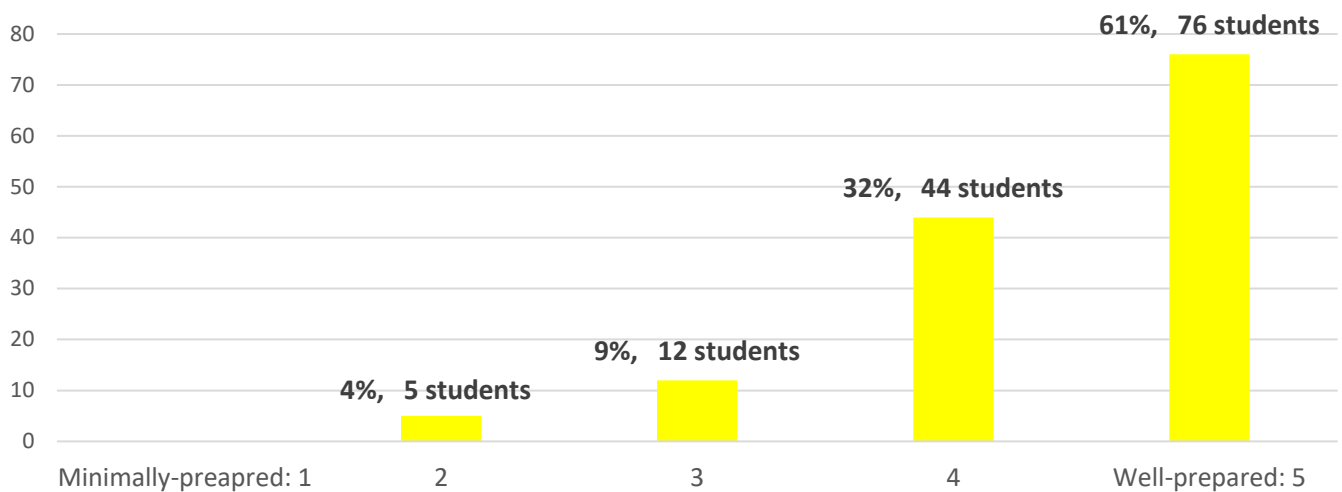
Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately



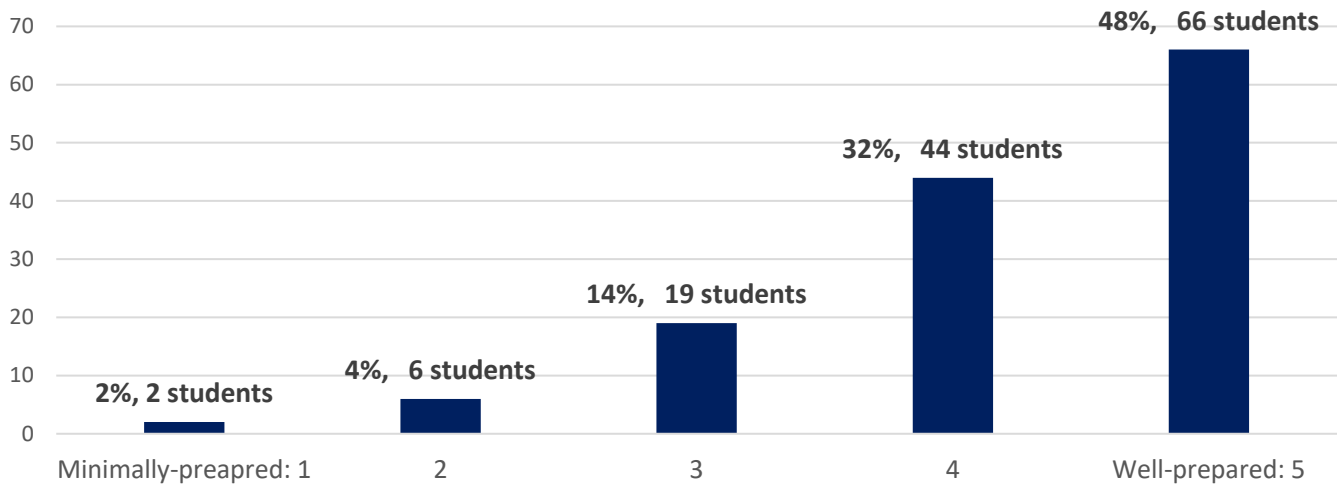
Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.



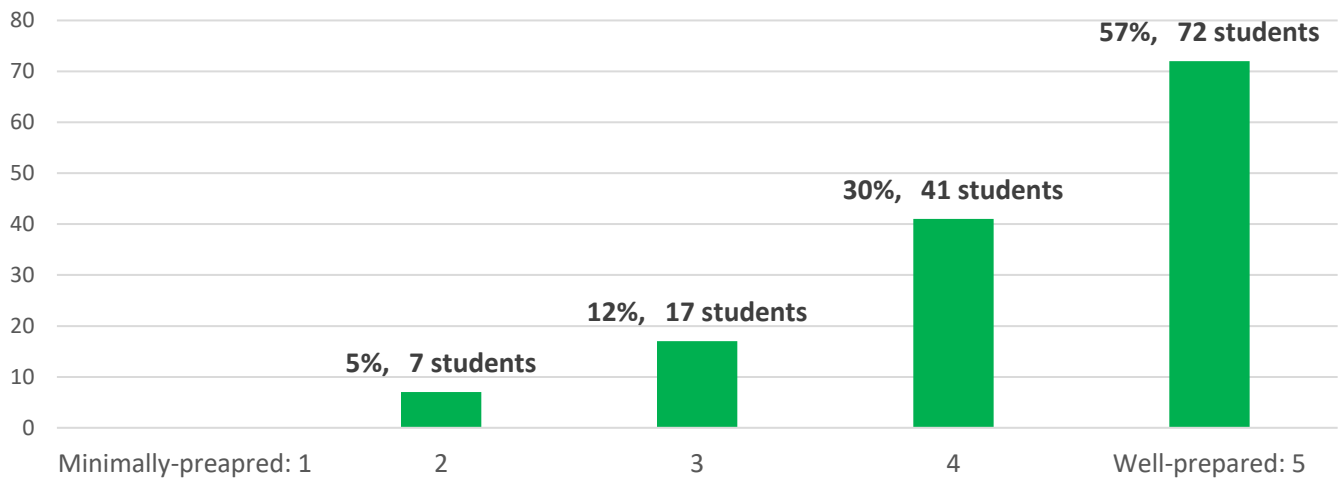
Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.



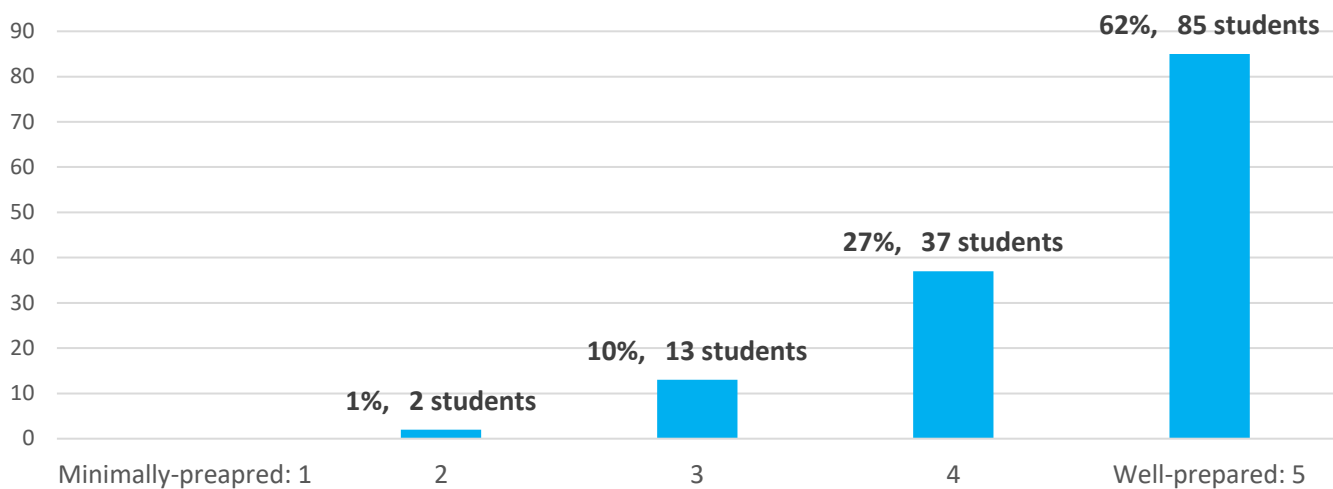
Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.



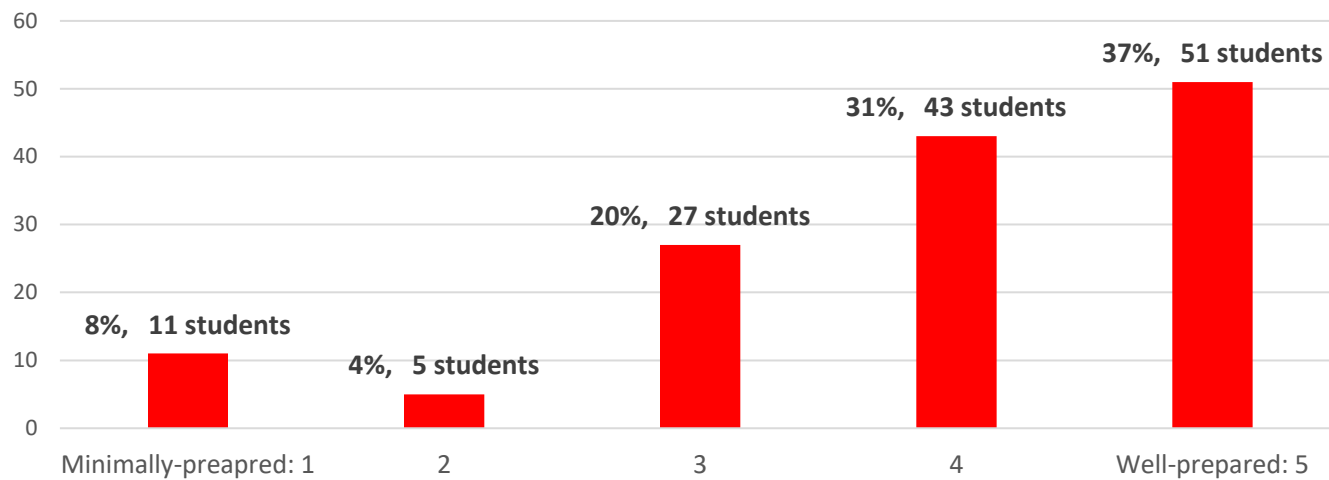
Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.



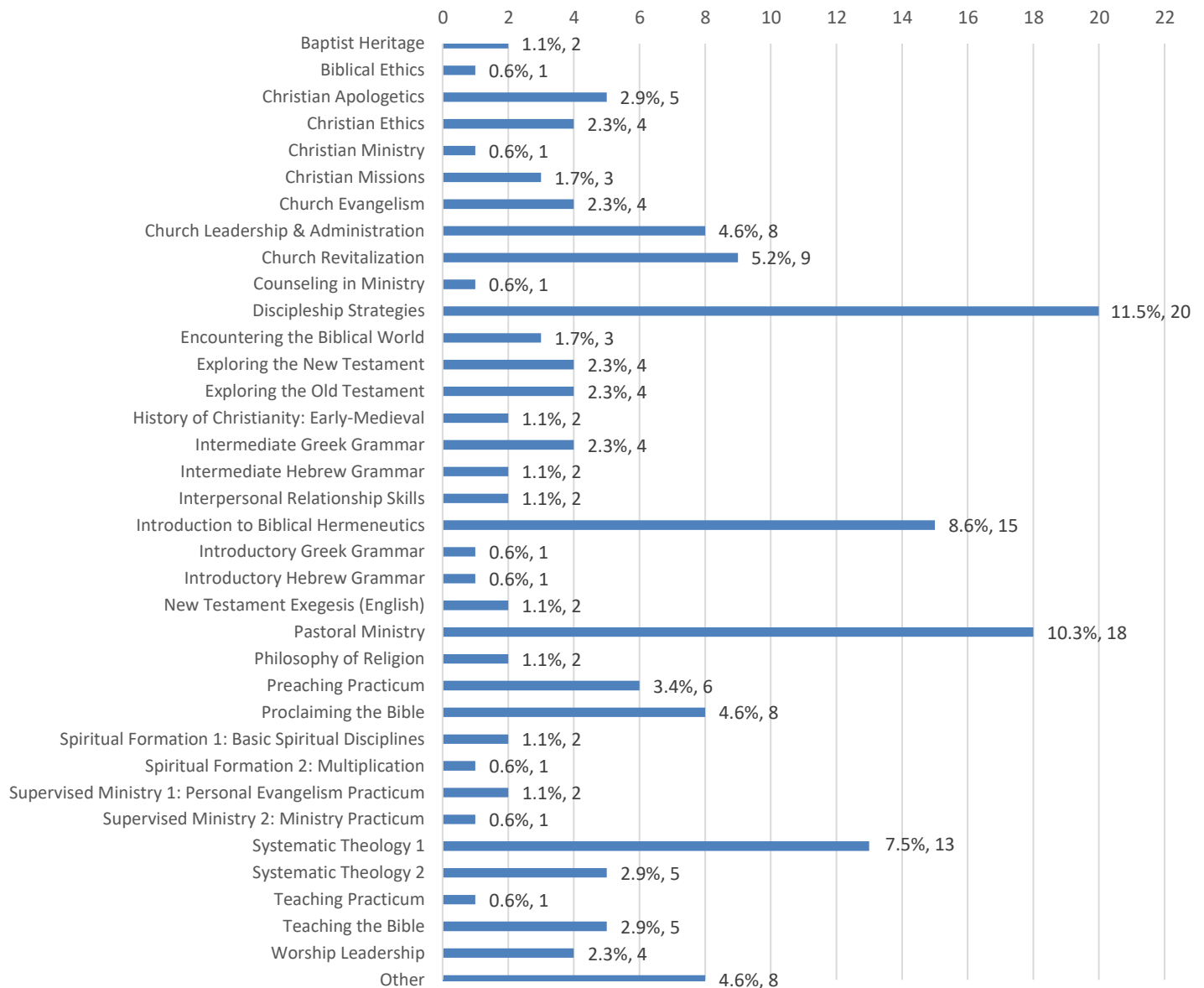
Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.



Worship Leadership: to facilitate worship effectively.



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

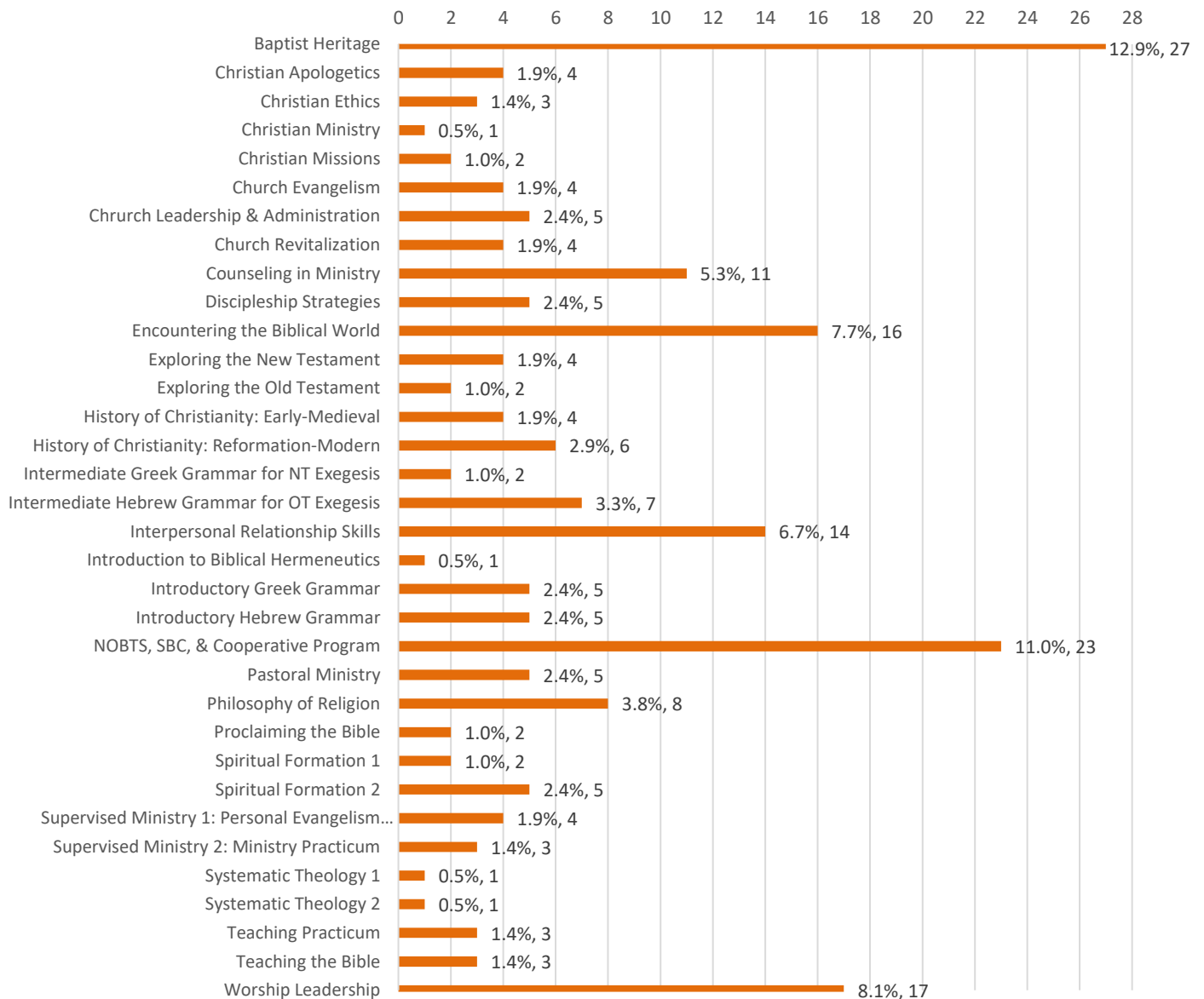


Comments:

- While I plan on going into counseling full-time after graduation, these courses were extremely helpful to me in my student ministry job.
- More defined chaplaincy courses are needed to prepare students for Clinical Pastoral Education
- All three of these courses changed how I viewed the Bible/how I conveyed the ideas within it to others.
- I thoroughly enjoyed all of the classes and benefitted from them all in some way.
- "Church Revitalization was, by far, one of my favorite courses I took in my Mdiv program. It was extremely practical, the course content was relatable, and the projects/papers had direct application in my current ministry context.
- Additionally, I am extremely grateful for NOBTS offering courses through the mentoring format. This has lead to a great relationship with my Senior Pastor and allowed a great level of practical application (with most of my degree being in the online format) in my current ministry context."

- Preaching practicum worked out remarkably well for me, as a student who took the course online.
- n/a
- Dr Aernie in new testament was superb, is he ok did not see him for other classes, Dr Pinkcard and Edens and Taylor all top notch and Dr Warner in the old, but let us not forget the prayerful approach of some other awesome professors, Dr England, Dr Kendrick Dr Rice all prayer warriors that take prayer very serious and rightly so
- I am grateful to have been able to attend NOBTS and to have enhanced my knowledge on God and the Bible. The biblical courses towards my degree have been beneficial to my character. I feel as if I am becoming well rounded in understanding the concept of the Bible. There is always room for growth however, many courses have equipped me to be confident in sharing God's Word.
- My electives were instrumental as well, such as Work of the Minister of Youth, Contemporary Mission Methods/Movements, and Principles of Church Planting.
- Have loved my Missions courses!
- I believe all three of these classes have prepared me well for the ministry context I will be returning to in Hawaii. The professors were outstanding and the course content was essential preparation for me.
- I enjoyed the ability to choose all of my electives with the Flexibility Track. I thoroughly enjoyed being able to take classes such as Preaching the Prophets, Church Planting, and The History of Persecution and Martyrdom.
- If a forth option, counseling in ministry

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



Comments:

- Teaching the Bible, while it could have been helpful, was not well taught. The professor was not always very well prepared, the student teacher and the professor disagreed on many topics (causing much confusion), and instructions and critiques on assignments and homework were never clear. I think this class had the potential to help me immensely, but I had a bad experience.
- These courses weren't bad, just not as helpful as the others to my personal ministry.
- In my personal opinion, all three of these classes could have been combined into one course.
- All of my courses have helped me greatly.
- My answers are not to say that I did not enjoy the courses; rather, as I examine my current ministry context, these three courses least apply towards this answer.

- Among the three items I selected, two were online summer courses in which I probably would have made better grades had I taken them for a full 15-week semester. As for Hebrew, I do not understand why NOBTS emphasized studying the Critical Apparatus rather than mastering translation. The Critical Apparatus is what caused my grade to go down, and I had no motivation to study it more because I could not see the purpose of learning it.
- n/a
- 38 listed classes really not qualified to weigh in you may be wiser in simply having students weigh in on their own classes as many core classes will skew the numbers if simply gauging numbers not to mention who really wants to focus on the negative so I checked classes I did not take as apparently did not see their need in getting to this point
- These courses have been beneficial. I chose them to be the least to have equipped me to fulfill my calling because of the structure of the courses. The research component of the courses played a huge roll in knowing how to gather information. However, the major challenge was learning how professors wanted papers.
- I did not take these classes
- Enjoyed and benefited from most all.
- Only selected Spiritual Form 2 because it required 3 courses
- I certainly don't feel like any class was a waste of time, and all of them played a vital role in preparing me for ministry.
- I want to be clear that the subjects are not why I said they haven't prepared me. I think that the content and way the courses were run didn't help me AS MUCH. I coming from a worship leadership background and I was excited for the class but I find it difficult to believe that Worship Leadership had more work to do than my Exploring the New Testament class. Encountering the Biblical world felt like I was coming to class to watch a slide show. I thought we were going to dive into some things we read in Scripture and go through those things as how they applied contextually in the biblical world. Baptist Heritage was not a bad class, I just felt that going into the ministry context I'll be in, it didn't add to my ministry preparation. Again, I understand why we have it, but I'm also honest about how I feel and evaluate things.
- "Philosophy of Religion was perhaps too difficult in the online format. The material that many of the large papers were based on was very complex and was not always thoroughly explained. My background as a undergrad Philosophy of Religion major helped me a lot, but it was still very difficult. The application portions of the assignments were great but many of the academic/philosophical issues found in the book were very complex and were not as applicable to ministry.
- Worship Leadership maybe would have been better suited to challenge us to think about other worship styles within the protestant/evangelical/Baptist context. We discussed at high volume mainline/ecumenical practices, which for review is helpful, but practically we should have discussed more worship leadership within our Baptist context. Contemporary music in books was primarily associated with charismatic music, which is not always a fair association, while formal worship was often related to mainline denominations, but southern formal is drastically different. More nuance and applicability in the class would have been appreciated.
- I thoroughly enjoyed taking my spiritual formation classes, but in both of them I learned spiritual disciplines. My second spiritual formation class was more focused upon disciplines and how they were related to my personal walk with God, which was greatly appreciated, but multiplication was not much discussed. "
- Worship Leadership did not meet my expectations.

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

- Counseling
- Death, Loss, and Grief
- Dealing with grief
- logic
- I wish I had taken more Biblical Studies courses; specifically Eschatology (I think in the OT)
- Archeology - with a trip to Israel
- A Worldview comparison course would have been welcomed. I wish I would have taken more mentoring courses. They were very practical and built relationships that would not have existed otherwise.
- Church Revitalization
- Word of God and Islam
- Christian Apologetics
- Church Finance
- I wish that the M.Div. counseling program had more room for electives - I would have liked to take more therapy model classes
- Hebrew
- History from Beginning to Reformation with an emphasis on pastoral care would benefited me.
- I do not know of any courses that I wished I had taken that I did not
- I would have liked to have taken more courses related to Christian Ethics
- More hands-on mission trips with classes combined.
- I don't know.
- More pastoral training classes
- Cult Theology
- More Theology Courses
- Advanced NT Greek & Exegesis
- More Leadership
- Hebrews
- Apologetics
- Proclaiming the Bible
- More theology classes
- Discipleship Strategies
- Greek
- Exegetical Hebrew
- Worship Leadership
- Doctrine of Prayer
- Teaching Education, World religious studies class
- "I wish more courses would have been offered around ministry leadership. Having the privilege of serving in a ministry context throughout my Seminary career has allowed me to see that many students/graduates, who are new to ministry, have great concepts, but few know how to apply them within the local Church (i.e., developing/casting vision, managing conflict, creating a sense of urgency, communicating Biblical truths in a relative way that applies to people's lives, etc.,).
- To be clear: leadership was addressed throughout the program; in particular, I thoroughly enjoyed the Church Leadership and Administration course. However, from my personal experience and interaction, more classes like this could greatly benefit students."

- BBHG6355 History and Geography of Ancient Israel; and BBJD5301 Introduction to Judaism; these two courses should be required MDiv courses.
- Theological Method
- Leadership Development; Exegesis Classes of Books of the Bible
- Christian Apologetics
- Had I known at the onset that there was a supervised ministry 1 in the form of going out and witnessing hands down this would have been the route I would have went, love Dr Rice but to go out and do class appeals and the missions class was no exception to that thinking as I found out in late march with Dr Taylor and Dr Edens.
- More leadership or admin courses
- Philosophy of religion
- Teaching the Bible
- Youth Ministry
- Biblical Archaeology
- Anything related to current events or trends, like feminist theology.
- Leadership, Greek
- Discipleship Strategies
- Intro Greek and Hebrew
- Counseling in Ministry
- More Biblical Languages
- More Preaching Classes
- other theology courses
- I wish NOBTS offered biblical theology (at least an introduction) and I wish there would have been more English exposition and more history and theology.
- New Testament Exegesis
- More apologetics type courses
- Wish I could have taken more discipleship courses
- I wish I would have taken the second History of Christianity Reformation to Present.
- Church Revitalization
- N/A
- I wish I could take more classes on hermeneutics.
- Hebrew
- Teaching the Bible
- Systematic Theology 2
- Pastoral Leadership
- servant leadership
- More Spiritual Formation courses
- I wish I didn't use electives on the mentoring track for Gospel Ministry, and instead took more Discipleship and Preaching classes.
- New Testament Exegesis and Death, Loss, and Grief
- A counseling course beyond the required class.
- Christian Apologetics

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?

- Personal Finance
- Reaching the Next Generation Evangelism Course centered on specifically reaching 18-35 year olds (apologize if sort of course is existent)
- How to handle conflict
- N/A
- I think a course should be offered on Prayer in the life of a pastor. I know it was addressed in spiritual formation and pastoral ministry, but it seems only briefly. I feel like it would be more helpful if more thoroughly examined and emphasized.
- More pastoral counseling courses
- A focused approach to raising up leaders to send them out. It has taken a lot of time to learn how to send out rather than just build up. I would have welcomed a course about sending leaders outside the walls of the church.
- Managing a Church Budget
- a class that encompasses all world religions and how to minister to/reach those people
- not sure
- None
- I think more classes on things like production, online ministry, etc. could be helpful!
- No suggestion at this point
- A chaplaincy course that focuses on crisis counseling, Clinical Pastoral Education process, board certification (chaplaincy), and maximize verbatims with emotional and theological processing would help prepare students for the next phase of chaplaincy beyond seminary.
- (This might be offered, but I never saw it) I would have liked to take a contemporary philosophy/ethics class in which very current issues were explored.
- More courses are needed on interpersonal skills and conflict resolution within the church
- "More external study trips with classes combined.
- More night classes for people who work full-time.
- More interdisciplinary courses that combine two subjects.
- A combined Pastoral Ministry/Interpersonal Relationship Skills/Church Leadership course."
- Something more on developing and implementing discipleship strategies. Discipleship Strategies has been helpful, but possible training in a discipleship program like replicate ministries.
- More mentoring classes through healthy pastors and churches in the city.
- Biblical Sexual Ethics: While this is covered in ethics courses, I believe a whole class would be helpful as it relates to sexual integrity within the church and how to deal with sexual ethics applied in ministry contexts. I believe the issues can be very blurry and too often I find that a number of seminary students have leaned away from a biblical view concerning homosexuality and transgenderism. This would equip students to deal with a strong cultural voice from a time of forming a biblical position.
- Conflict Resolution and Change within Congregations
- Jewish studies
- Spanish (Bilingual pastors are needed)
- An Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) - type certifying course
- Small church ministry/Growing small churches
- Urban apologetics
- None

- Something for networking and working together between churches in a community.
- Discipleship in Urban contexts
- Classes to help an Executive Pastor
- Hymnology
- Black Church Studies AND Women in Ministry
- Discipleship action
- "Any/all classes on discipleship and spiritual formation (i.e., how to lead in a way that produced change/Christlikeness in the lives of people within the local Church) would be beneficial.
- Rightly so, the spiritual formation courses in the MDiv focused on the student; other course/study offerings on how to lead those in the local Church can be of great value."
- Non-"expository" methods of preaching
- Cults and heresies of today's culture. What are the differences and how to explain to someone why they are wrong.
- Leadership In Unchartered Territories - Referring to Todd Bolsinger's book "Canoeing the Mountains"
- I think there should be a class (or classes) for church media directors.
- Well I would offer this right here and now, lets set up something were a person can come for a semester to the church here and have and learn all the real stuff in person. Hospital visits, funerals, weddings, witnessing, spiritual formation. So like have a credit package of say Spiritual formation, supervised ministry, church evangelism, worship leadership, pastoral ministry this would be 12 credits they live right here for the term, I get another say four churches first baptist, new harmony baptist, faxon baptist and ramble creek baptist and we house them right here to live breath and do church along with the work of the school books, books are helpful but first-hand experience is hard to beat. Many students need to be in the actual pulpit and making actual decisions to help them grow outside of the classroom Maybe a limit of 10 men total as needs to have as much direct one on one in all aspects of ministry. But think something like this may be something receptive to anyone who is signing up for pastoral ministry MA as these are all required anyway and they would be a third of the way there if passed all the classes. This would also help set a standard for students to be a bit more aggressive in signing up for a package of classes. This would help the student into the ministry field sooner and would help the school also in higher credits taken. Think about each time a student was out hands involved those are some of the best experiences to be had in our own lives regardless of where or what we have been and do. I am rambling a bit now but excited that you may consider it and when you do math on it makes business sense.
- Staff leadership
- Background in biblical studies
- Conflict Resolution
- A logistical class for student and children ministers about how to work calendar and budgets
- Business (Executive Pastor)
- Something more practical/applicable for specific ministries, rather than just general supervised ministry.
- Emotional Intelligence, Personal Discipleship
- I think the union of local churches needs to be strengthened. It would be helpful to have joint worship retreat events by region.
- More extensive missions classes for people going through the process to go overseas.
- Biblical Theology
- Conflict Resolution
- I really can't think of anything
- ??

- NOBTS doesn't necessarily need to add many new courses; you just need to overhaul many of the ones that you already have.
- Being a 1st Century Church in a 21st Century World (Adapting without Compromise)
- Classes that speak to more practical issues facing the modern church today: Spiritual formation and the connection between children's youth college and adult ministry, LGBT ministry, how politics are affecting the local church today, etc.
- The transition from being a youth pastor to being a senior pastor
- A course on the external views of the Baptist church and weighing the legitimacy of those views.
- Biblical idea to church finances and giving
- More classes that focus on one specific spiritual discipline
- Biblical Theology
- n/a
- Parable of Jesus
- Business Admin Courses
- Ecclesiology
- senior ministries
- A course on the difficulties in Pastoral Ministry.
- I think that Church Leadership and Administration needs to be two different classes. The importance of both is too big to lump them together. We need more leadership classes and more classes on the practical tasks of church administration. I'd also like to see more opportunities for internship credit or studying abroad.
- A Class that challenges students to seek out and develop God's Call on their life. That gives practical steps and direction towards one's future. Spiritual gifts and passions would be analyzed along with a shared spectrum of ministries. The class would also discuss practical issues such as the interview process and ministry transitions.
- A practical class of a foreign language, i.e., Spanish. We need to get with the times.
- Pastoral Management class