

Assessment Grid for Masters of Arts (Biblical Studies)
Term Assessed: Spring 2023-Fall 2024

Assessment Team: Drs. Charlie Ray III, Cory Barnes, and Terry Iles

Student Learning Objective 1: Students will demonstrate their understanding and ability to interpret and communicate accurately biblical, theological, and historical truth.

ATS Standard 4.8

Alignment to Mission Statement: Proclamation

Measures	Prior Assessment	Current Assessment	Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark
<u>Direct Measure #1</u> Systematic Theology 1. This assignment was assessed using a rubric. Using the relevant chapters from your main text, as well as three to four other sources (books, essays, commentaries on Romans 1:18-32, etc), briefly explain your understanding of the doctrine of general revelation, highlighting the differences between general and special revelation. What impact does the doctrine of general revelation have on your understanding of missions and evangelism? Describe how the doctrine of general revelation can affect your communication of the Gospel.	Avg. 3.28 (60 students) Spring 21: 3.4 (10 students) Fall 21: 3.52 (18 students) Spring 22: 3.17 (6 students) Fall 22: 2.98 (16 students) Spring 23: 3.30 (10 students) <u>Reflections</u> With the exception of 1 semester (Fall 22), each semester the students averaged over 3.0 (which is qualified as “good” results). The last 1.5 years of data were lower than the prior year, so while we are pleased with the 3.28 average, we do want to see this trend reversed. Data is limited for this measure due to a shift in embedded assignments	Avg. 3.26 Spring 2023: 3.3 NOLA: 3.05 Hybrid: 3.89 Fall 2023: 2.79 NOLA: 2.68 Extension Center: 2.9 Online: 2.8 Spring 2024: 3.48 NOLA: 3.8 Online: 3.16 Summer 2024: 3.36 Online: 3.36 Fall 2024: 3.37 NOLA: 3.56	<u>Recommendations:</u> New benchmark: 3.28 We feel that this is a good benchmark moving forward. 3.28 represents good results on this assignment, so we are recommending no changes here.

	used in this course.	Extension Center: 3.3 Online: 3.24 <u>Reflections</u> We fell 0.02 short of the benchmark, but this was due to the lower scores in the fall of 2023. Every other semester exceeded this score.	
<u>Direct measure #2</u> Summative Assignment Rubric Metric #1 The student demonstrated the ability to understand the field of biblical studies.	Spring 2020: 3.0 (1 student) Fall 2020: 3.0 (5 students) Spring 2021: 2.0 (1 student) Fall 2021: 1.5 (2 students) Spring 2022: 4.0 (1 student) Fall 2022: 2.5 (2 students) PhD: 2.5 (8 students) R&W: 3.0 (4 students) Thesis: 3.0 (1 student) Avg.: 2.69 (12 students)	Spring 2023: 4.0 (1 student) Fall 2024: 3.0 (4 students) Spring 2024: 4.0 (1 student) PhD: 4.0 (1 student) R&W: 2.75 (4 students) Thesis: 3.0 (1 students)* Average: 3.33 (6 students) <u>Reflections</u> We have much more limited data,	<u>Recommendations</u> New benchmark: 2.75 Based on the prior assessment, we adapted the course Encountering the Biblical World to help students better understand the field

	<u>Reflections</u> This score was the lowest of the 3 scores taken from the students' summative assessments. We also noticed that students who took the PhD seminar as their summative assessment scored the lowest here.	with half the number of graduates from the prior cycle (which included 3 extra terms). The scores for the research and writing class held steady, but we still had some students take a PhD seminar and do a thesis under the old curriculum.	of biblical studies. We only offer this class every 2 years, so this change will take time to be reflected in these results. We recommend no change here, but we will continue to monitor these scores.
<u>Indirect measure #1</u> Exit Interview Question 1 To what extent have you grown in your understanding of biblical, theological, and historical truth? How? (0-4 scale)	4.0 (10 students) <u>Reflections</u> All students who took the exit interview gave a rating of 4 out of 4 on this question.	3.25 (4 students) <u>Reflections</u> This represents limited data. We only received responses from 4 out of 6 students, despite repeated contact. 3 students rated this a 4 and one student rated it a 3.	<u>Recommendations</u> New benchmark: 3.5 We think that 3.5 is a realistic benchmark for this measure. We have not been sending out this exit interview until after graduation. We will begin to send this out before graduation in order to help raise the response rate.

<u>Indirect measure #2</u> Systematic Theology 1 Course Evaluation Questions (1-5 scale) ● 2- The content of this course expanded my knowledge and skills in this area of study. ● 6- I can take things I learned in this course and apply them to my ministry situation. ● 7- The assignments in this course were appropriate and helped me learn the subject matter.	Avg. #2: 4.77 Spring 2020: 4.8 Fall 2020: 4.8 Spring 2021: 4.7 Fall 2021: 4.8 Spring 2022: 4.8 Fall 2022: 4.7 Avg. #6: 4.67 Spring 2020: 4.7 Fall 2020: 4.6 Spring 2021: 4.6 Fall 2021: 4.7 Spring 2022: 4.7 Fall 2022: 4.7 Avg. #7: 4.72 Spring 2020: 4.8 Fall 2020: 4.7 Spring 2021: 4.7 Fall 2021: 4.8 Spring 2022: 4.6	Avg. #2: 4.85 Spring 2023: 4.9 Hybrid: 5.0 In-person: 4.7 Fall 2023: 4.9 Online: 4.8 In-person: 4.8 Clinton: 5.0 Spring 2024: 4.9 Online: 4.9 In-person: 4.8 Fall 2024: 4.8 Online: 4.75 In-person: 5.0 Avg. #6: 4.8 Spring 2023: 4.9 Fall 2023: 4.8 Spring 2024: 4.9 Fall 2024: 4.8 Avg. #7: 4.7 Spring 2023: 4.5 Fall 2023: 4.7 Spring 2024: 4.9 Fall 2024: 4.7	<u>Recommendations</u> This indirect measure covers one course, and includes non-MABS students. We think the other measures are sufficient, so we recommend dropping this.
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	Fall 2022: 4.7 <u>Reflections</u> We are pleased with these scores and feel that they represent broad student satisfaction in these areas since the majority of students rated each of these areas as either good (4) or excellent (5).	<u>Reflections</u> These scores are slightly higher than the last assessment period. We continue to see this as representative of broad student satisfaction with this course.	
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* The current MA (Biblical Studies) curriculum requires students to take the Biblical Studies Research and Writing Course. This change was made at the last assessment. Several students assessed here fell under the old curriculum, so they either took a PhD seminar or wrote a thesis. In the next assessment, all students will be assessed based on the Research and Writing Course.

Student Learning Objective 2: Students will demonstrate improved skills in research and writing in the field of biblical studies.

ATS Standard 4.8

Alignment to Mission Statement: Proclamation

Measures	Prior Assessment	Current Assessment	Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark
<u>Direct measure #1</u> Summative Assignment Rubric Metric #2 The student showed clear and logical argumentation in his or her ability to develop a thesis.	Spring 2020: 4.0 (1 student) Fall 2020: 2.6 (5 students) Spring 2021: 2.0 (1 student) Fall 2021: 2.0 (2 students) Spring 2022: 4.0 (1 student) Fall 2022: 3.0 (3 students) PhD: 2.63 (8 students) R&W: 2.75 (4 students) Thesis: 4.0 (1 student)* Avg. 2.77 (13 students) <u>Reflections</u> We again noticed that students who took the PhD seminar scored the lowest on this direct measure. Student comments on the exit interview also indicated a lack of emphasis in the curriculum on the development of a thesis and logical argumentation prior to the summative assignment.	Spring 2023: 3.0 (1 student) Fall 2024: 3.0 (4 students) Spring 2024: 3.0 (1 student) PhD: 3.0 (1 student) R&W: 3.0 (4 students) Thesis: 3.0 (1 students) Average: 3.0 (6 students) <u>Reflections</u> These scores represent an overall improvement from the last assessment. 3.0 on the rubric represents good work on the part of these students, though this is a lower sample size than the last assessment.	<u>Recommendations</u> New Benchmark: 3.0 In the prior assessment, we changed the curriculum to require students to take the research and writing course to produce their summative assignments. We have only had four students come through this new system. We recommend a benchmark of 3.0 and to continue to monitor these scores.

<u>Direct measure #2</u> Summative Assignment Rubric Metric #3 The student clearly communicated the results of his or her research in an understandable manner.	Spring 2020: 3.0 (1 student) Fall 2020: 3.0 (5 students) Spring 2021: 2.0 (1 student) Fall 2021: 2.5 (2 students) Spring 2022: 4.0 (1 student) Fall 2022: 3.33 (3 students) PhD: 2.88 (8 students) R&W: 3.25 (4 students) Thesis: 3.0 (1 student)* Avg.: 3.00 (13 students) <u>Reflections</u> Once again, students who took the PhD seminar scored the lowest in this area, meaning that they scored lower than students who took the Biblical Studies Research and Writing course on all three areas of the Summative Assignment.	Spring 2023: 3.0 (1 student) Fall 2024: 2.75 (4 students) Spring 2024: 4.0 (1 student) PhD: 3.0 (1 student) R&W: 3.0 (4 students) Thesis: 3.0 (1 students) Average: 3.0 (6 students) <u>Reflections</u> Here, the scores for the Research and Writing class were lower than the last assessment, but still in line with the other two options.	<u>Recommendations</u> New benchmark: 3.0 We are still waiting for data based on the curriculum changes we made. We have only seen four students come through the new system We think a benchmark of 3.0 represents good work for our students.
<u>Indirect Measure #1</u> Exit Interview Question 3 To what extent have you improved in your research and writing skills? How? (0-4 scale)	4.0 (10 students) <u>Reflections</u> All students who took the exit interview gave a rating of 4 out of 4 on this question.	Avg.: 2.75 (4 students assessed) <u>Reflections</u> Of the 4 students who completed the assessment, two rated it as a 4, one rated it as a 3, and one rated it as a 0, albeit without any feedback.	<u>Recommendations</u> New Benchmark: 3.5 Based on limited data, and the one outlier student, we think a 3.5 benchmark is reasonable moving

			forward.
<u>Indirect Measure #2</u> Course Evaluations (OTHB6351; NTGK6351) 2- The content of this course expanded my knowledge and skills in this area of study. 7- The assignments in this course were appropriate and helped me learn the subject matter.	Avg. #2: 4.7 Fall 2022: 5.0 (OTHB6351 N.O.) Spring 2023: 4.8 (NTGK6351 N.O.) 5.0 (NTGK6351 online) 4.0 (OTHB6351 online) Avg. #7: 4.45 Fall 5.0 (OTHB6351 N.O.) Spring 2023: 4.8 (NTGK6351 N.O.) 5.0 (NTGK6351 online) 3.0 (OTHB6351 online) <u>Reflections</u> We noted that the online scores in	Avg. #2: 4.52 OTHB – 4.33 NTGK – 4.7 Spring 2023: OTHB – 4.0 NTGK – 4.8 (in-person) NTGK – 5.0 (online) Fall 2023: OTHB – 5.0 NTGK – 4.3 Fall 2024: OTHB – 5.0 NTGK – 4.9 Avg. #7: 4.5 OTHB – 4.3 NTGK – 4.7 Spring 2023: OTHB – 3.0 NTGK – 4.8 (in-person) NTGK – 5.0 (online) Fall 2023: OTHB – 5.0 NTGK – 4.5	<u>Recommendations</u> We selected these courses based on the prior MABS curriculum. Based on the new curriculum, we recommend using the course evaluations from BSSE6300 Biblical Studies Research and Writing. We believe these course evaluations will provide a better measure with more direct evidence from our students.

	this area are lower than the in-person scores.	Fall 2024: OTHB – 4.9 NTGK – 4.7 <u>Reflections</u> There was a slight drop in the overall averages here, but the scores continue to represent broad student satisfaction with these courses.	
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Student Learning Objective 3: Students will demonstrate personal and spiritual maturity.

ATS Standard 4.8

Alignment to Mission Statement: Servanthood and Devotion

Measures	Prior Assessment	Current Assessment	Action Plan Steps to Achieve the New Benchmark
<u>Direct measure #1</u> Discipleship and Spiritual Formation. This assignment was assessed using a rubric. Each student will create a creative and visual personal discipleship map that depicts spiritual formation and his/her discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity, spiritual disciplines, and relationships. The map should include a biblical foundation for spiritual formation, personal spiritual disciplines/devotional practices, and engagement in relationships through mentoring, and groups.	Fall 2022: 3.04 (6 students, N.O.) 3.14 (14 students, online) Avg. 3.11 (20 students) <u>Reflections</u> The data for these courses is very limited.	Spring 2023 3.36 (18 students, online) 3.00 (11 students, online) Fall 2023: 3.85 (6 students, hybrid) Summer 2024: 3.92 (14 students, MT) Fall 2024: 4.0 (5 students, in-person) Spring 2024: 3.84 (5 students, in-person) Avg. 3.66 (59 students) <u>Reflections</u> The scores jumped drastically in the fall of 2023 and remained significantly higher from that point on.	<u>Recommendations</u> New benchmark: 3.5 We think this is a good benchmark and a reasonable one to achieve from semester to semester

<u>Indirect measure #1</u> Exit Interview Question 2 To what extent have you grown spiritually and in moral integrity through your program? How?	Avg.: 3.9 (10 students) <u>Reflections</u> Of the 10 students who completed the exit interview, 9 rated this area as excellent, and 1 rated it as good.	2.75 (4 students assessed) <u>Reflections</u> Of the 4 students assessed, two rated this section as a 4, one rated it as a 2, and one rated it as a 1, albeit without any feedback.	<u>Recommendations</u> New benchmark: 3.5 Based on the last assessment, we began to discuss the incorporation of spiritual formation in our classes in at least one division meeting per semester. We will continue doing this moving forward. We think a 3.5 benchmark is a realistic benchmark moving forward.
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*Biblical Studies students were contacted multiple times to complete exit interview, including calls two separate phone calls. Last phone call attempt was 4/7/2025 and final email attempt was 5/29/2025.

Executive Summary

The Biblical Studies faculty voted to approve a new curriculum for the MA (Biblical Studies) on February 9, 2022. The new curriculum was subsequently approved by the faculty and the trustees for implementation in August of 2022. The current assessment is based on limited data after having made these changes. We are recommending a few minor changes to some of the indirect measures, but we do not feel the need to make more substantive changes at this point. We think the current assessment plan represents a good assessment model, and we will reevaluate things in two years to see if more substantive changes need to be made.