Open-Ended Responses
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Faculty

General commendation and appreciation

I liked best.... Teachers/profs. [Resp. 12]
I liked best.... The Old Testament faculty! [Resp. 20]
I liked best.... The quality of the Professors [Resp. 26]
I liked best.... the education I received from a great faculty. [Resp. 28]
I liked best.... the faculty [Resp. 49]
I liked best.... Faculty [Resp. 60]
I liked best.... the highly qualified professors. [Resp. 64]
I liked best.... The profs are awesome! [Resp. 66]
I liked best.... great profs [Resp. 70]
I liked best.... professors [Resp. 79]
I liked best.... Professors are great teachers. [Resp. 87]
I liked best.... the outstanding faculty. [Resp. 97]
I liked best.... Excellent faculty members who are very humble [Resp. 103]
I liked best.... The professors [Resp. 105]
I liked best.... The quality of the Faculty, its commitment to the Word of God. [Resp. 107]
I liked best.... the faculty [Resp. 141]
I liked best.... The professors [Resp. 160]
I liked best.... the professors and the opportunity to study the Word of God and ministry under them. [Resp. 217]
I liked best.... the men and women of God who teach and serve to help students better understand the Christian life. [Resp. 224]
I liked best.... The prof's [Resp. 236]
I liked best.... The professors. By far the backbone of the institution [Resp. 242]
I liked best.... the professors [Resp. 250]

Personalness, accessibility, flexibility

Kudos

I liked best.... the great faculty. Everyone is helpful and has the student's best interest at heart. [Resp. 1]
I liked best.... The professors demonstrate an authentic relationship with Christ and service to Him. Before I came, I expected them to be rigid and legalistic and found exactly the opposite. [Resp. 8]
I liked best.... the competency, humility, and loving ministry of the faculty and much of the staff. [Resp. 140]
I liked best.... the relationships I established with professors and peers. I found the professors to be warm and open to really getting to know me. These relationships proved vital throughout my Seminary experience. [Resp. 148]
I liked best.... The professionalism and availability of professors. Their profound knowledge of the Bible was honorable. I also enjoyed their encouragement having students think for themselves, defining their own theology. [Resp. 158]
I liked best.... The attitude and servant heart of a few faculty. [Resp. 164]
I liked best.... quality teachers [Resp. 166]
I liked best.... interacting with professors [Resp. 180]
I liked best.... The availability of the professors to talk individually with students. [Resp. 181]
I liked best.... The Professors were very personal and knowledgeable in their area. [Resp. 187]
I liked best.... the professors' willingness to have a 'relationship' with the student. The seminary is small enough for the faculty to relate better to the students. [Resp. 188]
I liked best.... The professor's taking such an interest in students lives. [Resp. 192]
I liked best.... The one-on-one interaction with the professors. [Resp. 204]
I liked best.... Culture & accessibility of professors [Resp. 215]
I liked best.... My relationships with the professors. [Resp. 241]
I liked best.... The Professor - student relationships [Resp. 253]
I liked best.... the true ministry heart of the faculty -- I often learned more from their personal lives than from their teaching (not to minimize their teaching) [Resp. 257]

Concerns

I liked least.... The busywork assigned in some classes. Also, some of the professors seem highly unqualified to teach a class. [Resp. 58]
I liked least.... student is almost on his/her own. No personal advising and guidance from the side of faculty [Resp. 60]
I liked least.... the time professors spend in class talking about issues not specific to the curriculum [Resp. 64]
I liked least.... the rigidity of certain professors. [Resp. 209]
I liked least.... The seeming hypocrisy about participating in ministry and being committed to your family and church while many professors do not extend grace for those circumstances [Resp. 134]
I liked least.... The tendency of some professors to place more emphasis on 'science' (man's ideas) to interpret parts of Scripture rather than accepting the plain reading of the text. [Resp. 215]
I liked least.... there is a bit of smugness among some of the staff. [Resp. 216]
I liked least.... that it is expensive. that it teaches dispensational theology. that some of the faculty have rejected the Gospel. That the preaching classes taught poor hermeneutics (not Christocentric). [Resp. 218]
I liked least.... The professor's inability to relate and mentor students effectively outside of the classroom. [Resp. 265]
I liked least.... The pressure put on us by some profs to pursue higher levels of school. I feel that it took away from the true reason to be here, and that is to pursue the Lord and gain a hunger for the lost. I did not like feeling like i was not going to be able to have a ministry because i did not do a PhD [Resp. 235]

Suggestions for Improvement

Overall, I believe I received a very good education at DTS and would recommend it highly--especially the Th.M. I would also recommend that the school be more selective academically. Perhaps the school could require a standardized entrance exam like other graduate programs. I graded once for a class and was astounded by the lack of quality academically--especially the writing. I've talked with other graders who also experienced this. A final suggestion is to stop offering a masters degree that the seminary considers unprofessional (i.e. MABS). I don't know of another field that offers a Masters Degree with this kind of qualification. [Resp. 76]

The seminary could improve by... Becoming more aware of students needs, academic, personal, ect. Classes are to big at times. Professors need to be more accessible to students. This should be their ministry, not just their job. This means knowing students personally. [Resp. 198]

Excellence, Reputation

I liked best.... The level and depth of theological knowledge and expertise & building lifelong relationships [Resp. 15]
I liked best.... the high quality of the professors [Resp. 16]
I liked best.... Competency of her professors. [Resp. 23]
I liked best.... their OT and NT faculty. Really knowledgeable and full of love for the Lord.  
[Resp. 65]
I liked best.... the world-renown and dynamic yet humble faculty with which I interacted.  
[Resp. 77]
I liked best.... The wisdom of the Profs.  
[Resp. 208]
I liked best.... The professors. We have been blessed with an amazing group of humble, gentle,  
knowledgeable men and women who are above par in their teaching and wisdom. They truly  
blessed me.  
[Resp. 220]
I liked best.... The professors' knowledge in their area  
[Resp. 222]
I liked best.... The quality of education--the knowledge and humility of these wonderful professors,  
the example they set for their students  
[Resp. 231]

**Commitment, devotion**

I liked best.... The godly character and wisdom imparted by so many of the teachers. They model  
Christ-likeness.  
[Resp. 19]
I liked best.... The professors, they really care about their students and they desire for us to make a  
difference in the world.  
[Resp. 33]
I liked best.... The spiritual and academic (in that order) quality of the faculty, and the love, honesty,  
and respect they show towards the student body.  
[Resp. 40]
I liked best.... The compassion of the faculty, and the passion of what they are teaching.  
[Resp. 43]
I liked best.... its well-educated and caring professors. The professors are there for their students and  
are willing to sacrifice for them. Unfortunately, the class sizes are so large, professors don't  
have the opportunity or time to relate to the students as much as either of them might want.  
[Resp. 75]
I liked best.... The professors are amazing! Their joy and commitment in teaching is contagious. I  
appreciated their genuine interest and encouragement as I worked on my degree.  
[Resp. 91]
I liked best.... the loving professors who invested their lives in me.  
[Resp. 99]
I liked best.... the faculty & commitment to the Word of God  
[Resp. 168]
I liked best.... the quality of professors and instructors - their heart for God and love for Scripture;  
commitment to teaching the Word so students go through the whole Bible, as well as sound  
theology  
[Resp. 214]
I liked best.... The outlook of the majority of the professors. They seem to truly care about teaching  
God's word.  
[Resp. 234]
I liked best.... the knowledge of the professors is impressive; many of them really have a sincere  
care towards developing students to be leaders of integrity and balance ministry with home.  
I like the courses that are made available. I did not have any awareness of miss  
[Resp. 259]
I liked best.... the depth of knowledge professors hold and their ability to live it humbly with wisdom  
[Resp. 267]
I liked best.... the amazingly brilliant and humble professors. I never felt ignorant; no question was  
beneath any professor. Every professor lived out the grace and humility that Christ taught  
and lived. I was humbled by their graciousness to me and my classmates.  
[Resp. 274]

**Class planning/content and teaching style**

I liked best.... The professors challenge students to think and do ministry from a biblical perspective  
[Resp. 17]
I liked best.... The instruction is tremendous. The professors convey the material, but in such a way  
that they are approachable and it is evident they enjoy what they are doing. I always felt  
welcomed to ask questions and there seemed to be great enjoyment in answering them!  
[Resp. 109]
I liked best.... the incredible professors. The teaching here is the best I have ever been exposed to. I go  
to professional meetings with my husband where doctors make presentations. They cannot  
compare in quality with what we have at DTS.  
[Resp. 161]
I liked best.... The little nuggets and advice offered by faculty from their real world experience.  
[Resp. 189]
I liked best.... The spiritual maturity, practical ministry experience and excellence in Biblical/Theological training by each professor and/or department chair. [Resp. 205]

I liked best.... Fantastic Pros who love God, love students and know how to communicate God's Word [Resp. 206]

The seminary could improve by... urging each professor to have prepared digitized notes available to allow better attention to what is being spoken in class and to provide a reference for study and a future reference for ministry. Many are doing this and it is helpful. [Resp. 35]

Curriculum, assignments, theological emphasis

I liked best.... The profs have been outstanding. With few exceptions, they brought a wisdom to the class far more valuable than the considerable knowledge they presented and effectively taught. It is often said that DTS grads leave knowing a lot but with little wisdom or few interpersonal skills; this may be true, but is not because their profs provided them with nothing more than biblical, theological or historical facts.I also especially liked the rigorous biblical and theological focus, and hope those will be made even more rigorous for non-ThM students (rather than watered-down). I currently attend a Southern Baptist church, and work with several Southwestern grads in my volunteer work there. Based on informal conversations and discussions about biblical and theological issues, I believe I have received a broader and MUCH deeper education because of DTS's focus on those two disciplines, plus a more well-defined framework for thinking about issues related to them. [Resp. 47]

I liked best.... The variety of viewpoints represented by the Faculty. [Resp. 186]

I liked best.... The theological and Biblical education is superb. Sitting under professors who have been working with the questions that we are trying to answer for many years is an invaluable experience. I respect the professors and think that they have a love for the student body that is demonstrated by requiring excellence and helping us get there. [Resp. 190]

I liked best.... Its good theology and the professors academic level as well as friendliness and concerns for us. [Resp. 233]

The seminary loads you up on busy work--assignments that are not necessary. If they just trusted us to do one big paper or project at the end of the semester, like other graduate schools, then I could be a lot more free to read my Bible or be involved in my local church. [Resp. 87]

Christ like behavior is demonstrated through relationships. Relationships are not fostered by the academic quest for knowledge. Academic progress is seldom done in community. Hanna's community exam is one of the very few examples of mandated interaction. Students develop Christ like relationships with other people, not books. Knowing it is not the same as doing. Creative requirements for interaction should be developed. We are asked to participate in classroom discussions, but those interactions are voluntary and NOT graded. Many who do not participate graduate. [Resp. 89]

Some of the questions suggest that I 'acquired basic' skills in various areas. Coming from a background that strongly emphasized the Bible, I could not say I acquired basic skills. Nonetheless, I did develop those skills (which finds reflection in the questions discussing development). [Resp. 113]

Academic Programs

Pre-seminary preparation, remediation, introduction

I liked least.... Each discipline seems to have its own unique vocabulary. It would be very helpful and simple to have each professor list and hand out copies of the vocabulary (jargon)that will be used and its meaning at the beginning of each term. [Resp. 35]
I think DTS is a great place for individuals who have not had an extensive amount of previous theological training. However, I would hesitate before recommending the school to individuals who have a Bible degree from a Christian University. I know it is not fair to allow some students to tailor their program according to what they think they need, but it would have been so nice to take advantage of all the incredible teaching here at DTS and take some of the classes that I have not already had in the past. [Resp. 154]

Curriculum distinctives (general)

What I Liked

I liked best.... The high quality of the education. This includes (generally) the course work and professors. [Resp. 6]
I liked best.... The depth of leaning that I received in the BE and Theology departments. [Resp. 2]
I liked best.... Teaching of bible exposition. [Resp. 22]
I liked best.... the course offerings and the quality of the professors' instruction and teaching. [Resp. 24]
I liked best.... the organization and structure along with a quality program. [Resp. 31]
I liked best.... The depth and richness of the study and of the teachers. [Resp. 48]
I liked best.... History program and spiritual growth environment [Resp. 51]
I liked best.... gaining a deeper understanding of God's word [Resp. 53]
I liked best.... the NT courses [Resp. 67]
I liked best.... the courses that are offered and the interaction with faculty and staff [Resp. 68]
I liked best.... the method with which different views of various theological issues are presented and given fair treatment. [Resp. 73]
I liked best.... The theology department. [Resp. 76]
I liked best.... The incredible teaching...this has been my candy store! [Resp. 86]
I liked best.... Bible Classes. My professors were excellent teachers and very interesting. [Resp. 89]
I liked best.... The NT, OT, and Sys Theo dept. [Resp. 100]
I liked best.... was it strong academic foundation. [Resp. 121]
I liked best.... Challenging new subjects. Listening to the interesting walks exhibited by my professors. [Resp. 125]
I liked best.... My OT 104 class that really helped pull into perspective the more difficult portions of the OT and allowed us to think about them in regards to today's environment. [Resp. 134]
I liked best.... What I learned [Resp. 137]
I liked best.... The abundance of excellent curriculum from which to choose. [Resp. 138]
I liked best.... that I feel confident about the Biblical training I have received. [Resp. 143]
I liked best.... the Biblical teaching & professors. [Resp. 153]
I liked best.... Great Theology classes. Wonderful profs, as a whole. [Resp. 156]
I liked best.... The academic integrity of the New Testament and Old Testament departments. [Resp. 159]
I liked best.... The strong doctrinal stand supported and taught by a gifted faculty. [Resp. 162]
I liked best.... the teachings [Resp. 194]
I liked best.... Critical thinking skills developed. [Resp. 197]
I liked best.... Learning the word [Resp. 198]
I liked best.... The quality of the education. This includes the faculty and the curriculum. I also loved the students that I shared classes with. [Resp. 201]
I liked best.... the strength of the language and theology departments. [Resp. 223]
I liked best.... the Greek and Hebrew classes. [Resp. 227]
I liked best.... the Counseling Department and its faculty. [Resp. 229]
I liked best.... the respect for the Bible and the Trinity and how DTS effectively communicates that to the students. [Resp. 230]
I liked best.... focus on and passion for Scripture and equipping students to study, interpret, and teach it. [Resp. 232]
I liked best.... the strong biblical teaching and the emphasis and concern for students' spouses.
Appendix 1 – Page 6  2007 Graduating Student Survey

I liked best.... The Bible Exposition department. I greatly enjoyed each of my BE classes.  
[Resp. 239]
I liked best.... The New Testament Professors! [Resp. 246]

What I didn’t Like

I liked least.... The large class sizes in the core classes.  [Resp. 5]
I liked least.... Not enough training in interpersonal skills. [Resp. 22]
I liked least.... the atmosphere can seem to academic. What I means is that it can seem that head knowledge is regarded high, while obedience and living out the Christian life can be down played. It could be because of the nature of an educational facility. Maybe having closer relationship with teacher would help or teacher teaching us by taking us to a place of ministry experience. This is hard to do when classroom time, papers, etc. are stressed highly. I am not trying to sound to negative. I have enjoyed greatly my time at DTS. And I know the faculty has love for the Lord and the communication of God’s Word. Amen! [Resp. 57]
I liked least.... the emphasis on scholarship rather than practicality and spiritual life. [Resp. 73]
I liked least.... That the education is centered upon preparing us to do ministry alone int stead of in community. While we always did group projects and had chapel, community seemed to be de-emphasized at the cost of personal academic pursuit. [Resp. 121]
I liked least.... the focus on turabian format for papers [Resp. 128]
I liked least.... There was zero Scripture memorization or passage identification. [Resp. 131]
I liked least.... the lack of commitment of a large portion of the institution to outstanding scholarship [Resp. 136]
I liked least.... the draining academic environment [Resp. 145]
I liked least.... The length of the individual degree programs; the lack of color in faculty as Prof’s and administrative; and insisting that pastors take the THM track regardless to the pastor’s desire for training in his personal choice. [Resp. 150]
I liked least.... The ridiculously inflated grading scale!!!!! I hate the plus/minus indicators as well! If you’re going to lower my GPA with an A-, at least give me higher than a 4.0 for an A+. I think these academic standards in addition to all the other things required of us (e.g. church involvement, chapel attendance, full-time course load, scholarship requirements, etc.) are way too much & just eats us alive! [Resp. 168]
I liked least.... that some aspects of the seminary, such as its rather lengthy ThM program, seem prideful to me. [Resp. 191]
I liked least.... The grading scale. The students are advised to avoid becoming obsessed with grades, yet the grading scale seems to contradict that advice. [Resp. 193]
I liked least.... The attitude of some intellectually minded students. [Resp. 197]
I liked least.... the tendency to focus on minute theological issues and to over-intellectualize everything. [Resp. 223]
I liked least.... My program was not very well organized which resulted in some hard time with organizing my schedule. [Resp. 233]
I liked least.... Academic emphasis makes it difficult to be spiritual [Resp. 273]

What Should Be Changed

DTS MUST (!) shift it’s focus from giving students all the info they will ever need for ministry, to teaching students how to think about complicated, difficult issues and training them to be lifelong learners. There is simply too much out there for DTS to teach it all, even in the Th.M. [Resp. 63]
The seminary could improve by… having more consistency in the material taught in the classroom. Each professor presents very different material and has very different emphasis when teaching identical courses. I have been disappointed when more of the basics are not taught in the classroom. [Resp. 64]
The seminary could improve by… Requiring primary sources for all the reading assignments. I think it
is tragic that we do not read more primary sources. [Resp. 87]

The seminary could improve by... requiring less chapels would be a great start. I think the seminary needs to think outside of their 'modern' foundations. we need to get away from simply having lectures. I know this is difficult to do but the seminary needs to be more creative with its implementation of spiritual development. Much of the things the seminary requires just enhances the legalism that many struggle with. In order to be good seminary students we must go to more programs and lectures, that idea is just silly especially for graduate students who spend 15 hours a week in class. You have some of the greatest Christian minds at your disposal, please try and think about other learning styles than lecture. That is the traditional method but it frankly is way, way, way over used. Create a truly interactive learning experience. One other thing i am frustrated with is the amount of reading per course. I found it so overwhelming that often I was more concerned with finishing the book than I was with anything in it. why can’t a prof just offer a book or two so that we can really chew on it. I honestly had to redefine what ‘reading’ was just so I could finish the books, I did read them but I by no means was even capable of reading every word or dwelling on certain concepts. Toward the end of seminary I found it scary that I was actually able to read entire pages and not know what I had just read. it became a blur and a chore. I realize some of this is my own fault but the sheer volume of the reading was ridiculous. if I gave up my marriage and other forms of community then I could have maybe done all of it, but that is just silly. [Resp. 115]

Professors need to resist the temptation to write only for other professors. If they want to truly be helpful to the church, they should not write at such a high scholarly level because only a few elite academics will ever read their works. For example, the church is not impacted by a book about the aorist tense or cultic practices in the book of Psalms. The church is impacted, albeit negatively, by books like ‘Your Best Life Now’ or ‘The Prayer of Jabez.’ DTS should provide alternative reading for your normal churchgoer. It will not benefit the larger Christian community if professors only focus on obscure topics that require Ph.D.s. Writing at a popular level will provide more exposure for the seminary and exert more influence than highly technical works. [Resp. 123]

The seminary could improve by... Driving their students in their relationship with the Lord and stop pressuring them so much to get high marks on our homework and tests. [Resp. 235]

The seminary could improve by... Emphasis on personal Bible study and meditation. Currently we do not have the time to do. [Resp. 241]

It seems that some departments are resentful when a student asks to test out of their classes. I went to Columbia International University. I took many of the classes that were offered by DTS. The classes were taught by DTS alumni mostly. [Resp. 265]

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**Curriculum distinctives (in particular)**

**What I Liked**

I liked best.... The courses in exegesis from the original languages. [Resp. 5]
I liked best.... the professors and the the flexibility to engage my DMIN material according to my context and interests [Resp. 7]
I liked best.... The excellent instruction in Greek and Hebrew. [Resp. 35]
I liked best.... The high profile/ standard lectures exemplifying servant leadership in practical lives. [Resp. 39]
I liked best.... the language departments [Resp. 145]
I liked best.... their emphasis on the word of God and ministry to their students during and after seminary training [Resp. 146]
I thoroughly enjoyed my CE courses at DTS. I believe that the CE department has the most innovative thinkers on campus. Their approach to course leadership and instruction was refreshing, inspiring and attention-maintaining. They truly practice what they preach. I think that several Bible Ex. professors would benefit from instruction and coaching from the
What I Didn’t Like

I was disappointed with my education related to using Greek and Hebrew in a practical way in sermons and lesson development. I only had one class session (75 min) in which the professor (OT104 class) spent time teaching us to recognize what was important to study in a passage of scripture. I feel that learning to identify what we need to exegete is as important as knowing how to exegete it. I feel there should be more emphasis on the use of computer tools. Many of the language teachers do not even know how to effectively use their own computers. Languages are taught like they were taught 50 years ago and teach a process that only works if a pastor is allowed 30 hours to prepare a message - that is not the world we live in today. My worse stewardship of time was spent in memorizing paradigms that professors in other departments admitted that you forget after six months - that time could have been better spent learning how to use the language in a practical way. I have come to doubt the ability of the language faculty to use the Greek and Hebrew in any way other than scholarly discussions, and that is the reason they are unable to teach a practical use of the Biblical languages. [Resp. 2]

I liked least those classes in which I was required to simply do work, rather than to wrestle with a topic. Such classes could do great things for a GPA, but often felt like busy work rather than graduate-level education, where simply regurgitating orthodox facts was enough for an A. I'm sure this is done in part in the hopes of helping lay-leaders (whose academic goals are less lofty than ThM's) but does little to enhance the seminary's reputation or its graduate's thinking abilities. In my opinion, the more the school focuses on the ability to think well, to deal with difficult questions, the better (as measured by the grading scale). This is not easy and takes more time and effort, but I think pays better dividends in the long run. [Resp. 47]

I liked least.... the seminary markets itself as teaching all 66 books of the Bible. This is not the reality. In many BE classes the prof runs out of time or books are taught by reading assignments alone. Books are skipped for time. I think it is wrong to market this without practicing it. [Resp. 55]

I liked least.... The bible exposition department. I felt like most of my classes in this department were equal to a Sunday School class, except with homework. The Nelson New Illustrated Bible Commentary should never be a primary textbook in a Masters level course. [Resp. 76]

I liked least.... Taking classes again that I already took in undergrad. Also, taking clep tests that the students who took the class could not pass. [Resp. 100]

I liked least.... The over-emphasis of preaching classes on illustration/application (apparently come full circle from the seventies when there was complaint of a lack of emphasis in this regard) and the over-emphasis on memorized sermons. [Resp. 113]

I liked least.... the B.E. classes [Resp. 116]

I liked least.... the CE department. It was a boring waste of time. I can’t believe someone thought it a good idea to scrap the 6th Greek class on 1 Corinthians and replace it with CE101. [Resp. 123]

I liked least.... the illogical hierarchy in the Biblical Counseling department [Resp. 157]

I liked least.... the rigid class schedule in counseling. Classes are only offered during specific semesters at only one time, and that makes it difficult to have a job. [Resp. 173]

I liked least.... The lack of missional focus. [Resp. 178]

I liked least.... The counseling program is mostly secular. And the parking is abysmal. [Resp. 181]

I liked least.... Grading being done by someone other than the professor and who may not even be aware of what was said in class. [Resp. 183]

I liked least.... Too academic. Not in regard to workload, but in the type of work. I would rather write less and discuss more. Almost like lab work. In Bible Exposition classes, I would like to meet in discussion groups on difficult passages, rather writing a 3rd 7 page paper. [Resp. 189]

I liked least.... I wish some of my profs would have actually graded my material! I would have loved to have received more of their feedback instead of a Ph.D. candidate. [Resp. 212]

I liked least.... many 'graders' have more concern over form than content. [Resp. 213]
I liked least.... The Theology department. I want to learn how to think theologically rather than taking what most of the ST courses are at DTS: survey courses; I could have read the books and gotten close to the same out of it. [Resp. 239]

I liked least.... emphasis on the grading system and performance of students leading to a potentially unhealthy view of grades. [Resp. 268]
I liked least.... GTA's who have to be reminded about the statement written above. [Resp. 270]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... strengthening the CE program options. Some of the classes were very weak and need improvement (Christian Home). Teaching Process was the most beneficial class I had within the department and I was blessed to take it. [Resp. 41]

Do not try to cram so much in to the first semester of Hebrew [Resp. 52]

Hebrew needs to move at a slower pace, with more credit hours available to learn the content. At least, that’s my best guess at a solution. [Resp. 63]

The seminary could improve by... Reassessing how important it is to cover every book of the bible in its curriculum. I believe I would’ve benefited more from taking 2 survey courses in OT and NT and then focusing on theology and exegesis. I’d rather add tools that will prepare me for a lifetime of learning Scripture then engage in cursory expository overviews. What I usually received in Bible Ex classes was my professor’s lay commentary on the bible books taught. I don’t necessarily blame the department. I’m not sure there’s a better way to cover the content. That’s why I’m suggesting this change at a curriculum level. [Resp. 76]

I rated my training in Hebrew a 3, but I do not think that the seminary did a poor job. I worked hard in that class and feel that the grade I earned was deserved. I struggled with that language, but in the end, I acquired great skills to exegete texts in Hebrew. [Resp. 95]

The whole approach to Biblical languages (especially Hebrew) needs to be rethought and overhauled to make it more usable and practical. [Resp. 98]

I transferred in from another seminary and had already taken 6 months of Hebrew. I asked the admissions department if there was any reason to take Greek before Hebrew as outlined in the catalog, and was told that I would be fine to continue on in Hebrew, which I did. I wish I had done differently. Both socially and academically I would strongly advise entering students to take Greek first as the exegetical method is much more clearly presented in the NT dept over the OT. Also, if you take Hebrew as a first year student you are in class with 3rd-4th year students and then end up taking Greek in your 3rd-4th year and the majority of your classmates are newly entering students. I found this sacrificed the depth of relationship that could have been attained had I gone according to the catalog. The exception to this would obviously be if a student has done significant study in either language and would be able to test into 2nd or 3rd semester Hebrew (in my case I still had to take first semester Hebrew). [Resp. 110]

Counseling from the Bible was not really taught specifically. I feel like people who wanted to counsel from the Bible were not taught how to do it. ...I don’t know how the Seminary program could be improved many of those things cannot happen without the work of God and the student together. I think the seminary program set a good foundation for understanding those areas but it was when the Lord changed me that I began to improve in them. [Resp. 120]

The lack of a philosophy department severely impairs the ability of DTS to round out the educational experience of its students. An intro to philosophy class, a philosophy of religions class, a class on apologetics, or a class on ethics would enhance the curriculum tremendously. Someone may respond that DTS does offer courses in philosophy. If it does, it does so only infrequently and at remote locations, such as Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The philosophy courses are not accessible to many students, and they are not required. The fact remains that there is not a philosophy department or sub-department or a professor who specializes in philosophy. [Resp. 123]

The age groups in educational leadership seemed very adult specific for adult education. Going into the field of childhood education, there was not much time spent on teaching children, much more on adult and college-centered education, or even youth work. [Resp. 132]

The seminary could improve by... changing the curriculum (e.g., doing away with all BE classes) [Resp. 136]
The seminary could improve by... Changing the counseling program. I feel fairly well equipped to enter the counseling field. However, when coworkers at my practicum spoke about their counseling programs I was amazed at the level of training they were given. More was expected of them than is of DTS counseling students and they were given more opportunities to focus on a specialty. Also, I believe that the practicum’s should not happen at such an early stage in the program. [Resp. 143]

The seminary could improve by... lowering the BE and ST requirements and requiring more philosophy [Resp. 145]

The seminary could improve by... Making the counseling classes more professional, make them harder. They are easier than my freshman college classes. Not up to par with other DTS standard for classes [Resp. 156]

The seminary could improve by... Boil the BE classes down to two course, NT survey and OT survey. [Resp. 159]

During my course of study I did not design ‘an effective strategy for intercultural ministry’ in the form of a thesis or project, such an overarching project was not assigned though it sounds like a good idea. I do think that from what i have learned, I could put in writing some of the things I believe contribute to an effective intercultural ministry. I also did not have inherent to the MACM program any assignment in communicating the Bible interculturally, except to be made aware that it will take a lot of research and language informants, etc. to make sure you are translating concepts that make sense to the intended audience. I did have an assignment as part of the TESOL track that required the students to prepare an ESL lesson using the Bible as the content. [Resp. 170]

There is not nearly enough teaching on Biblical Counseling. It is mostly secular. The secular teaching was excellent, but I wanted more pure Biblical Counseling training. Since I am 53 years old with a long Bible study-teaching background, I am able to apply it myself, but I wonder about kids right out of undergrad. [Resp. 181]

The seminary could improve by... Improving and rethinking the ST curriculum and the whole approach of the department. [Resp. 239]

For biblical exegesis, I really do not how to assemble into a cohesive unit everything I was taught. The exegetical assignments in the N.T. dept. did not serve to help my understanding of the text [Resp. 249]

**Grading**

The seminary could improve by... Grade assignments quickly or not at all. If you complete several papers before receiving any feedback, mistakes in style and form are repeated rather than corrected. What is the purpose of further documenting the fact that a student did not know something important at the start of the course? [Resp. 89]

Also, it was kind of disheartening to have my work graded by student graders when I’m paying so much for my education, working very hard and then my professor doesn’t even read my work. Although DTS preaches grace, as an institution, it is very legalistic and does not extend grace to students although thankfully many of the professors do. [Resp. 168]

The seminary could improve by... Providing more timely feedback on papers, etc. It seems like many of the graders are overloaded and don’t really have time to do the job. [Resp. 183]

The seminary could improve by... Having all profs grade their assignments rather than hiring graders (except in BE101 where the assignments lend themselves to a number of graders). [Resp. 196]

The seminary could improve by... grading papers in a more timely manner. As an educator and a graduate student, I understand the challenge of grading many papers. It is difficult to correct mechanical and content errors when we don’t get papers back until the conclusion of the semester. [Resp. 274]
Suggestions for programs/courses

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... In order to get a ThM, I was required to sit through several CE classes that contributed almost nothing to my educational experience. The preaching classes were a waste of money. We spent half of the semester on two 20-minute sermons. (I have been teaching 2 hours per week for the last three years.) This was almost meaningless. I changed my sermon style to take out most of the content and add stories in order to get an A in the class. My congregation told me they would never hire me if I taught like that. However I am not looking for a large audience. [Resp. 82]

I liked least.... the over emphasis on the Biblical languages and the inflexibility of change out of the Th.M. program for a person who's ministry goals have changed and do not include the Biblical languages or preaching. [Resp. 98]

I liked least.... the certain tedious assignments which are fully useless for me. Busy work is torture for the student, teach us by using things which will profit us even after we step outside the walls of DTS. [Resp. 99]

What Should Be Changed

More work and practice with various media. Most all the papers written were about the same requirements, some just longer/shorter than others. I think it would be helpful to have more directed learning in this area with portions of papers completed in one class and then expanded in another class. And/or more involved papers for particular classes with first draft requirements so the professor can guide the student, rather than just additional papers that have no bearing on the most major one. [Resp. 6]

Using media/computer should be part of the classes if needed...option [Resp. 12]

More lectures and conferences by non-DTS and non-American scholars are needed [Resp. 14]

The seminary could improve by... Adding on more courses that relate to contemporary culture. [Resp. 17]

There is not enough attention given to HOW to do research, write papers. It is expected we will learn by doing. [Resp. 21]

The seminary could improve by... requiring more training/experience in the area of evangelism, mentoring, and a missions experience a course/topic that addressed head-on the issues of what the bible says about money as well as how to run a church financially and administratively. Also, teaching on the importance of prayer in the ministry. I don’t think I prayed much with other students or in a consistent and serious way for the world, each other, etc. [Resp. 25]

The seminary could improve by... Adding some classes specifically for para-church organizations, raising support, working in other cultural contexts – but not African American, more classes on discipleship classes. Also, I believe that there should be a Men’s ministry track in CE. We cannot affect change in the church if we do not impact men and spur them on to be better fathers, husbands, workers and fellow believers. It is incongruous to have a women’s ministry track without a men’s?? [Resp. 33]

The seminary could improve by... offering more classes in the evenings and weekends that develop specific skills (i.e. women’s ministry, other CE classes). I felt stuck to the core classes because I could only attend in the evenings and weekends, so I didn’t get to learn basic things like skills in teaching a Bible study or managing a women’s/children's ministry. [Resp. 42]

I would LOVE to see more continuing ed classes for grads done through the online ed platform. Refresher Greek courses are at the top of my list, plus advanced theological and ‘hermeneutical issues’ classes would also be very interesting. [Resp. 47]

The seminary could improve by... Broadening the offerings within the MAMC degree program to include the visual arts. [Resp. 48]
I felt as though the use of modern media was often an afterthought in many of my classes. (i.e. You'll be presenting this report to the class, and oh yeah, you should have something on Power Point). I didn’t feel as though I was ever challenged to learn or use modern media as a part of my degree. [Resp. 54]

The seminary could improve by... The Seminary needs to offer and require classes on urban ministry. The cross cultural classes need to present the option of cross-cultural ministry in urban environments. All pastors in all churches need to be equipped to deal with urban ministry issues. We teach World missions - but not city missions. The Media/Communications classes need to offer real world skills. They need to be updated and current. [Resp. 55]

I would have appreciated a section in some of my theology courses were we specifically define how premill dispensationalism is distinct from other theological systems. Show me how this is different than covenant and others. Then show me how we arrived at this position. It seemed, though it may not be true, that we were shown the position without a lot of defense. Rather, it was assumed to be true so here it is with a couple of proof verses. That is okay but a more full defense of why we are premill dispensationalists would be helpful. [Resp. 71]

The seminary could improve by... restructuring the language classes so that they do not require as many language classes in the ThM. I also think the Counseling class required for the ThM should be more practical to deal with the issues that ministers will be facing in their office and less teaching about the different theories of counseling. I would recommend not making it an Intro to Counseling class that is required but more of a Practical Counseling Principles class. [Resp. 72]

The seminary could improve by... Maintaining a high standard of education in the ThM program. It is a research degree (not for everyone). [Resp. 74]

The seminary could improve by... Increasing the number of required BE courses in lieu of electives. Kingdoms and Covenants should be a required class!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! [Resp. 90]

The seminary could improve by... giving more attention to NT introduction and OT introduction issues, because the popular media trumps them up and we have to be able to intelligently provide answers and guidance to our congregations. [Resp. 99]

The seminary could improve by... Adding a separate Christian Apologetics’ track [Resp. 103]

The seminary could improve by... using part of one of the required preaching classes for a style of preaching mentioned in the course but never practiced except in electives (dramatic presentation/sermon-with-notes/story-telling/etc.). [Resp. 113]

The audio visual presentations class was to basic. it was almost useless for me. With my generation being tech savvy we need to have a little more advanced courses for such things. [Resp. 115]

The seminary could improve by... Invite best scholars teaching in the summer sessions, so students may have chances to interact with the great minds in our age, and dialogue with other theological systems. [Resp. 118]

None of my classes ever required me to memorize any scripture. This seems to be a tragedy to me. Please consider implementing this tool into the required aspects of each class. [Resp. 131]

More personal contact; More contemporary issues; Cut class size; Cut class load [Resp. 149]

The seminary could improve by... Encouraging teachers to spend more time in the Word during class. We devote so much effort to learning about church history or the evolution of different theologies. I wish that I would have been simply exposed more to in-depth analysis of Scripture so that my understanding of theology would be shaped first and foremost by my understanding of the Word... Explore ways to make the classes less lecture-based and knowledge oriented and somehow encourage students to build relationships with others and strengthen our relationship with God. Perhaps more journaling/reflecting assignments would help augment spiritual growth instead of constant research papers. [Resp. 154]

The seminary could improve by... Assisting students understand their gifts and not forcing them into a particular program or degree before they understand their gifts and are prepared to train and exercise those gifts toward a particular degree. I feel that there is a huge lack of focus on discipleship. For example, the Th.M degree does not require even one course in discipleship. I think this a huge gap in many churches and will continue to be that way unless seminaries realize this and make discipleship a requirement of all their degree programs. [Resp. 165]

I don’t recall any courses contributing to 'leadership skills' for women. I think in my own growth and maturity as a person over the last 3 and a half years I have become more aware of things related to leadership and my own participation in such things, but nothing directly from a seminary classroom. My research and communications skills remained pretty much the same since undergrad. I didn’t receive any training in that area that I hadn’t already had. As to increased Christ-likeness I believe I’ve continued to grow as I had before seminary, but I don’t believe seminary itself has spiked my growth, though I do believe it’s nurtured it. [Resp. 170]
The seminary could improve by... More true Biblical counseling classes. [Resp. 181]
The seminary could improve by... Placing a certification program for Teachers in the CE department. I feel if DTS offered a certification program for student/teachers there would be more students at DTS.EX: ACSI Certification [Resp. 187]
The Seminary needs to be more willing to teach opposing views. We get one, but we leave here with any real understanding of liberal theology. When its mentioned, its mentioned polemically without really getting into what it teaches. To me gross generalizations made. How are we to combat liberal theology if our own school doesn’t teach us about it. Also, the school is in dire need of a required course on Interpersonal Relationship Skills. Could be filtered through the counseling Department. [Resp. 198]
Two hour classes need to be redeveloped as they often require more time than three hour classes. [Resp. 229]
The seminary could improve by... more evening classes [Resp. 250]
The seminary could improve by... Reducing the number of classes required for ThM degree. [Resp.256]

On-Line Courses
The seminary could improve by... The on-line courses lack the personal touch of being there. Ensure the facilitators are available and engage with the students. The last class he was not there at all. [Resp. 66]
The seminary could improve by... Continuing to add more online courses. They are outstanding learning experiences. I believe it would also help students tremendously by allowing all papers to be submitted online rather than by ‘paper.’ [Resp. 200]

Spiritual life
My husband told me the question meant did I grow in these areas from what I learned at DTS and the time here, and while I believe I maintained my spiritual relationship with God on a daily basis, and was certainly challenged by trials and demands... I am not sure my relationship ‘matured’ in the sense of becoming stronger from what I learned. I had a solid spiritual life and love for others prior to DTS, and in some ways feel I had less time to invest in the community, church body, and my quiet time because of the course load, cancer, and other situations. I did not loose any of my passion for Christ or for people, and in no way are my answers meant to imply a negative experience. I just long for more time to invest in people and prayer. [Resp. 19]

What I Liked
I liked best.... I always felt like I had a first-rate education and that my professors were incredibly knowledgeable. I NEVER thought class was a waste of time, and more often than not, I was directly able to apply that knowledge to my personal relationship with God. [Resp. 195]
I liked best.... the chance to come and study the word in depth, and gain a better relationship with the Lord. [Resp. 235]

What I Didn’t Like
I liked least.... The focus on academic competency in the classroom that does seem to overtly contain a spiritual life component. On the one hand, one does not expect this in PhD program. On the other hand, one questions if DTS’s desire to be academically relevant happens at the expense
of seeking to encourage this important part of theological training. [Resp. 30]

Working full time with a large family and doing DTS just plain tired me out. Now that I am graduated I look forward to more devotional time. [Resp. 66]

I liked least... The cold times, when the breathtaking I AM becomes a topic, His eternal word becomes homework, His people become inconveniences. [Resp. 69]

I liked least.... ...the potential for focusing on academics at the expense of spiritual growth. [Resp. 114]

**What Should Be Changed**

Really stress and help students to continue to focus on reading the bible devotionally. I suffered tremendously several years ago and became spiritually 'dry' as I was writing papers without spiritual benefit (not reading and reflecting devotionally). As a result, when an onslaught of trials occurred, I was discouraged and temporarily walked away from seminary (without withdrawing and, therefore, receiving a semester of 'F's). These grades will prevent me from enrolling into the TH.M degree program, other schools or even ministry positions. [Resp. 29]

I think a greater emphasis on prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Warn students against quenching the Spirit as we get our degrees. What a tragedy it would be if we all got higher degrees, but felt very distant from God upon graduation. I think that I have struggled with a deepening of my spiritual life. I think it is due to the riggers of academia in the word, but also that the professors need to address this issue regularly and often in class, chapel, and frankly everywhere on campus. I think it would help if they offered creative ways to be intimate with the Father apart from studying the Word, because we do that all day long. For example, worship music in our cars, journaling all our seminary experiences, memorizing scripture, etc. [Resp. 33]

Less academics, and a greater expectation/accountability for spiritual growth, especially toward the end of the degree. [Resp. 63]

The seminary could improve by... More focus on spiritual life. I am an older student and I have never felt so oppressed or attacked spiritually as I have during the last 5 years of my attendance here. The workload does not allow for much focus on one’s spiritual state, especially if you have competing responsibilities, as is always the case w/an older female student. Reading the assignments does NOT and should not become one’s devotional time, as was stated to me on the first day of school. Even Bible study for class preparation is NOT and should not be a substitute for the necessary relational aspect of one’s relationship with God. You do have spiritual formation classes, however they are not required for all some of the programs, and time did not allow for me to participate in such things. Maybe having groups or something available where one could go to get specific prayer... just a thought. [Resp. 106]

I was disappointed in the lack of integrity and character in my fellow students, and the spiritual immaturity of those on campus. [Resp. 111]

The seminary could improve by... ...continuing to remind both students and faculty members to ever focus on Christ. [Resp. 114]

For one, I think I already had a fairly mature walk with Christ before seminary. Secondly, the seminary lifestyle was difficult for me to balance my spiritual life, school, work, and other responsibilities. I wish I could say what the school could do differently. I have struggled with the question of what I could myself. I do think the DTS culture is much more focused on academics than on the spiritual well-being of students. Attending chapel or an SF group might help, but I think they don’t necessarily help us become more like Christ. Maybe if there was more focus on serving each other and the community, prayer, and authentically loving each other. I understand it is easy to say, but much more difficult to implement. [Resp. 140]

I am not sure. The busy lifestyle is draining and it takes away from Spiritual concentration. But honestly that seems like just the way intensive studies are. [Resp. 145]

I have to say that I do not think that it is the seminars responsibility. (Ad with the statements :). I think there is ample opportunity for spiritual growth at DTS; you are submerged constantly in God’s word and surrounded by people full of wisdom! But DTS is not a church, and although I experienced community there, I would never expect the same type of accountability from a place of education. That’s just my personal philosophy. [Resp. 195]
I still believe that there is too much emphasis on bible and theological knowledge to the detriment of programming around spiritual leadership and development. The Spiritual Formation course (4 semesters) was a joke! The leadership of the group was very poor. In addition the materials used for SF really need to be changed to reflect more actual ministry experience and expectations. I think it would also be wise to include a section on how to deal with difficulties in ministry and interpersonal conflict with other ministry staff. [Resp. 200]

I did not go to seminary for this. This is a function of the local church. I went to seminary to learn Bible and theology. My church helps me live it out. Seminary simply taught it to me. [Resp. 222]

More personal involvement, i.e. mentorship by professors? [Resp. 223]

The seminary could improve by... I don’t know... love more and more. [Resp. 229]

My personal experience was very hurried; no fault of anyone. I have gained in personal integrity and see needs in my own personal spiritual development that will continue to grow. [Resp. 240]

Well, it’s one thing to say that I should study to show myself approved and it’s another thing to try to balance all of that with the reality of a 12-hour course load. Papers, readings, presentations, these are things of ‘this world’ and I allowed them to [Resp. 243]

**Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Formation Groups**

I liked best.... the spiritual formation small group [Resp. 11]

I liked best.... Professors and the spiritual transformation that has occurred during my studies at DTS [Resp. 18]

I liked least.... Current Spiritual Formation system [Resp. 86]

I liked least.... Spiritual formation group - my leader had been a Christian for less time than anyone in the group and was rather immature. [Resp. 94]

I liked least.... the requirement to take Spiritual Formation. At times, I felt like I was an outsider in my group though I related fairly well with them. There was a lot of extra time spent with them which I just did not have because of work and family commitments. [Resp. 95]

I liked least.... the focus on academic excellence versus spiritual growth. I understand that it is impossible to objectively quantify spiritual growth, but I would like to see more of an emphasis on spiritual formation/discipleship. Great strides have been made in this direction, but providing even more opportunities for spiritual formation would be beneficial! [Resp. 97]

I liked least.... the structure and method for Spiritual Formation and Field Education. It’s not formation, it’s just more information. [Resp. 155]

I work full-time and take classes on the side. I found the chapel and SF requirement very difficult to work with, since I don’t know of many employers who will ok a 2 hour lunch break every week. I spoke with the SF department on this issue, and there were no options available. If this is going to be a no-credit requirement for graduation, we need more options and flexibility.--I liked least . . . I don’t know, extra no-credit requirements on top of the class schedules. we are already busy as it is, and we are also expected to stay connected with the local church for most of this- ie community groups. It seems like we are doubling up on this type of ministry. (Resp. 163)

I liked least.... Honestly, Spiritual Formation. I KNOW it is VERY effective for some people and would hate to see it go away, but it was a huge struggle for me as a commuter student who was already heavily involved in church and in groups there. I could not be wholeheartedly involved in SF because I was too busy and did not live on campus. I went to everything and completed my requirement but could not do anything outside of that time to develop those relationships. [Resp. 186]
Appendix 1 – Page 16  2007 Graduating Student Survey

...I am a middle aged, family-oriented student that made substantial personal sacrifices to move to Dallas and attend DTS. Other comments... I believe that the seminary should consider some type of a support group for middle-aged, second career students. As such a student I felt somewhat disconnected from the seminary and from young, non-family oriented students. Seminary is difficult, it is even more difficult if one must shepherd a family and work full-time in order to provide income. I suspect that most middle-aged students are prone to burnout as a result of the seminary workload and all of life’s other priorities. It would have been helpful at times to have someone who understood the pressures associated with seminary under the above described circumstances. Several of the professors were wonderful encouragement regarding ‘staying the course.’ That said I believe that it would be beneficial to have some type of a support group for second career students such as a special Spiritual Formation group that addressed some of the issues associated with career changes and expectations for those looking to go into ministry after 15 to 20 years working in the secular world. (Resp. 200)

I liked least.... lack of overt and conscious attention to spiritual formation. ... it seems to be an ‘add-on’ but is not reflected in what drives the decision-making process [Resp. 210]

SF groups should never allow leaders of groups who have never been students of the SF material. My experience was utterly horrible because of this. I believe that Chaplain Bill does a great job; however, there is a large amount of married students. Columbia International University has a Dean of Men, Dean of Women, and a Dean of Married Students (and a chapel coordinator). This is something that DTS should look into pursuing. In my experience, because DTS is a commuter school, then students get lost between the cracks. Since I am not from DTS, I even got lost at my church. When my wife and I needed help, over a two year period I turned to DTS staff, DTS professors, my church pastor, my church elder, my church small group, and a lay person in my church...all of which failed me, or could not meet with us, etc. My wife and I were newly married, in a new place, away from family and other support, and we needed help (since all know that the first five years of marriage are the hardest). Even to this day, we have no one to meet with us to mentor us as a couple. Every couple we have asked has turned us down due to their hectic schedule. This is a sad experience, one that should not be coupled with a seminary experience. (Resp. 265)

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... There should be a system instituted by which each student is discipled while in seminary. I believe Spiritual Formations provides a perfect opportunity, but it should be a more ‘hands on’ approach in which there is personal accountability for spiritual growth and personal purity. Men and women should not leave this place with their personal lives in disarray (rocky marriages, sexual sin, etc.). Our ultimate focus should be upon preparing spiritual leaders, not just Bible teachers. [Resp. 8]

The seminary could improve by... requiring all students to be in an sf group [Resp. 11]

The seminary could improve by... Perhaps developing the Spiritual formation throughout the seminary time. This way people are accountable to others and also have spiritual connection. This should be going on at church. But the school could make sure their students are connected. I often thing about Billy Graham and I have respected His ministry. He has kept accountable to others and surrounded himself with godly people who pray and support him. If a student does not want accountability, then they could always go to a different seminary. I am not trying to be legalistic. I know for myself, I do not always want accountability. But I am weak and need others! [Resp. 57]

I put a three b/c I’m not sure I can quantify those things. further, I view the church rather than the seminary as the primary vehicle for fostering growth in christlikeness. in fact, this is my primary grievance with the spiritual formation program. I had to reduce my commitment to developing relationships in the local church in order to fulfill my requirement for ‘spiritual formation.’ I’d recommend developing a system for spiritual formation that is intimately connected to the student’s local church. [Resp. 76]

Take the students out to do ministry, the spiritual formation groups could be the structure. [Resp. 107]
The seminary could improve by... realizing the last thing any DTS student needs is more information or more time with other Christians. Maybe if the student body took their SF fee and two hours a week and invested into the hurting city of Dallas every semester 'the best evangelical seminary in the world' would not sit across the street from a prostitute, drug infested hotel that goes unchanged semester after semester. [Resp. 155]

The seminary could improve by... discarding Spiritual Formation and placing the focus of growth in relational ministry within the local church by requiring students to be involved in local church ministry. [Resp. 167]

The seminary could improve by... Encouraging (requiring?) students to impact the community in which they live and study. If DTS is committed to making the BIBLE come alive in people’s lives it would do well to see it manifested in the community, rather than to overlook it or give more importance to large churches and large ministries in communities already saturated by the gospel. I would love to see more of a focus (not INSTEAD of evangelism, but in addition to it) on social justice and the following of Jesus that requires us to understand that ‘what you DO matters’ and that Jesus loved on the poor and undesirable. [Regarding WEC week, I would really like to see the WEC video be more geared towards Missions and Outreach than making old jokes about dating and the missions field or parodying existing films. I respect the artist’s creativity but feel distinctly gypped at the contents.] [Resp. 170]

The seminary could improve by... Changing the Spiritual Formation ‘classes’ to work more towards building community among students rather than adding extra requirements on them. One helpful way of doing this would be to make it possible for students to organize their own groups or to coordinate groups with students who attend the same churches so that they can overlap their church small group with the seminary SF group. Some more overall flexibility with the ‘assignments’ and syllabus requirements might take the pressure off group leaders to turn this into yet another class and allow it to be a time of fellowship. [Resp. 175]

For spiritual formation, the leaders should be held more accountable as to how they are leading their groups. I hoped that my leader would have been more intentional just to see how I was doing in life. I actually confronted him about this and he agreed [Resp. 249]

I guess D with the ‘increasing’ part of the sentence. I think that an awareness of the two could be increased on campus either through chapel or the classroom. As far as love for others, I had experiences where some classmates and some professors would lo [Resp. 259]

Spiritual formation for women is only in its first or second semester at the Houston extension. I missed the experience of belonging to such a group. It would be great if there were a group of this type for post graduates. [Resp. 266]

I believe it would be helpful for all MA students to be required to be in an SF group. The accountability is crucial to character growth. [Resp. 268]

Field Education and Internships

The field ed office is only competent if you get a hold of George Hilman. My wife and I have been involved in customer service for many years, and we know that it is vital to learn names and show that you care. This is not being done. . . .

I liked least . . . Dealing with the . . . field ed office. (Resp. 74)

I have found the field education segment to be to most burdensome. I have no idea why they expect us to do 400 hours of internship whether it is paid or not. First, 400 hours for a 3-credit requirement. This is way out of proportion. Furthermore, how should I pay for tuition when I am busy doing an unpaid internship? —I liked least . . . The default food plan for all dorm students is not a good idea. I moved off campus just to reduce my living costs so I could pay for tuition without going into debt. (Resp. 249)

Workload, time compression

I liked least.... as I progressed over seven years the course requirements increased [Resp. 16]

I liked least.... Not enough time! a. for a more thorough reading and study in every course b. for deeper relationships with fellow students and professors and outreach beyond DTS corridors [Resp. 18]

Not sure that it could; the personal heavy workload and schedule inhibits the time needed to develop
better in those areas. [Resp. 24]

I liked least.... the deadlines [Resp. 25]

I love DTS and the education that I have received here. The over-ambitious attitude toward work and study, however, does not always seem to promote either the physical or spiritual well-being of students or faculty. The model of theological success does not need to be the over-worked and over-tired pastor or scholar. Having correct priorities toward work, study and family need to be both taught and modeled at the seminary. [Resp. 30]

Sometimes, seemed like a lot of busywork. So much reading is assigned, and I don't get the sense most professors even expect me take read thoroughly. [Resp. 58]

I liked least.... that for many students it is a very draining experience towards the end. [Resp. 72]

I liked least.... Lengthy redundant reading assignments. Hundreds of pages that are required but never tested; often covering the same material. [Resp. 89]

I liked least.... The seminary was very demanding with regard to assignments and reading. All classes are 3 hour classes, and even 2 hour classes require the same amount of work 3 hours require. It is also very expensive, and there are many fees that sneak up on you. So if a person finds they cannot take many classes they must pay more money because of the price breakdown. For instance it costs more to take 11 hours that to take 12 hours. [Resp. 120]

Seminary was very exhausting at times. I feel that while you have areas such as Spiritual Formation, it can become hard to really enjoy life because of all that you have on your plate. [Resp. 121]

I liked least.... Just not having enough time to 'stop and smell the roses'--but that's what seminary is all about, so much to accomplish and only so much time to do so. [Resp. 152]

I liked least.... I don't know, extra no-credit requirements on top of the class schedules. we are already busy as it is, and we are also expected to stay connected with the local church for most of this- ie community groups. It seems like we are doubling up on this type of ministry. [Resp. 163]

Juggling ministry, family, job and course work was overwhelming. More detailed information about scholarship requirements and help finding suitable work before moving 1200 miles from family would have helped. I was overworked to provide for my family and the thing that doesn't press--like God telling you to spend time with Him--is often overlooked. [Resp. 166]

I liked least.... Too much reading! [Resp. 176]

I liked least.... Kept me too busy on seemingly trivial things. I made an intentional effort not to try to do everything to the best of my ability. Too much is required to do that. A student without my attitude and approach might find himself/herself really burned out quickly. [Resp. 177]

I liked least.... I feel sometimes there is too much work to do in a full semester. [Resp. 187]

At present I believe that the program desires to promote the formation of Christ in its students, but in actual practice the nature of the course content and program requirements do not support that desire. I don't suggest that faculty are antagonistic or apathetic about that goal, but I am convinced that the work load alone does not permit this end. So much reading, so little time for reflection. I'm sure I'm not the first to note this. [Resp. 203]

I liked least.... The incredible amount of work it took to excel in most courses really discouraged someone with a family to try and be involved in ministry (which is encouraged by the Seminary). Because of this, my relationship with my wife and with God took a toll in order to try and do all that was expected of me. [Resp. 219]

I think DTS does a good job of balancing knowledge with application. I do however, feel that at times during my degree, I was very overwhelmed with class work and I would forget to emphasize my own spiritual walk with the Lord. Most professors were the first to help me understand this tension and although it was tough, now that I am on the other side, I feel a renewed desire to pursue the Lord in a way that I did not know of before seminary. Thank you for that. [Resp. 230]

I liked least.... Its demands on one's life. [Resp. 255]

I liked least.... the mixed message about balance (devotion, exercise, family, school, church, work, etc) and assigning so much work/reading. I understand, however, that it is required for accreditation purposes. [Resp. 259]
Evening program and Summer School

My ratings above relate to the current status, not the status when I entered DTS in Aug 2002. The DTS online services greatly improved during the 5 years that I have been a student. The greatest problem I have had with DTS services has been that nearly everything assumes that the student is on campus frequently during the daytime. This situation has improved greatly, but still needs improvement. That would also apply to the scheduling of classes. I would have greatly benefited from more weekend classes (first choice), night classes (second choice), and summer classes (third choice). I found weekend classes to be rare. Night class offerings were fairly good for the core BE and ST classes, but rare for the core NT, OT, and PM classes. For the large classroom deliveries, online deliver works far better (for me) than classroom delivery. From my perspective, the student services have greatly improved for part-time commuter students over the past 5 years. (Resp. 5)

The Seminary could improve by . . . Having more night & summer classes for those who work. (Resp. 153)

Extension Program and Online Courses

I took my classes at SETECA in Guatemala [Resp. 130]

What I Liked

On one of my online courses, I never perceived that the professor stewarding the course was ever particularly involved to the degree he should have been. The online technical folks were absolutely terrific. I’m also deeply grateful for the financial aid I received, without which I would have been unable to continue or complete my degree. --The Seminary could improve by . . . 1. Assign student ‘mentors’ to incoming students. I learned more from my fellow students about research tools, seminary expectations, etc. than from any of the formal communications in the classrooms or by the seminary . . . (3) Assign academic advisors for extension students at extension sites. (Resp. 3)

Additionally, the online class experience was outstanding. I have recommended it to others (profs at the University of Phoenix, for example) as a model of how online ed should be done. It also allowed much more freedom to complete my education than trying to figure out how to get time off work and commute into Dallas to take the classes during the day. [Resp. 47]

I liked best.... the ability for one to receive a seminary education via an extension program and the amount of time one is allotted to complete the degree requirements. [Resp. 124]

DTS could open some more courses to extension campus? [Resp. 194]

I liked best.... made it easy to complete my degree without going to Dallas [Resp. 207]

I really enjoyed the online courses [Resp. 264]

What I Didn’t Like

On one of my online courses, I never perceived that the professor stewarding the course was ever particularly involved to the degree he should have been. The online technical folks were absolutely terrific. (Resp. 3)

I liked least.... There have been times when it has not seemed very user friendly. As is true in most institutions, there have been gaps in communications that have caused a great deal of frustration for me. I believe this has been largely because I have been an off-campus student (both in Dallas and at the SA extension) and have felt at times like a second-class citizen. [Resp. 6]

I liked least.... the challenges of being an extension student. It tough feeling part of the seminary--although DTS really tries to include the extension students. [Resp. 31]
I liked least.... I would say when an extension student makes the move from ‘Atlanta’ for example, with less then 30 hrs to go; the paper work for internship and spiritual formation etc; is very overwhelming. Maybe a better way for the seminary to help those students to attain for need to be done in those areas would be a great help. [Resp. 43]
I liked least.... I could not live in Dallas and go to class there full time. [Resp. 48]
I liked least.... it was a long commute from Denton for over four years [Resp. 79]
I liked least.... Not having a dedicated staff or faculty member living in Atlanta and responsible for the Atlanta extension. [Resp. 162]
I liked least.... Can't choose some courses in Extension campus [Resp. 194]
I liked least.... DTS does not have a 'comprehensive' plan for the Houston Extension. [Resp. 201]
I liked least.... I was unable to take more classes at the Dallas campus and experience student life there. [Resp. 205]
I liked least.... some of the requirements for extension students [Resp. 207]
I liked least.... the schedule is often difficult for students who 30+ miles away. [Resp. 208]
I liked least.... The hassle of the transit to and from the seminary. I went through 3 vehicles. [Resp. 241]
I liked least.... it is in Dallas and not Tennessee. No ThM in Atlanta [Resp. 267]
I liked least.... the limited number of classes we can take at the extensions and the fact that one cannot get a CE degree by attending during the summer since for the last two summers; no CE classes were available during summer sessions that educators could attend. [Resp. 274]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... expanding the extension campuses thus making the school accessible to more students. [Resp. 24]
The seminary could improve by... developing more classes and programs for extension students. [Resp. 31]
I think the online classes can be improved. It is very time consuming and it requires things that the regular classes don’t. I have never heard a single good thing about the online courses. [Resp. 120]
Maybe this is not expected on an extension campus. There was no effort to work on relationships or accountability here. [Resp. 125]
The seminary could improve by... Having a vision for Houston’s extension. The extension in Houston can be substantially more than it is but it seems as if there is a lack of vision and commitment at this time. I’m hopeful that this will change for the future. This campus could grow to 500 students rather quickly, yet I know of no strategic plan to capture nor to increase the student body. Sadly, if DTS is slow in recognizing this they will miss an incredible opportunity and these students will be lost to other seminary’s who have entered the Houston market and recognize the growth potential. [Resp. 201]
The seminary could improve by... Offering preaching courses at the extension location and/or during a winter or summer session during a two week period. [Resp. 205]
The seminary could improve by... connecting with and listening to the needs and desires of extension students [Resp. 207]
The seminary could improve by... I am very thankful for the continued growth of the Houston Extension and I pray that the counseling degree will be offered here soon. [Resp. 266]
The seminary could improve by... Making the Houston Extension a satellite campus and re-thinking the cost/benefit of some of the other extension sites. [Resp. 270]

Doctor of Ministry

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... providing linens for traveling and out of state or out of country DMIN students [Resp. 10]
The seminary could improve by... Having an ‘Expository Preaching’ D. Min. option. [Resp. 65]
The seminary could improve by... clarifying course methodology for distant D.Min. students  
[Resp. 92]
Encouragement The seminary could improve by... I’m not sure, I loved it here.  [Resp. 16]
The seminary could improve by... I really can’t think of anything. My time at DTS has been a 
wonderful privilege and a dream I never could have imagined. I’m so grateful for my time there!  [Resp. 109]
The seminary could improve by... I have had an awesome experience at DTS. I know it could improve 
but I think everyone is doing an incredible job. [Resp. 161]
The seminary could improve by... see above. That is my only recommendation for the seminary. I 
personally don’t see how any other seminary could offer a better education than DTS. I wish I 
had enrolled here from the beginning of my seminary experience, but the last two years have 
been the most rewarding and challenging time of my life so far in terms of education. Thank 
you. [Resp. 199]
The seminary could improve by... I think it is doing a great job! [Resp. 206]
The seminary could improve by... Not sure. I think they are doing the best they can under the 
auspices of an academic institution. [Resp. 242]

Student Life

Campus atmosphere

What I Liked

I liked best.... the people - students, professors, staff [Resp. 25]
I liked best.... the Godly people I got to take classes with, who are so Christ-like in their walk.  
[Resp. 37]
I liked best.... The community of believers and the opportunity to develop a well-rounded Biblical 
thology. [Resp. 41]
I liked best.... the faith and spirituality of the faculty and interaction with my fellow students who love 
the Lord. [Resp. 57]
I liked best.... DTS is really doing a great job, overall. My complaints are more related to the 
impossibility of the task than to specific failures of the school. The best part is learning in 
community. [Resp. 63]
I liked best.... having Coke on campus.  [Resp. 104]
I liked best.... The community [Resp. 111]
I liked best.... time spent in the classroom, conversations with friends, encouragement from profs.  
[Resp. 112]
I liked best.... the professors willingness to engage with students and get to know them on a personal 
basis. I also appreciate the teach-ability of the students and their eagerness to learn. Most 
were friendly and godly people. [Resp. 123]
I liked best.... The community atmosphere [Resp. 133]
I liked best.... The professors and facilities [Resp. 144]
I liked best.... The people, reputation and standards. [Resp. 147]
I liked best.... The People, definitely! From great profs to great colleagues and friends, it’s sharing the 
journey that I liked best (and shall miss the most!) :). [Resp. 152]
I liked best.... That we get to sing and pray in the classroom. Also the depth of study in the Bible and 
Theology departments (I loved my theology classes!) I also am impressed with DTS’ 
commitment to WEC week each year. [Resp. 170]
I liked best.... The commitment to excellence. The availability of the professors for help and their 
apparently genuine care for the lives and vitality of students. [Resp. 175]
I liked best.... Campus Environment, especially lots of great and loving people. [Resp. 177]
I liked best.... The small intimate atmosphere and the opportunity to get to know the professors and 
students. [Resp. 183]
I liked best.... Community life [Resp. 184]
I liked best.... Joining with a group of believers who share a passion for understanding and 
communicating God’s word. [Resp. 213]
I liked best.... the size and opportunity to know teachers in a more intimate way [Resp. 240]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... How difficult it is to feel a part of the community (getting to know the professors and other students) as a night/weekend student. It is very easy to go through the degree program anonymously, and I think that hinders the educational experience. I feel that I had 4 professors in my experience that wanted to get to know us [Resp. 42]
I liked least.... some of the DTS girls that assume that 'hello' means 'do you want to marry me?'; and some of the DTS guys who mistreat DTS girls and ruin things for the rest of us. [Resp. 62]
I liked least.... The slow and obvious decrease in the integrity and character within the student body; directly related to a large amount of students being admitted that have a lack of integrity and character [Resp. 111]
I liked least.... That the education is centered upon preparing us to do ministry alone instead of in community. While we always did group projects and had chapel, community seemed to be de-emphasized at the cost of personal academic pursuit. [Resp. 121]
I liked least.... The culture [Resp. 137]
I liked least.... that I feel like it’s stuffy, kind of constricting. This may not be the seminary as much as just the stress of being in seminary. [Resp. 143]
I liked least.... the student body. While I met some great friends and AMAZING people, I struggled a lot with being hurt by many of the students at DTS. I don't know if it was because I was a female, and I am single, or just that seminary is a strange stage of life. I feel that the body of DTS is divided and I have met many people here that didn’t know how to simply love others, but were focused more on academics or being popular or whatever else. If seminary is a place to prepare for ministry, then those who attend should be able to demonstrate love for people... that is ministry. [Resp. 179]
I liked least.... hot summers [Resp. 206]
I liked least.... the students who feel that they cannot be real on campus and admit their weaknesses (depression and struggles). This is a hard time in our lives and faking wholeness will do nothing for us or the community we are in. [Resp. 229]
I liked least.... An air of spiritual pride that seems to permeate much of the student body. [Resp. 234]

What Should Be Changed

The high degree of academic pursuits often creates a significant amount of competition and stress between students, which can often be divisive. I don't want to suggest that DTS lower it’s academic quality, but it would be helpful to find a way to lessen the stress and foster an environment of compassion between students. [Resp. 110]
The seminary could improve by... While the seminary is doing well in community life, I think it needs to improve too because of the growing size of the seminary, people are not so close. [Resp. 184]
The seminary could improve by... I'm really not sure! Perhaps my least favorite experience was changing degrees. I got a lot of mixed feedback, which made it confusing, but I am glad that everyone was honest with me about what they thought. Also, I think guy-girl relationships are very strained (between students, never faculty). I'm not sure what could be done in class to make it better, but I often felt uncomfortable in predominantly male classes. We need to learn how to interact as young adults with the opposite gender in a way that is biblical! [Resp. 195]
I believe that the seminary should consider some type of a support group for middle-aged, second career students. As such a student I felt somewhat disconnected from the seminary and from young, non-family oriented students. Seminary is difficult, it is even more difficult if one must shepherd a family and work full-time in order to provide income. I suspect that most middle-aged students are prone to burnout as a result of the seminary workload and all of life’s other priorities. It would have been helpful at times to have someone who understood the pressures associated with seminary under the above described circumstances. Several of the professors were wonderful encouragement regarding 'staying the course.' That said I believe that it would be beneficial to have some type of a support group for second career students such as a special Spiritual Formation group that addressed some of the issues
associated with career changes and expectations for those looking to go into ministry after 15 to 20 years working in the secular world. [Resp. 200]

Security

The seminary could improve by... Adding secured access to each of the seminary buildings: requiring each student to have a key fob or something on their student ID that would be required for entrance into the buildings. This won’t stop everything, but would prevent a lot of predators from entering DTS buildings and hurting DTS students. This is especially a concern with all the Seminary wives and children on campus. We should be responsible to take extra care for their protection. DTS faculty and staff need to understand just how dangerous the neighborhood around them is. A few minutes with the DTS campus police would radically change their impressions. I am very thankful for the DTS campus police and security and for the fact that they carry firearms and are qualified to use them. [Resp. 62]

Rules and Policies

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... The no-alcohol policy needs to be removed if we are to truly demonstrate Christian liberty. If these men and women are considered mature enough to become the Church’s future leaders, they should be considered mature enough to make responsible decisions regarding personal liberties. This policy is not biblical by any stretch of the imagination. [Resp. 8]
I liked least.... rules...to many.. [Resp. 12]
I liked least.... The fact that the student conduct agreement is not at all enforced. If the seminary purports to build godly servant leaders, but the leaders being trained do not submit to the authority of an agreement they sign, I wonder how effective the seminary is in reaching its goal. I would prefer the seminary either do away with the conduct agreement (including the dress code, alcohol restriction, and other moral designations) or demonstrate a value for the character demonstrated by students who adhere to their commitment. [Resp. 54]
DTS should be a bit less permissive when churches are not being attended, chapel is skipped, alcohol is consumed and the dress code is not followed. Grace & high expectations are not incompatible. [Resp. 69]
I liked least.... - students who have major character issues. I guess it just saddens me that a student will not follow the dress code or the drinking code because they feel exempt from a document they signed. I get angry at students who break laws or seminary rules. [Resp. 71]
I liked least.... Dress code. The rationale for students dressing ‘in the way they will when they are ministering’ no longer works. Jeans are the new slacks ;} [Resp. 93]
I liked least.... the dress code. [Resp. 96]
I liked least.... the parking and legalistic lifestyle rules [Resp. 101]
I liked least.... Legalistic tendencies. I realize this is difficult for an institution but the amount of required chapels, required attendance at the WEC, required spiritual formation, drinking policy. The chapel requirements for example made me not want to go to church. I felt like my entire life was a lecture. I got lecture in class, I got lecture in chapel, I got lecture in WEC week and then why would I want to go to church on Sunday and get one more lecture. Lecture is fine but when that is all you get it makes you feel like your whole life is all about lectures and simply passing knowledge from one brain to another. I have really come to not like chapel because it is just one more requirement. It seems strange to me that the seminary dictates to supposed ministry leaders what their spiritual life should consist of. I often was frustrated with these legalistic requirements and it hindered me from really getting things from some of these requirements. [Resp. 115]
I liked least.... there is a prevailing sense of legalism among the rules and regulations set forth by the administrative body. While I understand and hold to the standards class attendance, of dress code, abstaining from alcoholic beverages, etc. while enrolled, it would delight me to see students given the ability to express their God-given right to freedom through grace in Christ Jesus. However, I respect and honor the opinion of the administrative body in this matter. [Resp. 132]

I liked least.... Some of the policy issues on campus [Resp. 198]

**What Should Be Changed**

The seminary could improve by... being less legalistic in the code of conduct. [Resp. 37]
The seminary could improve by... Enforcing the student conduct agreement as a part of classes. Students who show up to class in blatant disregard for the student conduct policy should not receive class participation credit for the day - it should be counted as an absence by the professor. [Resp. 54]
The seminary could improve by... Streamline administrative processes. Do away with nitpicky last-minute graduation requirements. Do away with extra requirements buried in the Kerygma. Do away with old-fashioned alcohol and dress policies. This is the 21st century, we are not small children. It is time those of us who are responsible are treated as such. Offer an MDiv program for those who cannot finish a ThM but want more than an MABS. [Resp. 81]
The seminary could improve by... pay the profs more, rethink some of the stringent lifestyle requirements, less tuition would be nice too. [Resp. 86]
The seminary could improve by... providing more parking and updating the lifestyle rules to the 21st century standard for evangelical Christians [Resp. 101]
The seminary could improve by... Relaxing the dress code. [Resp. 131]
The seminary could improve by... gaining a deeper understanding of God’s grace and freedom to the members of His Church, the student body, and allowing them to express their God-given freedoms in various ways. [Resp. 132]

My experience would have been so much better if I hadn’t constantly worried about ‘getting in trouble’. It made me feel like I was back in youth group. Also, chapel is a total waste of time. Also, I am so glad I never have to write another paper again. [Resp. 137]

**Diversity**

**What I Liked**

I liked best.... the diversity brought about in being a non-denominational institution. [Resp. 83]
I liked best.... The diversity in the students and professors, from various backgrounds - cultural, denominational, social, etc. [Resp. 84]
I liked best.... the diversity of students and faculty [Resp. 157]
I liked best.... Diversity of the students and faculty [Resp. 176]
I liked best.... The diversity of views on the faculty. They really encouraged me to listen carefully to people’s ideas and evaluate from there. Student services, thanks for all the activities and fun!!! Dr. Chisholm and Dr. Johnston have been gracious servants to me. [Resp. 249]
I liked best.... the focus on the scriptures relative to ALL classes [Resp. 273]
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... lack of international ministries awareness [Resp. 14]
I liked least.... Lack of diversity of faculty [Resp. 15]
I liked least.... Lack of cultural/ethnic diversity in the faculty. [Resp. 20]
I liked least.... The Th.M is a very long and grueling program (though I understand it is necessary)... it would be nice to have the luxury of choosing from more electives in such a long program... We would like to see more African-American representation on the faculty/staff as well... [Resp. 61]
I liked least.... Lack of minority faculty, and the indifference towards recruiting them. [Resp. 105]
I liked least.... Not celebrating Martin Luther King’s birthday, considering the growing enrollment of African-American students in recent years. This presents a BAD example before the student body. There also needs to be more African-American hired in professional positions, positions other than janitor and cooks. [Resp. 158]
I liked least.... I do not like the fact that our school sits in the middle of an impoverished, crime-filled, homeless-populated area and the only time we ever talk about it is during safety announcements. When I first moved here I thought it sad that DTS has apparently not impacted the immediate community of the campus at all. I understand people are encouraged to be involved with their own church communities (often this means students traveling 30 minutes or more in order to attend a church that fits their desired socio-economic and racial standard. So the people and churches (or lack their of) in our area are neglected. [Reports I have heard about the counseling services from several different students (though not personally experienced) have indicated to me poor supervision of interns and a lack of quality, caring counsel.] [Resp. 170]
I liked least.... the lack of sensitivity and acceptance towards international and female students among the student body. [Resp. 238]
I liked least.... it’s inability to incorporate more minority theologians in its repertoire (sp) of theological studies. They have to be out there and to ignore them appears frighteningly segmentationist. [Resp. 243]

What Should be Changed

The seminary could improve by... encouraging and supporting more diversity in mainline events [Resp. 15]
The seminary could improve by... Seeking a more diverse faculty and staff. [Resp. 20]
The seminary could improve by... Employing more diverse faculty in terms of ethnic background. [Resp. 21]
The seminary could improve by... Displaying more diversity on the faculty/staff... [Resp. 61]
The seminary could improve by... Hiring diverse faculty. [Resp. 105]
The seminary could improve by... opening up more jobs opportunities esp. for international students who have no any other opportunity to work off campus [Resp. 146]
The seminary could improve by... Hiring more African-American professors. The Placement Office could improve in providing a larger pool of employers for seniors. [Resp. 158]
The seminary could improve by... Hiring a more diverse staff. While holding on to the things that are by all reasonable accounts key to the Christian faith, could DTS not bring in a more diverse staff? [Resp. 190]
The seminary could improve by... 1) recruiting more minority faculty members to provide diversity on campus. 2) hiring people for key administrative positions who have previous experience and formal academic training in that area of specialty. A ThM or a PhD from DTS should not necessarily be the pre-qualifier for a position and is ultimately no indication of whether that person is fit for that position. [Resp. 211]
The seminary could improve by... having a wider diversity of faculty on staff in terms of theological positions and making faculty-student interaction more structured, like some form of a mentorship program. [Resp. 223]
The seminary could improve by... increasing awareness for the general student body to be more receptive towards international and female students. [Resp. 238]
The seminary could improve by... acknowledging the racial and ethnic differences of its student body but not segregate them in ‘social clubs’ and have brown bag venues for students to learn from other points of view about many things. [Resp. 243]
The seminary could improve by... providing opportunities for the women to be able to be mentored
properly by professors like the men are mentored [Resp. 245]
The seminary could improve by... offering more opportunities for women to be mentored at a higher level such as with other female professors, etc [Resp. 267]

Administration

What I Liked

I liked best.... The integrity of the professors, staff and personnel. There are none finer. [Resp. 3]
I liked best.... the faculty and staff... they are truly amazing people of God and reach out to the students in such loving ways. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to sit and learn and be influenced and prayed over by all of them. [Resp. 179]
I liked best.... its attention to individual needs and circumstances. [Resp. 209]

What I Didn’t Like

Cost

I liked least.... the cost. I was a huge financial hardship for me and my family. [Resp. 3]
I liked least.... Frankly, as a pastor of a church with a lot of DTS interns (this really has little to do with me personally) who are graduating with incredible student loan indebtedness, I find myself regularly frustrated for them and troubled by their circumstances. [Resp. 7]
I liked least.... Expensive tuition fee especially in DMin. courses. [Resp. 13]
I liked least.... the cost. [Resp. 24]
I liked least.... acquiring debt while training to be in ministry [Resp. 28]
I liked least.... The cost of seminary for a man or woman with a family is almost unaffordable. I am strongly considering working a corporate job in my old field of study to eliminate my seminary debt. I started as a part-time student back in 2000 and I have been penalized for not being full-time. I know the profile of an ideal DTS student is expected to be here full-time but your student demographics show that there are many student who do not fit this profile. [Resp. 32]
I liked least.... cost [Resp. 56]
I liked least.... the cost [Resp. 141]
I liked least.... The cost of the education! It is expensive, particularly when one realizes that income from ministry positions are so low. [Resp. 200]
I liked least.... The Cost [Resp. 253]
The seminary could improve by... Limiting or eliminating the student loan scenario. When I was doing my ThM we did the Swiss Ave loan. When I graduated I was, therefore, debt free. Our interns average about $20,000.00 in student loans. [Resp. 7]
The seminary could improve by... Lowering tuition and better faculties. [Resp. 13]
The seminary could improve by... Lower the tuition (smile) [Resp. 26]
The seminary could improve by... Working to decrease the amount of debt it takes the average student to graduate with. Of all the guys that were my close friends, we all took on for more debt than we thought we would have to. [Resp. 28]

I liked least.... Communication. I not only found this to be true in my seminary education, but also as an employee of the school. I transferred out of the PM dept. because of the lack of communication, and as an employee of the seminary, I have found the same to be true between departments. Departments are very territorial, and will not talk about issues unless they are forced. I have seen more politics on this campus then I have seen in secular work
places. It is very sad and has tainted my view of the seminary in some respects. Sometimes I wonder what it must be to sit at the pew level and not know all of the dirt. [Resp. 46]

I liked least.... The bureaucracy [Resp. 67]

I liked least.... Administrative burdens in the following areas: graduation [far too many hoops to jump through the final year, and the requirements to finish up one’s degree are not very clear]; field education [the assessments are way too burdensome; the last couple weeks of school for graduates [there is no obvious benefit to having graduating students finish early. In fact, it causes us to have to scramble too much toward the end, after 4 long years of already doing this. At this point I’m not even completely sure I’m going to graduate, as I am not sure what I, as a summer graduate have to complete prior to April 30th]; we are expected to abide by a student handbook that is not always very clear [e.g., exactly what is the requirement for WEC week attendance; what happens if I am truly sick more than the acceptable 4 class periods per semester—do I report to my professor the total number of missed class periods, or do I just count those missed in which I was not sick?]. In short, the seminary is not very user-friendly; requirements often seem arbitrary and needlessly burdensome. It does not have to be this way. To hold us to a high standard concerning dress and alcohol is to treat us as children. Neither of these issues has anything to do with godliness, but has everything to do with pacifying a few wealthy, influential donors. That leaves a bad taste in my mouth. This academic standards here are so high, that they are at the level of a PhD at other institutions. The faculty needs to remember that the ThM is still a master's degree. I was in a PhD program in another subject at a large state university several years ago. DTS' ThM program was much more difficult, challenging and burdensome. [Resp. 81]

I liked least.... Occasional administrative confusion [Resp. 92]

I liked least.... the same thing I usually dislike about other institutions, but, as most people can't understand a word I say, I won't even try to get into that. [Resp. 104]

I liked least.... It's institutional nature and policies. [Resp. 110]

I liked least.... The lack of customer service and evident servant leadership. Often, I have encountered a sense that the employees of DTS feel as though they are doing the students a favor by letting them be here. Rather than being enthusiastic about serving the student, it seems that they simply offer lip-service. I have found that many of the secular companies I have worked for [I have been in sales for many years] have been more attentive to the customer than DTS is to the students. This has often come out in a lack of common courtesy to the student which one would expect even in secular institutions. [Resp. 138]

I liked least.... too much bureaucracy, tendency to place ticky-tack rules over relationships with students, that sometimes the seminary staff that is on the front lines with dealing with students do not have the best attitude or are not equipped to do so, which reflects poorly on the whole department. [This is not the norm and there are many great examples like Norma Jean in the Registrar's office.] [Resp. 140]

I liked least.... some financial decisions seem to be made at the expense of current student interests. [Resp. 164]

I liked least.... the rashness of some employees when a student encounters a problem [Resp. 166]

I liked least.... Inflexibility of staff [Resp. 184]

I liked least.... And, if I can be honest, I feel often times that DTS in its business practices is below par. I don’t mean that as a slam to the seminary. I simply feel that there are departments that are lacking; it almost even appears that their mindset is ‘Oh, we are all Christians, I can slack at my job and it will be ok because we are all supposed to be nice and loving to one another.’ While we are supposed to be loving to one another, I do not believe that statement is ever an excuse to do sub-par work. That is my only concern with the seminary. I'm sorry that I cannot give specific examples, but it appeared to be a more common theme than uncommon. [Resp. 220]

I liked least.... cost; interfacing/communication between departments needs improvement such as with degree requirements and demands. [Resp. 240]

I liked least.... The bureaucracy [Resp. 242]
What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... There should be another committee formed that consist of faculty, staff, and students that addresses these issues. I think we should work harder to keep the lines of communication open. We must be ready to admit our mistakes and not get on the defensive when one is pointed out to us. We should do our best to work peacefully with all men. [Resp. 46]

Please don’t fall prey to the masses. It is better to say we are graduating spiritually strong developed leaders for Christ than to say we have the biggest class ever starting this year. [Resp. 74]

The seminary could improve by... Remembering that DTS is foremost a ministry, not a business. Sure, numbers (both numbers of students and numbers of dollars) are good and important, but the Seminary's focus should be on producing godly men and women who have received the education that they need after they graduate. [Resp. 75]

The seminary could improve by... being friendlier. [Resp. 96]

The seminary could improve by... Creating a more personal environment in the various administrative departments. [Resp. 110]

The seminary could improve by... Having more organization in between the admin offices. [Resp. 133]

The seminary could improve by... adapting to the postmodern students it is about to be full of [Resp. 137]

The seminary could improve by... providing a greater level of servant leadership in the area of customer service to the students. Much of this has to do with attitude, responsiveness, and a true desire to attend to the requests and needs of the student rather than a simple verbal nod. [Resp. 138]

The seminary could improve by... loosening up on bureaucratic rules, (like re-evaluating if some rules are no longer necessary and eliminating them to simplify things), and providing more graciousness, (as in flexibility on hours, availability of departmental administrative assistants, deadlines on things) [Resp. 140]

The seminary could improve by... Creating a semi-annual seminary council meeting where students can dialog with the president, dean, ... in a (Q & A) forum for issues and concerns relative to the student body and seminary [Resp. 150]

The seminary could improve by... improving some administration procedures. [Resp. 164]

The seminary could improve by... Providing services to husbands of seminary wives. [Resp. 176]

The seminary could improve by... Stronger support or training on assignments requiring computer skills. [Resp. 209]

The seminary could improve by... managing growth [Resp. 264]

Academic Dean’s Office

The seminary could improve by... Considering how liberal they want to be about the doctrinal statement and be sure teachers adhere to it, or rewrite the statement to allow for some of the teaching that goes on. [Resp. 19]

The seminary could improve by... Reducing the workload on PhD faculty by hiring more lecturers. Provide opportunities for graduate teaching by PhD students (especially those desiring to go into academic ministry). Providing more financial aid for PhD studies (grading and graduate assistantships). [Resp. 30]

The seminary could improve by... Getting more pros rather than build more buildings [Resp. 51]

The seminary could improve by... Auditing the classes more often to see what the teacher is assigning and teaching on a normal basis. [Resp. 58]

The seminary could improve by... DTS should require a class in leadership and one in interpersonal skills (a Dale Carnegie sort of thing). [Resp. 63]

Spiritual formation serves several important purposes well enough, but many students hate it. I don’t know how to fix it, but it needs work. [Resp. 63]

DTS should be a bit less permissive when churches are not being attended, chapel is skipped, alcohol is consumed and the dress code is not followed. Grace & high expectations are not incompatible. [Resp. 69]

The seminary could improve by... Spending more times really pursuing God’s guidance through prayer in its faculty meetings. [Resp. 69]

The seminary could improve by... Implementing a lot of Mark Young’s ideas about theological
education - have incentives that reinforce the goals and objectives instead of only those who can write papers well. [Resp. 94]

The seminary could improve by... Letting students with a strong undergrad degree not have to go through the same material. This is extremely depressing, and it is silly when a prof thinks you have to have their course and then you take it, get an A, but it was an absolute waste of time. This happened to me on many occasions, and I know many others who feel the same way. [Resp. 100]

The seminary could improve by... paying more attention to the kind of people they're passing through and churning out. [Resp. 104]

The seminary could improve by... I'd like to see a place where opposing views can be expressed. I guess there is no time in class but no debate is allowed. I guess opposing views are presented but sometimes professors have little true understanding of the nuance of opposing views, making them sort of straw men. [Resp. 125]

The seminary could improve by... offering a two-year MA geared towards students who completed a bachelor degree in theology. I completed a four-year theology degree before coming here, and I would loved to have had the opportunity to take some of the higher level biblical courses and taken the languages—however, I only had two years and only so much money. [Resp. 191]

The seminary could improve by... permitting other forms of testing rather than ‘finals’ [Resp. 208]

The seminary could improve by... finding a way to pay the teachers more and make them take vacations so they have more time to rest. Seriously. I often felt the teachers were wore down and they suffered for it. [Resp. 216]

The seminary could improve by... Beginning a Bachelor's program [Resp. 222]

The seminary could improve by... assuring the students that the professors adhere fully and honestly to the doctrinal statement. [Resp. 227]

The seminary could improve by... Educating and encouraging professors to mentor students more. It APPEARS as though publishing is more important than mentoring students. [Resp. 265]

Admissions Office

I liked least.... The admission process. It looks like there are double standards. [Resp. 103]

The seminary could improve by... More carefully screen applicants, offering more opportunities for students to connect. [Resp. 111]

Alumni

The seminary could improve by... - continue to educate alumni and develop relationships with alumni who don’t support DTS. I am so deeply saddened that so few churches with alumni on staff fail to support DTS. What an embarrassment. I am committed to not letting this be the case at whatever place I end up. [Resp. 71]

Book Center

DTS book center failed to answer two e-mail questions concerning required text books.--I liked least . . . On a few occasions I had to ask the registrar office and the Book Center the same questions two or three times before they would answer. (Degree audit question and status of text book order). [Resp. 26]

Love the book store and new cafe. Needs longer hours though. [Resp. 156]

Business Office Services

The registration and accounting offices seemed to treat the student as suspect when issues were present. A little training in customer service would be good. I would not allow some of the harsh answers that I received at my company.--I liked least . . . Working with the
administrative end. It seemed harsh at times. I was on an overseas work assignment and needed a 1 1/2 year LOA. It was denied but by my boss allowed me to fly to DTS during the summer, at company expense, to take a class to keep current.  (Resp. 66)

I keep hearing that DTS is the voted the greatest place to work. If that is the case then why is it seem impossible for the business office to return calls, and the registrars’ office never returned my calls or emails. The staff is unfriendly and this is hardly what I would call a ‘loving environment’ for students to come to. . . . My wife and I have been involved in customer service for many years, and we know that it is vital to learn mes and show that you care. This is not being done. . . . I hope and pray that this school does not forget that it was founded on the ThM program and start chipping away and further weakening the ThM program in order to cater to other MA programs.--I liked least . . . Dealing with the business office. . . .(Resp. 74)

The personnel in the business office did not consistently display qualities of kindness, patience, understanding, respect, or human decency. They were unfriendly, sharp, brisk, inflexible, an air of superiority, impersonal, uncaring, inhospitable, and maintained a general disregard for the challenges facing students. In short, they treated students like numbers, not people (Resp. 123)

The seminary could improve by... empathizing with students when they run into financial problems and dealing with them kindly when it involves the financial end of things. [Resp. 166]

The seminary could improve by... Being excellent in every avenue...not simply academically but also in its business practices. [Resp. 220]

Campus Communications
(e.g., Kerygma, Threshing Floor and the DTS website),
Media Production, and CampusNet

I really love the media production department at DTS. Those guys rock! (Resp. 55)

. . . The seminary’s dependence on email is good and bad. Some work needs to be done to help those with text only emails. This isn’t hard it just needs a little attention. The seminary’s website is AMAZING! Your web team is to be praised . . . (Resp. 71)

..... Wireless internet access using the LEAP authentication protocol is both inconvenient (and under Vista currently nearly impossible unless done by a hacker) and very insecure (it is one of the most easily hacked protocols in existence--one of the reasons Microsoft does not actively support it). Many computer companies are dropping support for the protocol. . . (Resp. 113)

Campus Police

. . . Parking is limited and to get a ticket for parking does not make sense when a student [is] having a hard time parking. Women [have] parking. . . spots and we [men] keep on looking for parking...why not use it.. Student parking should not be men/women. Campus police should monitor parking to protect all [sic].  (Resp. 12)

I really like the campus police staff, they are so helpful and kind... however, my car was stolen from the campus and I feel like there needs to be more staff especially through the night so that when an officer is patrolling the grounds, there is still someone in the kiosk to keep our campus safe. (Resp. 179)
Center for Christian Leadership

What I Liked

. . . The CCL events are really a treat. I think the one day seminars with Chip Ingram, Andy Stanley, etc really affected me in a positive way and helped me get a job. :) (Resp. 71)

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... 1. Assign student ‘mentors’ to incoming students. I learned more from my fellow students about research tools, seminary expectations, etc. than from any of the formal communications in the classrooms or by the seminary. 2. The MA(BS) degree seems to be relegated to relative obscurity and insignificance. It’s not a professional degree so seems to be stigmatized in this respect (i.e., by default it’s ‘non-professional’). It does not require the languages and hours that a Th.M. degree requires, but when it’s all said and done, do the Th.M. students have a significantly better theological background and understanding of theology and Scripture? I am disappointed that so many of the professors at DTS, who are rightly proud of their accomplishments and the sacrifices it took to get there, nevertheless frequently tell me that I cannot do some particular activity or ministry function because of a credentialing deficit associated with my degree. I’m already scared witless about the enormous and profound task of handling God’s word accurately and am keenly aware that in some cultures where I may be teaching, the content of my teaching may be all these pastors hear for years to come. If my degree is insufficient, then please, I beg of you, help me define the appropriate boundaries of where I may adequately serve before I do harm to the body of Christ. If, on the other hand, it may be appropriate for me to teach, such as in the context of an under reached region of the world, please do not discourage me from pursuing this dream by intimating that I am inadequately prepared. I already know how much I don’t know! I just want to share with confidence and enthusiasm what few but wonderful nuggets I’ve been able to mine from God’s Word over the past several years at DTS. (3) Assign academic advisors for extension students at extension sites. [Resp. 3]

The seminary could improve by... a. Availability of an intentional mentor/peer relationship begun/introduced at the beginning of Fall semester, for first year students - with a student in the same study concentration b. Ongoing and improved development of internship program on the seminary side - primarily a lengthy written exercise, with a great deal of paperwork to fill out - needs a stronger flesh-and-blood component. c. Greater emphasis on prayer. [Resp. 18]

The seminary could improve by... including more practical exercises and a more supervised internship program. [Resp. 73]

The seminary could improve by... engaging students more on an individual level. Make student/advisor meetings mandatory and frequent as to foster encouragement, direction and accountability. [Resp. 83]

The seminary could improve by... Engaging the community, church, and students more. [Resp. 84]

The seminary could improve by... promoting more ways for students to connect with spiritual mentors. Enabling professors and students to engage each other more on a personal level would enhance the ability of both parties to mature spiritually. [Resp. 97]

It seems that discipleship is an essential part of accomplishing the goal of our mission statement and the Great Commission, but we do not make it a part of a student’s time at DTS. There is neither a system set up for students to be discipled, nor is a discipleship class required for a degree from DTS. Lacking this, we may be sending out pastors who place a high value on scriptural integrity but not on the process of passing it on through relationships with others. Aside from that I have loved my time at DTS and truly appreciate what has been done for me by professors and DTS staff. I am naturally disgruntled with some of the campus situations or degree requirements, but that does not mean I do not highly value what I have gained here. I understand the rare opportunity I have had to learn and experience what I
have here at DTS and I am grateful to God and the DTS faculty, staff and students I have shared this time in my life with. [Resp. 175]

I don’t remember anyone challenging me to increase my leadership involvement; I’m very involved now. Don’t have any suggestions other than someone asking/questioning where I was investing my time. [Resp. 274]

Chapel Programs

I liked least.... The chapel requirement. The variety made it seem more like an extended class than an opportunity for spiritual reflection/growth. [Resp. 41]

The seminary could improve by... reducing/eliminating the chapel requirement [Resp. 67]

. . . I would have loved to seen more well known people in chapel, even those from a different theological bent. . . . [Resp. 71]

The seminary could improve by... making it OK to teach something substantial from the pulpit, rather than encourage entertainment. having the chapel speakers not be allowed to spend so much time telling stories and get to their points sooner. Chapel services were embarrassing, particularly when the students took over to entertain the ‘other students,’ instead of treating us as fellow spiritual leaders in our communities. [Resp. 82]

...Good chapels. [Resp. 156]

Other comments . . . Do not allow squawking and screaming children into chapel because they prevent those of us who have to be there from being able to hear & focus. . . . (Resp. 168)

Classroom Conditions

The seminary could improve by... Reducing class sizes. [Resp. 5]

The seminary could improve by... Updating the Mabee lounge commuter dining area, specifically the tables and chairs. [Resp. 40]

Todd Academic center needs to be remodeled to provide women’s restrooms on all floors that have men’s restrooms. Even our women faculty does not have their own restroom in the faculty lounge. This communicates antiquated ideas and is offensive to some. (Resp. 55)

I liked least.... Some of the classrooms in Todd 3rd floor need to be redone [Resp. 192]

Our present facilities are out dated and poorly constructed. And they are certainly not up to current building codes. To spend money enhancing these facilities, in my opinion, is a stop gap measure, but not a wise investment. [Resp. 201]

I was very dissatisfied with the classroom conditions because most of the time it was soooo cold in the classroom that I could hardly concentrate on the lecture. I mostly had to concentrate on staying warm. (Resp. 233)

Counseling Services

The Student Services - Counseling offices are absolutely fantastic! What a treasure for your students. (Resp. 71)

Events Services

Student events could be improved. The events like Spring fling are good, but are so geared toward families with very young children those of with older ones find them not very attractive. The chili cook-off is one major event we have always attended because it is older family friendly. [Resp. 147]
The Events Services Department was very helpful and friendly. . . . (Resp. 153)

Financial Aid Services

I’m also deeply grateful for the financial aid I received, without which I would have been unable to continue or complete my degree. (Resp. 3) --The Seminary could improve by . . . 1. Assign student ‘mentors’ to incoming students. I learned more from my fellow students about research tools, seminary expectations, etc. than from any of the formal communications in the classrooms or by the seminary . . . (3) Assign academic advisors for extension students at extension sites.  (Resp. 3)

I was very disappointed with the attitude I received when I turned in a scholarship thank-you a couple of days late due to a friend’s funeral. It was accepted, but the person treated me harshly as if I was acting irresponsibly. I felt it was extremely inappropriate to treat someone in my situation like that.--I liked least . . . too much bureaucracy, tendency to place ticky-tack rules over relationships with students, that sometimes the seminary staff that is on the front lines with dealing with students do not have the best attitude or are not equipped to do so, which reflects poorly on the whole department. (This is not the norm . . .) --The Seminary could improve by . . . loosing up on bureaucratic rules, (like re-evaluating if some rules are no longer necessary and eliminating them to simplify things), and providing more graciousness, (as in flexibility on hours, availability of departmental administrative assistants, deadlines on things)  (Resp. 140)

Food Services

The food in Mitchell could be improved to provide more healthy offerings. Less fried food, etc. Great addition of the Koine cafe though! --I liked least . . . the lack of parking on campus, the cost of classes is expensive, and the rules about the dress code especially in the summer. (Resp. 33)
Mitchell should serve food and drink continuously throughout the afternoon (Resp. 222)
I liked least . . . The default food plan for all dorm students is not a good idea. I moved off campus just to reduce my living costs so I could pay for tuition without going into debt. (Resp. 249)

Housing and Relocation Office and Residence Halls

I liked least.... dorms - Lincoln Hall and accommodations for traveling and out of state or out of country DMIN students. [Resp. 10]
I liked least.... The administration’s concern for numbers over individuals. Case in point: the Seminary’s poor handling of the sale of Lincoln. While I realize the sale was necessary, the communication to those living there was absolutely horrendous. These students are not merely an inconvenience--they are people that matter and that should be treated with dignity, not disregarded and kept in the dark simply because they depend upon the school for housing. [Resp. 75]
Over my 5 years at DTS I have grown more and more sad at how financially-driven many of the departments have become. We felt this with a number of departments, but especially the housing department and the various policies implemented for Swiss Tower residents. (Resp. 110)
I liked best.... The on campus housing and cafeteria/cafe. That really improved the campus. [Resp. 120]
I liked least.... the way the single men who lived in Lincoln were treated when the Seminary sold it. [Resp. 151]
I liked best.... the excellent faculty and wonderful facilities. [Resp. 218]
I do appreciate and love this school Thanks. oh, good housing at Swiss Tower, although I think that the new building priced at 500 a month is too high for a single student. I liked least.... Lack of grace. Especially in housing. Not bending with rules.  [Resp. 156]
Attending Dallas Theological Seminary was one of the most enjoyable times of my life. It was wonderful in so many ways. I made so many good friends while I was there and have
precious memories of my times there. The smart serious students do live in Stearns Hall. [Resp. 216]

I liked least... Lincoln Hall. [Resp. 247]

I liked least... The default food plan for all dorm students is not a good idea. I moved off campus just to reduce my living costs so I could pay for tuition without going into debt. [Resp. 249]

I liked least... The Mitchell Ministry meal plans, where I felt like I was robbed of my money if I did not use my credit in a given semester or summer week. [Resp. 272]

**What Should Be Changed**

The seminary could improve by... Finishing new housing for Winter and Summer session men on campus. [Resp. 162]

The seminary could improve by... Making a flexible meal plan where the student could decide how much money needs to be added to their card, or where the student could use the money on the card even at the book store. [Resp. 272]

The seminary could improve by... Considering the needs of students with family obligations who do not live in Swiss [Resp. 273]

**Human Resources**

(1) On one occasion, my wife had applied for a position on-campus. Although she did not get the position, there was no communication of that decision from HR. (2) On one occasion, my wife needed to speak with me when I was in class. This was an extremely important conversation that needed to take place, and Student Services refused to notify me of wife’s call, since it was not a life and death situation. --I liked least . . . The lack of customer service and evident servant leadership. Often, I have encountered a sense that the employees of DTS feel as though they are doing the students a favor by letting them be here. Rather than being enthusiastic about serving the student, it seems that they simply offer lip-service. I have found that many of the secular companies I have worked for (I have been in sales for many years) have been more attentive to the customer than DTS is to the students. This has often come out in a lack of common courtesy to the student which one would expect even in secular institutions. --The Seminary could improve by . . . providing a greater level of servant leadership in the area of customer service to the students. Much of this has to do with attitude, responsiveness, and a true desire to attend to the requests and needs of the student rather than a simple verbal nod. (Resp. 138)

**Institutional Research**

What an incredible experience this has been. I will be so sad if it has to end. *Please note that this survey has its sections sorely mixed up and therefore is hard to participate in.* I have often noted that I would love to proofread for the Seminary. Of course, I make goofs too. [Resp. 48]

Too many of the questions on both parts of the TBTK test I took seemed to be fairly unimportant. [Resp. 85]

. . . 2. On two occasions, I found that I could not write a course instructor survey despite being within the deadline (the link was taken down more than a day before the listed end date on surveys). [Resp. 113]

I wish that whoever is in charge of collecting student surveys, alumni information, graduation information, etc. from graduating students would consider the fact that all of us have to have our class work in by April 30 (this year) and not also demand to have various forms and surveys filled out by the same date, or next day. Surely, there is a better system and a better way to time things so as to minimize student stress load in the final week. When I am doing everything I can to finish all of my reading, tests and papers, honestly, the last thing I care
about or want to look at is another form to fill out or survey to take. I imagine that many other students feel that way, which probably contributes to a lower, numerical return on your surveys and forms and more negative feedback from those who do fill them out. (Resp. 135)

This survey form could be improved because once something is checked you can change it to a different answer, but you can not clear it totally if you made a mistake and answered something that does not pertain to you. Also, the seminary always waits until the end of the semester to ask if there was any trouble in scheduling the class that is being evaluated, or if it was offered at a good time. However, by that time scheduling frustrations are forgotten, and I take a class because I can schedule it, whether or not it was the class I wanted to take at the time I wanted to take it. The seminary should ask about class scheduling in a separate survey at the time of registration for the semester because the current method does not capture a true evaluation of scheduling difficulties. There were lots of times when I could not take the classes that I wanted to take so I took what I needed that was available, thus the answer for the class that I am evaluating is positive. However, this does not comment on what it was that I really wanted to take but was unable to do so because it was unavailable or it conflicted with a requisite class for which I had no other choice but to take when it was offered. [Resp. 147]

The things that I ranked lower are mostly ranked because they were skills I had when I arrived and were not developed because there wasn't necessarily a need. Such as, When I arrived, I was proficient in church related technology because I was in charge of the AV ministry at my last church. So it could not be said that I developed my ability in that area. In the areas where I marked 3 most are marked as such because they weren't my focus while I was here. My program didn't require preaching so developing my communicating ability in that area was not part of my program. [Resp. 190]

I did not register for any preaching courses, so I am not disappointed that I don't possess specific preaching skills. [Resp. 193]

I was in MABEL program were some of the above do not apply. [Resp. 233]

I'm not sure. Some of the problems seem to be inherent to the institution and academia. [Resp. 242]

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**Library Facilities and Services, Media Center, and Student Computer Lab**

I liked best.... faculty and library [Resp. 10]
I liked best.... A very high quality education provided by a very trained and committed faculty with a first rate library and media services. [Resp. 30]

The Seminary could improve by . . . . . . leaving the Library open until midnight. The library at my undergrad stayed open until 2am most nights. This was a service utilized by many students. . . . (Resp. 123)

The Seminary could improve by . . . Extending the hours of operation for the library and designating at least one space on campus for a quiet study area in which someone can eat & drink. I need absolute silence when I study but also like to be able to drink a soda or water & found it incredibly distracting to have to study in the library snack room or student center or Mitchell where there were a lot of other students talking as well as screaming toddlers running wild. (Resp. 168)

I liked best.... The facility - classrooms - library [Resp. 202]
The library should open much earlier than 7:30am. . . . --I liked least . . . The library does not open until 7:30am (Resp. 222)
I liked least.... limited library hours [Resp. 252]
The seminary could improve by... I think there needs to be extended hours at the library. Staying open an extra hour helps, and closing early on Fridays effects many students. I have had classes all day and needed to study in the library and it closed an hour later. That’s annoying. Also I think the seminary could improve the print/copy situation in the library. I know of many schools where the students received a certain number of free prints and they had to pay after that. I appreciate the library providing that service but the cost can add up quickly. [Resp. 120]

Ministry Placement Services and Alumni Office

The placement department has been exceptionally well in serving the needs of me specifically, but I know of students in general. Both Rachel W. and Bob K. have been a tremendous help in the candidating process. [Resp. 99]

The Seminary’s placement department is not especially helpful. It seems that only someone on the Pastoral Ministries track will receive much assistance. In fact, the advice I received there was actually discouraging. [Resp. 148]

The seminary could improve by... When I graduated last August with a counseling degree I never saw a listing for counseling positions available, outside of Dallas, TX. I wish the monthly listing would have counseling positions available!! [Resp. 212]

I liked least... the lack of placement opportunities for counseling students. [Resp. 226]

As an MABS student I was told that placement was not an option for me since I was not trained for vocational ministry. I’m not sure if this is the official position of DTS as an institution, but the attitude is pervasive and commonly experienced by students. [Resp. 242]

I liked least... That as a Black Graduate, I am unable to find employment. [Resp. 256]

Online Course Support

On one of my online courses, I never perceived that the professor stewarding the course was ever particularly involved to the degree he should have been. The online technical folks were absolutely terrific. . . . -- The Seminary could improve by . . . 1. Assign student ‘mentors’ to incoming students. I learned more from my fellow students about research tools, seminary expectations, etc. than from any of the formal communications in the classrooms or by the seminary . . . (Resp. 3)

My ratings above relate to the current status, not the status when I entered DTS in Aug 2002. The DTS online services greatly improved during the 5 years that I have been a student. The greatest problem I have had with DTS services has been that nearly everything assumes that the student is on campus frequently during the daytime. This situation has improved greatly, but still needs improvement. That would also apply to the scheduling of classes. I would have greatly benefited from more weekend classes (first choice), night classes (second choice), and summer classes (third choice). I found weekend classes to be rare. Night class offerings were fairly good for the core BE and ST classes, but rare for the core NT, OT, and PM classes. For the large classroom deliveries, online delivery works far better (for me) than classroom delivery. From my perspective, the student services have greatly improved for part-time commuter students over the past 5 years. (Resp. 5)

DTS needs to hire somebody to oversee the online course workload. This has been a complaint for some time by many students but nothing has changed. Perhaps someone in administration or a member of the faculty needs to take an online course and then it will change. (Resp. 87)

I liked least.... The online classes don’t allow for one-on-one interaction however I believe they are a vital part of the degree process. [Resp. 204]
Parking

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... the parking. [Resp. 1]
I liked least.... parking [Resp. 11]. . . . Parking is limited and to get a ticket for parking does not make sense when a student is having a hard time parking. Women [have] parking . . . spots and we [men] keep on looking for parking...why not use it.. Student parking should not be men/women. Campus police should monitor parking to protect all [sic]. (Resp. 12)
My dissatisfaction with the parking is based mainly on the current parking shortage and the increasing segregation of women student only lots. While I appreciate and applaud the reasoning behind such lot designation as well as efforts to increase parking space, the current situation has been a deterrent for making the trip to campus. (Resp. 30)
I liked least . . . the lack of parking on campus, . . . . (Resp. 33)
I liked least.... Besides the difficulty of finding parking, there has not been much I didn’t like. [Resp. 47]
I liked least . . . the difficulty of finding parking.--The Seminary could improve by . . . offering more parking. (Resp. 77)
I liked least.... The parking has been somewhat difficult. That’s the only thing I can think of that was not wonderful. But I do understand there was no alternative and things will be much better when the building project is completed. [Resp. 109]
I liked least.... Parking conditions [Resp. 133]
Parking at the Dallas campus is a BIG problem. It needs attention! Otherwise, DTS is wonderful! (Resp. 143)
I liked least.... The parking [Resp. 160]
I liked least.... the lack of parking. [Resp. 161]
I liked least.... the parking situation. [Resp. 171]
I liked least.... The bureaucracy. Many of the ideas are good, such as providing more women’s parking and requiring Spiritual Formation, but the outworking of these things and their effects on all students do not seem to be taken into account. i.e. The last changeover of the parking lot next to Mitchell to all day women’s parking was a bit of a kick in the pants at this time in the semester and after all the other parking has been taken away this year. I know there aren’t many options, but maybe allowing male commuter students some on campus parking during off-peak hours or days would be helpful to alleviate some of the frustration. [Resp. 175]
Be prepared to receive many negatives ratings regarding parking. (Resp. 191)
I liked least . . . Parking--The Seminary could improve by . . . improve parking (Resp. 202)
I liked least.... Parking isn't great. [Resp. 232]
Wish the Campus police were not Nazi’s about giving tickets. [Resp. 272]

What Should Be Changed

More parking for men. [Resp. 8]
The seminary could improve by... offering more parking. [Resp. 77]
The seminary could improve by... Though I thoroughly enjoyed my VIP (i.e.: handicapped) parking, I look forward to the parking situation to improve for everyone. [Resp. 152]
The seminary could improve by... Adding more student parking [Resp. 160]
...provide some parking for male commuter students during off-peak hours. It’s frustrating to pass three lots that are only 50% - 60% full on my way out to the far reaches of the lot across Live Oak which many times is full. [Resp. 175]
The seminary could improve by ... add more parking. [Resp. 181]
The seminary could improve by... improve parking [Resp. 202]
The seminary could improve by... adding additional parking. [Resp. 226]
The seminary could improve by... I wish that the parking department would enforce that the women parking lots are not for men. I have been at DTS for 5 years and each year I see men parking in these spots and women are forced to park across Live Oak or somewhere else. Also by posting signs [Resp. 259]
Registrar’s Office Services

The Seminary could improve by . . . 1. Assign student ‘mentors’ to incoming students. I learned more from my fellow students about research tools, seminary expectations, etc. than from any of the formal communications in the classrooms or by the seminary . . . (3) Assign academic advisors for extension students at extension sites.  

Resp. 3

I liked least . . . On a few occasions I had to ask the registrar office and the Book Center the same questions two or three times before they would answer. (Degree audit question and status of textbook order).  

Resp. 26

The registrar’s office is slow. They do not answer emails. They mix up stuff and the computer system is incapable [sic] to do a number of things.  

Resp. 34

The seminary could improve by... Working more closely with students. Academic advising might be more student-oriented.  

Resp. 60

The registrar’s office is VERY difficult to navigate... in my experience, they rarely return calls or e-mails, you can rarely speak with whom you came to see, but the receptionist rarely is of much assistance . . .  

Resp. 61

The registration and accounting offices seemed to treat the student as suspect when issues were present. A little training in customer service would be good. I would not allow some of the harsh answers that I received at my company.  

Resp. 66

I keep hearing that DTS is the voted the greatest place to work. If that is the case then why is it seem impossible for the business office to return calls, and the registrars office never returned my calls or emails. The staff is unfriendly and this is hardly what I would call a ‘loving environment’ for students to come to. . . . I hope and pray that this school does not forget that it was founded on the ThM program and start chipping away and further weakening the ThM program in order to cater to other MA programs.—I liked least . . . Dealing with the . . . REGISTRARS OFFICE!!  

Resp. 74

The seminary could improve by... Publishing future semester class schedules would help a student plan their course work much better. Surely the seminary knows or should know what courses will be available at what times further ahead than the release of the registration materials. At least, for example, they can let students know that if one wants to take a special seminar class or BCxxxx class, that their only chance will be in Fall ’04 or ’06 semester because it will not be offered again until Fall ’08.  

Resp. 147

The seminary could improve by... better service at the Registrar’s office.  

Resp. 151

I liked least.... The business aspect of it; namely, dealing with course drops and additions and so on. Eventually, I was always able to find someone helpful, but sometimes it took a while.  

Resp. 195

Registrar’s Office staff did not always seem eager to help. . . .(Resp. 211)

I’ve had good experiences for the most part; however, I have had the most issues with communication for the last semester. It was challenging to get answers/responses from the registrar’s office. I did all of my planning/course advisement for myself; I only had assistance in the final semester. It might have been helpful to have someone email/communicate with me that I was heading in the right direction.—I liked least . . . the limited number of classes we can take at the extensions and the fact that one cannot get a CE degree by attending during the summer since for the last two summers, no CE classes were available during summer sessions that educators could attend.  

Resp. 274

Registration Procedures/Registrar Items

My ratings above relate to the current status, not the status when I entered DTS in Aug 2002. The DTS online services greatly improved during the 5 years that I have been a student. The greatest problem I have had with DTS services has been that nearly everything assumes that the student is on campus frequently during the daytime. This situation has improved greatly, but still needs improvement. That would also apply to the scheduling of classes. I would have greatly benefited from more weekend classes (first choice), night classes (second choice), and summer classes (third choice). I found weekend classes to be rare. Night class offerings were fairly good for the core BE and ST classes, but rare for the core NT, OT, and PM classes. For the large classroom deliveries, online deliver works far better (for me) than classroom delivery.
From my perspective, the student services have greatly improved for part-time commuter students over the past 5 years. (Resp. 5)

There should [not] be late fees for classes before they start...No other school[s] have that! [Editor’s note: the student is incorrect in that last statement.] (Resp. 12)

I liked least . . . Working with the administrative end. It seemed harsh at times. I was on an overseas work assignment and needed a 1 1/2 year LOA. It was denied but by my boss allowed me to fly to DTS during the summer, at company expense, to take a class to keep current. (Resp. 66)

I liked least.... Not enough courses. [Resp. 68]
I liked best.... The systems in place serve the students well such as the Kerygma, registering online and getting majority of information by email. [Resp. 93]

I liked least.... The lack of tentative future semester class schedules. I missed several elective classes that have limited offerings that I wanted to take because I did not know when they would be offered and then they conflicted with another requisite class. One could not make any plans about when to take classes any further out than registration time. This makes planning one’s time here at seminary and in employment outside of seminary difficult. [Resp. 147]

I liked least.... The unwavering stance on accommodating students with varying Bible backgrounds. I appreciate the idea of the tests that can be taken to get credit for classes which students have possibly had in the past. However, it is not reasonable to think that a student is going to be able to prepare for those tests in the middle of the first year of seminary (when life feels extremely hectic for students who take a heavy workload). Ultimately, because I graduated with a Bible degree from a Christian University, I was frustrated by the repetition of the BE and theology classes. I did not have time or energy to test out of those classes during my first year at DTS, and I assumed that the seminary would teach those classes at a higher level. In hindsight, I wish that I would have tried to test out of everything because those classes were not helpful OR I wish that I would have had the freedom to take other classes instead (ex: take the ‘Sermon on the Mount’ class instead of the ‘Gospels’ class that I already had in undergrad). [Resp. 154]

I liked least.... inflexibility in regards to degree plans [Resp. 236]

**What Should Be Changed**

Either class or work times conflicted with time program schedules. Schedule either week-end or night hours. [Resp. 27]

The seminary could improve by... Having more night & summer classes for those who work. [Resp. 153]
The seminary could improve by... offering more class times each semester. [Resp. 173]
The seminary could improve by... Improving communications between the registrar’s office and students. Once I found out I could graduate this Spring, I had absolutely NO idea what to do from that point on. I still don’t receive graduating student emails and feel like I am flying blind! I never know what I am supposed to do! [Resp. 186]
The seminary could improve by... Re: scholarships and awards. The seminary offers performance based awards to students nominated for the honor. At present only fulltime students qualify, in which ‘fulltime’ = a min. load of 12 hrs per semester (24 per year). Though nominated, I could never qualify because I was considered ‘part-time’...even though I took 30 hours per year (I took classes year round). I finished my coursework in 3 1/2 years as a ‘part-time’ student!!! This really doesn’t make sense. I would recommend that you change the definition of ‘fulltime’ to a min. of 24 hours per year, and not specify a per semester minimum. [Resp. 203]

Would like the registrar to automatically do a review of the degree audit and include the results in the letter from the dean about graduation. Maybe add in ‘Pending your satisfactory completion of Classes A, B, and C within a certain timeframe, you will have fulfilled the requirements for the XYZ degree.’ [Resp. 215]
Student Services

The seminary could improve by... DTS is extremely effective at helping to meet the needs of students who transition to seminary. Consider improving how you support men and women who make that transition from corporate America. A few things to consider expanding for the part-time student from corporate America who is committed to completing their education at DTS:
- Consider expanding the hours that Walvoord is open on Saturdays (where do we store our food when you only open for one hour on Saturdays? If security is the issue add a combination lock like the one we have on the Hendricks Center)
- Consider offering the courses needed to complete the THM attending evenings, weekends, summer and winter sessions. It was not clear how to accomplish this as a working father with a son in college and two younger kids. There seems to be a strong commitment to the student in his/her twenties. DTS seems to be perfect for the student straight out of Bible College with only a few responsibilities. There are men and women in their late 30s and early 40s & 50s who would love to come to DTS, but financially the path is not clear and the course offerings are not clear if are a non-daytime student. DTS can improve on communicating this path. Seminary surveys and assessments have shown that older students do quite well at DTS. The seminary can also improve on the racial diversity of the students and the faculty. For a seminary in the heart of Dallas and in the heart of America it should be more diverse if we intend to effectively give the truth to all cultures. [Resp. 32]
- The food in Mitchell could be improved to provide more healthy offerings. Less fried food, etc. Great addition of the koine cafe though!–I liked least . . . the lack of parking on campus, the cost of classes is expensive, and the rules about the dress code especially in the summer. (Resp. 33)
- The Student Services - Counseling offices are absolutely fantastic! What a treasure for your students. . . . (Resp. 71)
- The seminary could improve by... opening the student center for access to student boxes on Saturdays [Resp. 79]
- On one occasion, my wife needed to speak with me when I was in class. This was an extremely important conversation that needed to take place, and Student Services refused to notify me of wife's call, since it was not a life and death situation. . . . [Resp. 138]
- I work full-time and take classes on the side. I found the chapel and sf requirement very difficult to work with, since I don't know of many employers who will ok a 2 hour lunch break every week. I spoke with the SF department on this issue, and there were no options available. If this is going to be a no-credit requirement for graduation, we need more options and flexibility.--I liked least . . . I don't know, extra no-credit requirements on top of the class schedules. We are already busy as it is, and we are also expected to stay connected with the local church for most of this- ie community groups. It seems like we are doubling up on this type of ministry. (Resp. 163)
- The seminary could improve by... providing a much greater attention to the stress placed on the marriages of students [Resp. 210]
- I believe that the seminary should consider some type of a support group for middle-aged, second career students. As such a student I felt somewhat disconnected from the seminary and from young, non-family oriented students. Seminary is difficult, it is even more difficult if one must shepherd a family and work full-time in order to provide income. I suspect that most middle-aged students are prone to burnout as a result of the seminary workload and all of
life’s other priorities. It would have been helpful at times to have someone who understood the pressures associated with seminary under the above described circumstances. Several of the professors were wonderful encouragement regarding “staying the course.” That said I believe that it would be beneficial to have some type of a support group for second career students such as a special Spiritual Formation group that addressed some of the issues associated with career changes and expectations for those looking to go into ministry after 15 to 20 years working in the secular world. (Resp. 200)

. . . More funding needed for Student Council and student groups. Stronger enforcement needed of Handbook policies (alcohol, dress standard, chapel attendance). (Resp. 211)

. . . I believe that Chaplain Bill does a great job; however, there is a large amount of married students. Columbia International University has a Dean of Men, Dean of Women, and a Dean of Married Students (and a chapel coordinator). This is something that DTS should look into pursuing. In my experience, because DTS is a commuter school, then students get lost between the cracks. Since I am not from DTS, I even got lost at my church. When my wife and I needed help, over a two year period I turned to DTS staff, DTS professors, my church pastor, my church elder, my church small group, and a lay person in my church...all of which failed me, or could not meet with us, etc. My wife and I were newly married, in a new place, away from family and other support, and we needed help (since all know that the first five years of marriage are the hardest). Even to this day, we have no one to meet with us to mentor us as a couple. Every couple we have asked has turned us down due to their hectic schedule. This is a sad experience, one that should not be coupled with a seminary experience. (Resp. 265)

Missed interaction with on-campus students/government processes (Resp. 267)

General Comments about Serving Students

You are doing well. Organized and well-managed. Thanks for your service. (Resp. 21)

I liked least . . . The lack of customer service and evident servant leadership. Often, I have encountered a sense that the employees of DTS feel as though they are doing the students a favor by letting them be here. Rather than being enthusiastic about serving the student, it seems that they simply offer lip-service. I have found that many of the secular companies I have worked for (I have been in sales for many years) have been more attentive to the customer than DTS is to the students. This has often come out in a lack of common courtesy to the student which one would expect even in secular institutions. --The Seminary could improve by . . . providing a greater level of servant leadership in the area of customer service to the students. Much of this has to do with attitude, responsiveness, and a true desire to attend to the requests and needs of the student rather than a simple verbal nod. (Resp. 138)

I liked least . . . too much bureaucracy [sic], tendency to place ticky-tack rules over relationships with students, that sometimes the seminary staff that is on the front lines with dealing with students do not have the best attitude or are not equipped to do so, which reflects poorly on the whole department. (This is not the norm and there are many great examples like ___ .) -- The Seminary could improve by . . . loosing up on bureaucratic [still sic] rules, (like re-evaluating if some rules are no longer necessary and eliminating them to simplify things), and providing more graciousness, (as in flexibility on hours, availability of departmental administrative assistants, deadlines on things) (Resp. 140)

Alumni could be given more consideration in using the library like books and computers than how it is now. It doesn't make any difference between an alumnus and non-alumnus from DTS. (Resp. 146)

The people need to have a more service oriented attitude. Rather than saying ‘no’ right away, they should try all means (legally of course) to find a way to a win-win situation. Over the three years here, I find that this lacking, as staff tend to be inflexible. Perhaps this is because the
front-line staff are not empowered to make decisions that are out of the norm. However, admittedly there has been an improvement in this area.--I liked least . . . Inflexibility of staff (Resp. 184)
If I called and left a message, I could expect never to have my call returned. --I liked least . . . lack of communication in various departments. (Resp. 202)
I liked least . . . there is a bit of smugness among some of the staff. (Resp. 216)

What I Liked

I liked best.... WEC [Resp. 56]
I liked best.... Its strong commitment to teaching the scriptures... the wonderful attitudes of the faculty and staff... [Resp. 61]
I liked best.... the quality of the teachers and the curriculum. [Resp. 62]
I liked best.... the commitment to God’s Word as the standard for life. I love that the Bible is treasured and I especially love those people who treasure the Bible so much that they live it out in service and love for their brothers and sisters in Christ. The faculty a [Resp. 71]
I liked best.... the commitment to truth and the impartation of truth during your time as a student. [Resp. 72]
I liked best.... The incredible academic instruction; the professors [Resp. 106]
I liked best.... the centrality of scriptures in every course. [Resp. 151]
I liked best.... It’s emphasis on the word of God. [Resp. 178]
I liked best.... the commitment to academic excellence. [Resp. 211]
I liked best.... it’s determination to maintain academic excellence for its masters-level courses. [Resp. 243]
I liked best.... Biblical and theological training [Resp. 244]
I liked best.... the freedom to think [Resp. 252]
I liked best.... Excellent biblically based curriculum. [Resp. 255]
I liked best.... the invaluable experience and knowledge base that the professors introduced to us. [Resp. 272]

What Should Be Changed

I liked least.... The academic disparity between BE courses and NT/OT courses. Allow for Th.M students to substitute BE required courses for NT/OT dept. electives. While I understand the seminary’s goal of teaching through every book of the Bible - the fact one or two class periods (3 1/2 hours) is spent on a book of the Bible in some BE courses. Many students would benefit from the choice to substitute BE 105 for NT 405, or even NT 305. Those students who might benefit most are those who have an undergrad degree from a Christian liberal-arts university. For these students, myself included, BE classes are repetitive and academically un-challenging. While BE 101 is great, it is extremely repetitive for most who have an undergrad degree from a Christian liberal-arts university. This is true for all other required BE classes (I did take a BE elective, and was an excellent class - a description which I cannot give to the required BE classes). My complaint is not with any BE professor. I thoroughly enjoyed the professors who taught my BE classes! However, the curriculum is just not challenging. In many BE classes, the course requirement was to write 5 or 6 mini-papers (2-3 pages in length). While I understand the
intention (the ability to succinctly answer a question), the outcome was a paper which lacked space to present any development of serious thought on the subject matter. I think it would be very helpful to offer an alternative to the required BE classes for Th.M students. [Resp. 40]

The school has a long tradition of going through every book of the Bible. It may help to review that tradition and create a Biblical Theology Dept. that will focus on teaching how to do biblical theology in every genre of literature in both the Old and New Testaments. In all of the preaching classes making the theological move from exegesis remains the weakest area for all students. I am in the ThM program and focused on research and development of my ability to study, understand, apply and teach the text. When we are being fed continual information and spitting it back out for four years, our spiritual life can take a hit, as mine has. I look forward to my defrost period but do not for one second regret my decision to come here. You can’t have it all. It is not realistic to get all fives. I take personal responsibility for my relationship with God. I would encourage the school to seriously consider how far the education of the ThM program has slipped since Dr. Hoehner’s time. I feel ashamed to have honor’s on my diploma when much greater scholars have gone before me and not achieved it because the course work was much more demanding. The BE classes and ST classes are for the most part hardly challenging. It seems like the languages are hard so everything else has been softened. I also served as a grader. I think there needs to be a written exam or easy requirement that must be met before students can be accepted into the ThM program. It is a research degree and a graduate degree. There needs to be a demonstrated proficiency of the language or we are setting the students up for failure. I love this school and what for what it stands. I pray that it does not become a Princeton or Harvard. As Dr Hanna has stated that no conservative seminary has survived the fourth generation before they lost their theological roots. DTS is in its fourth generation. [Resp. 74]

I received most of my training in premillennial/dispensational theology outside of DTS before I attended. This teaching seemed to be downplayed in the majority of the classes I attended at DTS. I am worried at this trend. The dualism between preaching and teaching shocks me. In preaching class, it was emphasized that ‘we are NOT to have people have deep thoughts about God, but simply do something.’ I found this very odd for an institution whose motto is ‘preach the word.’ My understanding from scripture based on the shape of the epistles is to teach hard core doctrine first (the first ‘half’ of every epistle) and then explain how to apply that truth about God to life (last ‘half’ of the epistle). Preaching class emphasized telling personal stories to emote people, but content was not the issue. In fact we were told point blank, ‘do not have them turn to two passages in the same sermon.’ Thankfully the other departments, BE, NT, OT, had a different take on the issue. [Resp. 82]

The thoroughness of the training

What I Liked

I liked best.... What I love about Dallas Seminary is their focus on the Bible. It is one of the few institutions that actually goes through the complete bible. I love the faculty of DTS. They are very willing to meet with students and help them with their callings in life. [Resp. 46]

I liked best.... The exposure to men and women who have devoted their lives to studying and applying the Scriptures. The opportunity to study each book of the Bible. And the openness of the professors to meet with students to further their education outside of the parameters of class time. [Resp. 54]

I liked best.... strong Bible exposition, theology and language preparation, personal relationships that
I have fostered (both professors and students), the high professional standards of the faculty and staff, the feeling as I leave that I am well-prepared for ministry, the SF program [Resp. 81]
I liked best... that we study every single book of the Bible. [Resp. 96]
I liked best... its emphasis on communicating the truth. [Resp. 116]
I liked best... Christ’s love toward one another, emphasis on the Bible and training on the preaching. [Resp. 118]
I liked best... their dedication to teaching the Bible. [Resp. 119]
I liked best... the in-depth study of Scripture. [Resp. 196]
I liked best... the seminary is focused/centered on the Scriptures! The reason I attended DTS was that it studies all 66 books of the bible. I feel I am better able to handle scripture as a result. [Resp. 212]
I liked best... A complete study of all books in the Bible. [Resp. 256]
I liked best... solid biblical education [Resp. 264]

What I Didn’t Like

The commitment to excellence and integrity

I liked best.... its commitment to standing for truth and integrity, but not without grace and compassion [Resp. 101]
I liked best.... It’s commitment to teaching the Bible. [Resp. 110]
I liked best.... its commitment to the accurate interpretation and teaching of the Word of God. [Resp. 128]
I liked best.... the strict adherence to the authority of Scripture and the way the seminary holds Scripture as the source from which all doctrine should be developed. [Resp. 132]
I liked best.... Its commitment to historical orthodoxy and the professional expertise and personalities of its faculty. [Resp. 135]
I liked best.... the integrity of the seminary in  I liked best.... the focus on absolute truth and the stance on inerrancy. [Resp. 167]
I liked best.... is the emphasis on the Word of God, and the high level of scholarship found in the professors. [Resp. 171]
I liked best.... knowing that I am at a place that truly teaches truth and is aware that sometimes there are areas of uncertainty, but that is okay because we are all learning, student and professor alike. [Resp. 173]
I liked best.... the pursuit of excellence in each area. [Resp. 216]
I liked best.... It’s commitment to teaching God’s Word accurately and without compromise. The quality professors who exhibited Christ-like character and love for students! [Resp. 219]
I liked best.... it commitment to the Word and it’s students. [Resp. 226]
Fulfilling its mission in educating and preparing servant leaders. [Resp. 268]

The commitment to its heritage of conservative doctrine and interpretation

I liked best.... Solid biblical teaching, exposition of the scripture and dispensational theology. [Resp. 13]
I liked best.... Emphasis on the Scriptures [Resp. 14]
I liked best.... Its commitment to the Bible as central in the academic program. [Resp. 21]
I liked best.... its commitment to teaching the word of God despite the cultural pressures to be more liberal in its doctrinal positions. Stand firm on what you teach DTS! [Resp. 32]
I also like that the nominative dispensationalist tradition is still alive - at least in the BE department. [Resp. 34]
I liked best.... Conservative theology and servant leadership [Resp. 38]
I liked best.... the commitment to studying the Scriptures. [Resp. 42]
I liked best... a non-denominationally based, but solid evangelical, education which helped me grow in my theological reflection, which will in turn affect the way I go about ministry in almost every way. Still not afraid to point out deficiencies in evangelicalism so that perhaps my generation can overturn past failures in our stream of Christianity. [Resp. 50]

I liked best... the wholeness which is seeks to build in each theological student’s biblical worldview [Resp. 58]

I liked best... The Doctrinal Statement and the faculty [Resp. 90]

I liked best... The commitment to God’s word. I have found that it was always a purpose of a class to glorify him in all that was talked about during class time. [Resp. 95]

I liked best... its focus on the truth of Scripture and my fiancée whom I met while at the Seminary :) [Resp. 113]

I liked best... they helped me learn how to think about the word and theology. [Resp. 115]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... Holding fast to the doctrinal beliefs and requiring consistency for graduation. Today’s graduates have a wide range of doctrine, so it is less clear what it means to be a DTS grad. [Resp. 213]

The seminary could improve by... stressing importance of correct doctrine. It would seem easy enough to leave DTS with bad doctrine b/c papers are seldom graded according to doctrinal/biblical content. [Resp. 214]

Integration of Learning

...I also appreciated the method of preaching which is taught, but wished it was correlated with the language departments. [Resp. 2]

I liked least... The languages. The lack of practical application of the languages to teaching and preaching was very disappointing. The instruction should be grounded in the real world by teaching students how to develop and use the Greek and Hebrew within the time frames of modern ministry. The skills learned in Theology, BE, and Pastoral Ministries are used for a lifetime - the languages are so focused on memorization rather than skill development with the result that little of what is learned is carried over into long term ministry. I came to DTS to learn skills to use in the pastorate; I did not learn to use the languages for long term ministry. I don’t understand why a D.Min student can take computer tools for use in ministry and Th.M. students can’t. [Resp. 2]

I liked least... The lack of true, meaningful engagement between the seminary experience and real-life. [Resp. 84]

I liked least... Course work is not rigorous enough and does not prepare one for future scholarship. There is the assumption that ThM students are the same as MA students and they simply are not. There needs to be division and there needs to be more expected of ThM students like reading primary sources. [Resp. 87]

...lack of integration between all of my classes. Lack of having what I learned in classes in transferable packages. [Resp. 94]

I liked least... Weak in theology department, especially the biblical theology. Many graduates may not have solid training on doing the biblical theology, and the integration of the Scripture as a whole. [Resp. 118]

I liked least... their ability to get the different academic departments to connect effectively. [Resp. 119]

I liked least... The theological dissonance that I feel between some classes and the way the institution sometimes appears to be more and more concerned about numbers (numbers of students and dollars). [Resp. 135]

I thought there should be more continuity between the languages and preaching. I enjoyed studying the languages. I see their value. However, languages are very academic and time consuming. It is hard to know what to do with them to make them practical in the pastorate. Perhaps this is why I have heard so many pastors say they have not used the languages since seminary.
On another note, many churches have in their constitution that Robert's Rules of Order are to govern the way their meetings are run. Somewhere in Pastoral ministries should be a section covering the rudiments on how to run church from a business side, especially the meetings, but including how to read and put together a typical church budget. I know of one pastor, a DTS grad, who recently thought Robert's Rules of Order gave him the right to have his entire staff attend a church board meeting to vote in order to sway an election in his favor. Unfortunately, most of us probably don't have the least idea of how to properly run meetings in the church or run a church from the business side and it can create trouble. There has got to be some kind of basic professional etiquette that is common (or at least should be). Also, learning how to use the 3 main Bible language software programs efficiently would be good. [Resp. 147]

I liked least.... the Bible Exposition courses required for a ThM. Often, these courses make no mention nor use of the original languages, and are poorer classroom experiences as a result. They feel as though they have been 'dumbed down' to suit the MA students in the class. The BE courses emphasize trivial facts about biblical books and rarely address significant questions of interpretation or theology. Additionally, since each class is required to cover such large amounts of content, whole biblical books receive just cursory treatment. With the exception of one class, I found my BE classes to be a frustrating experience that generally felt like a waste of time and money. [Resp. 148]

I liked least.... The number of BE courses for the Th.M program, especially for someone coming right out of Bible College. I found the BE courses to be far less than what I would consider graduate material. I found many of them to be sub-par even for undergraduate work. The professors are very godly and spiritual people and they made the classes worthwhile. [Resp. 159]

I liked least.... cost...just kidding, it's worth it. i would say the bible exposition requirements. i felt as if i was simply being told the company line on classical dispensationalism, which was in conflict with nearly every other class I took. it would be great if BE classes were taught by faculty who specialized in the areas of the classes they teach, such as by NT or OT faculty. the quality of the classes would be greatly improved. [Resp. 199]

More integration of curriculum. Example: I never used/was never asked to use the methods that Dr. Hendricks taught in BE101. That seems to be the flagship course at DTS but it is strange that it is in such dissonance with the rest of the curriculum. [Resp. 211]

I liked least.... the disparate positions of dispensationalism between bible exposition and the other departments. [Resp. 264]

**What Should Be Changed**

The seminary could improve by... More hands-on via closer church connections. Stronger Mission focus in every department - integrated rather than mostly separate courses and a missions week set aside each year (as good as WEC week is). Greater integration between BE and ST courses (actually do more inductive Bible study within theology courses, for instance). [Resp. 50]

The seminary could improve by... Making the curriculum less ponderous. Also by an honors class system for students from Bible schools. More interdepartmental discussion: one can hear radically opposing viewpoints on particular viewpoints, particularly from the OT/NT and BE departments, with no formal discussion - neither side seems to take the other seriously. [Resp. 116]

The seminary could improve by... encouraging interdepartmental connections. [Resp. 119]

The seminary could improve by... having more dialog between departments, especially the Theological Studies department and the Hebrew department. They were not on the same page at all. I value diversity of education, but at times, I felt like I was being taught completely contradictory things, especially on core doctrines such as the doctrine of God and His relationship to the world. Also, it seems like the BE department is becoming more and more marginalized and irrelevant. There are wonderful professors in that department, but they are not up-to-date with current thoughts in the wide world of theological thought. They seem like godly relics of a bygone era who are more valuable for their pastoral insights rather than their theological input. The seminary could also use a Philosophy department. Another way the seminary could improve is by leaving the Library open until midnight. The library at my
undergrad stayed open until 2am most nights. This was a service utilized by many students. Another improvement could be made by adding a sidewalk between Swiss Tower and the Campus. There is already a dirt pathway that is used by most residents, but it becomes muddy when it rains. A stone path or a concrete sidewalk would be much appreciated by future residents. [Resp. 123]

The seminary could improve by... having more focus on the relationship between theology and its application to the contemporary world. [Resp. 128]

The seminary could improve by... Reconsidering the layout of some of the Th.M curriculum as some of it overlaps between BE, the languages, and the inter-testamental portions. [Resp. 134]

The seminary could improve by... Doing a better job of integrating the theology of the academic ministry departments with the practical ministry depts. Often times, when you step out of a theological studies class or exegetical class and into a pastoral ministries class you feel like you have stepped from one world into another, theologically. [Resp. 135]

The seminary could improve by... More integration of ministry experience across all courses offered [Resp. 144]

The seminary could improve by... offering an accelerated or 'honors' version of the BE classes. [Resp. 148]

The seminary could improve by... Encouraging professors to look at assignments given to students in a practical way. Is this student here for academic knowledge, or is this student here to learn how to minister to people and be effective for kingdom building? Too many professors base their syllabus on academic requirements at the expense of more important kingdom issues. [Resp. 177]

The seminary could improve by... Would like to see more unity on the Creation topic between BE & ST Dept. Would like for them to include ALL of the major players (ICR, AiG, ID groups, etc) in the discussion, regardless of those that may disagree with them or use a message style they disagree with. [Resp. 215]

The seminary could improve by... improving interdepartmental communication [Resp. 240]

Preparation for Ministry

What I Liked

I liked best.... preparation for ministry [Resp. 55]
I liked best.... The emphasis on practical ministry [Resp. 92]
I liked best..... it's dedication to preparing expository preachers and teachers of the Word of God. [Resp. 114]
I liked best.... its desire to give tools for ministry. [Resp. 126]
I liked best.... A commitment to produce ministers--not just people who know the Bible very well. [Resp. 131]
I liked best.... The instruction I received regarding God's redemptive purpose for all people groups and how I am responsible to help accomplish that purpose. [Resp. 154]
I liked best.... We emerge from our seminary studies as thinking Christians. We learn to apply the tools to our study of scripture, and make informed decisions about our beliefs. We also get a well rounded understanding of the different perspectives in approaching scripture and theology. I really appreciate that we are not only presented one-side of the story. [Resp. 163]
I liked best.... its dedication to equipping its students to serve. [Resp. 191]
I liked best.... The discipline skills I gleaned from my education at DTS. [Resp. 193]
I liked best.... the quality of the education, as well as the streamlining of the curriculum towards the preaching/teaching ministry. everything leads into this. the school as an organization is also very intentional and effective in implementing its strategy and goals through the curriculum. [Resp. 199]
I liked best.... Bible Training and Ministry Preparation [Resp. 228]
I liked best.... how I transformed from a 'want to' motivation in service, from an internal perspective, to an outward looking, others-centered 'need to' motivation. I learn & grow not for myself, but in order to better reach others with the truth of Christ. [Resp. 247]
DTS has honestly desired to help me prepare to serve Gods people. They have done so by first being excellent examples. [Resp. 266]
I liked best.... Each professor never forgot that their mission was to train the student to be effective for God's purposes. I did not have one professor who exalted himself above his mission.
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... Practical pastoral experience falls short of what is needed to enter into pastoral ministry. However, students are expected to be in ministry during school so this should fill in the necessary experience. [Resp. 36]

I liked least.... Lack of connection with churches, first-hand exposure to and experience with the realities of church and leadership in the church. [Resp. 50]

I liked least.... Lack of mentoring environment [Resp. 51]

I liked least.... ...lack of clear/specific training received for vocation. This, I admit, rests largely on the shoulders of the students, but I did not ever feel pursued by the institution or by any faculty members to direct me toward what may be the venue/venues for which I am best suited to serve. [Resp. 83]

I liked least.... Its strong orientation to the cognitive level at the expense of practical ministry [Resp. 107]

I liked least.... The lack of real life ministry experience required by the seminary [Resp. 144]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... Redesigning the curriculum of the Hebrew and Greek departments to complement what is needed by people ministering in the real world. [Resp. 2]

I personally transferred out of the pastoral ministries department because I did not feel that I was being adequately trained to perform the Sr. Pastor role. In fact, many of the students who would be going into the Sr. pastor role after seminary would be moving into a small church situation, in which they will need to know more about how to run a church than to know how to preach at a church. I have plenty of preaching experience, but I need courses that would help me better prepare for running the church. Classes that have helped me the best were in the CE department. As one who has spent 15 years in the ministry before coming to DTS, the CE department classes are actually better equipped to teach the person going into the Sr. pastorate. Just an opinion. If there was a way to get credit from a CE class for a PM class, I think we would serve the student much better. [Resp. 46]

More assignments and experiences geared toward leading teams and working with people are needed (and in the church, not just group assignments with fellow students). I learned this only because of my involvement in my church. That’s the main deficiency - the exegesis and preaching courses prepare you as well as they possibly could. I was very surprised to see yet another preaching course and nothing on other responsibilities of pastors and pastoral staff added to the ThM. Leading ministry teams, recruiting, facilitating outreach - all of these must be understood by pastors, and it wouldn’t be hard to add this in the curriculum. More field work / internship time, or even an additional assignment or two of participating on (or leading) at least one ministry team would help tremendously. Plus this narrows the gap between church and DTS. I’ve been thinking some about this, and I’m not sure. What role is DTS to take and what is best done in the church? Maybe better facilitation of church involvement, assignments geared toward your area of service in your local church, ministry leadership in the church, more communication with the church.... These are ideas, but mostly I feel it is up to the student to grow in these areas through involvement with the church, but the seminary should still be less of a ‘different world,’ disconnected from the church in many ways, but it’s hard (if not impossible) to force/facilitate students’ involvement in the church. [Resp. 50]

I did not find those items in a course syllabus, except for the evangelism requirement for presenting the gospel 5 times during the term. Could it be that those who graduate and never minister, never ministered before or during their seminary training? I’ve known several students over the past 25 years who have done exactly that. This was merely an academic exercise to them. I have been less active in church because my time has been soaked up in preparation for future activity. Very few of my professors asked about our current ministry. [Resp. 89]

The seminary could improve by... continuing to pursue God in showing tomorrow’s leaders how to
lead in a postmodern, changing world. [Resp. 95]
The seminary could improve by... Having more opportunities for actual ministry. [Resp. 178]
There needs to be a better opportunities to get students involved in local ministries. I felt like the internship office could do a better job in assisting with this. [Resp. 144]
While I assessed all of these highly, it was the combination of the program and my personal application in the church I volunteered with that made the difference. Were I designing the program, I would require Youth ministry students to be active volunteers in a youth ministry during their entire stay at DTS. [Resp. 190]
The seminary could improve by... Trying to become more well balanced with education, family and application through hands on ministry. [Resp. 219]
More focused application of what we are learning in class. [Resp. 221]
The seminary could improve by... Educating people for their future positions not just senior pastor positions [Resp. 236]

Teaching about non-DTS viewpoints
vs. the danger of institutional arrogance

The seminary could improve by... Re-evaluating their insistence that everyone fit their mold. [Resp. 98]
...I feel like there is sexism going on that is justified by biblical support. I know of several female students who were asked to leave a preaching class because they could not teach men according to the professor’s interpretation of the Bible. They are entitled to their interpretation but it is not fair to require a preaching class for women if they are not allowed equal access. I know in many of my classes the issue of women in ministry came up and it was uncomfortable to be told by students that they did not believe women should minister. It creates an uncomfortable environment, though I gained strength by being battled against. Resp. [120]
The seminary could improve by... allowing the students to have a stronger voice (that is actually felt). Allowing more liberal views to be presented on campus. [Resp. 157]
I liked least.... Closed thinking in regard to different views. DTS is in a great position to open up communication with other ideas. For example, even if DTS has its mind made up about the charismatic gifts isn't there value in having the discussion on campus (this as opposed to requiring people who disagree to keep quite for the sake of campus unity). [Resp. 190]
I liked least.... the commitment to cessationism without a strong biblical explanation (in my opinion). [Resp. 196]
I liked least.... how the Seminary’s conservative approach to theology prevents it from being progressive or forward thinking in other areas (programs, activities, administration, etc.) [Resp. 211]
I liked least.... the direction they’re headed with respect to women’s roles in ministry and more interest in models and techniques and philosophy of ministry rather than in the Word of God. [Resp. 227]
I liked least.... Theologically, a little too narrow (in one influential department). A fortress mentality that is overly concerned with holding on to previous traditions without thinking critically. [Resp. 246]

The commitment to Dispensationalism

I liked least.... Some of the teaching that made me wonder if they have a view of inerrancy and inspiration that seems to be what our doctrinal statement professes. Also, the lack of a clear standing or teaching view about what we mean by dispensationalism. If we aren’t going to learn it here-we aren’t going to learn it. [Resp. 19]
I liked least.... I think the theology department, with not only accepting, but holding up as majority view progressive dispensationalism, seriously deviated from what DTS is supposed to be. (same is true for NT and OT depts) I had a professor for eschatology, and I think that what we heard was very distant from what Chafer/Walvoord/Ryrie/Pentecost would define as dispensationalism. In my class he taught half of the students. The result: those students go
out, buying in what he teaches (about social gospel etc) and have no idea about what dispensationalism truly is. [Resp. 34]

I liked least.... DTS should do a better job of both teaching and persuading students of their dispensational theology. And we don’t motivate our grads to go overseas. And we admit people too easily. [Resp. 63]

I liked least.... its allegiance with dispensationalism, even, knowing that things aren’t so. [If not, why ‘Progressive Dispensationalism?’] I think that here the Seminary has a congruence (and even an integrity) problem. [Resp. 65]

I liked best.... DTS is still a premill-dispenstational educational experience that spends the greater part of it efforts in teaching the Bible and the original languages. [Resp. 82]

The seminary could improve by... Not requiring professors to hold to less critical theological views such as pre-trib rapture, cessationism (sp?). Many great evangelical scholars couldn’t get a job at DTS because of this. That’s a shame. I know it’s tremendously difficult to change a doctrinal statement even if the seminary wanted to but I think more freedom in those ‘minor’ areas of the faith will create a more enriching seminary experience for students and professors alike. [Resp. 93]

The seminary could improve by... opening up to other lines of thought besides dispensationalism. Weeding out false teachers. [Resp. 218]
General Encouragement

I wish there were some way I could adequately say thanks for the investment that DTS and those who love its ministry have made in my life. I will be eternally grateful, and look forward to an ongoing relationship with DTS after graduation. [Resp. 3]

Although I submitted course evaluations at the end of each course, this survey is the first time that I have had the opportunity to provide feedback on my degree program and on the seminary as a whole. My experience at DTS has been wonderful. I greatly admire the faculty and students of DTS, and will certainly miss being part of that community. Any negative feedback I provided should be taken constructively. I only provided feedback that I felt could help DTS improve its ministry in a way that would benefit a large number of people. I would love to continue contributing to DTS in some way after graduation, but at this point do not know how I may be of service. [Resp. 5]

You cannot imagine how much I love DTS, and how grateful I am for it. Not a day goes by that I don’t thank God for our rich experiences with the ThM and DMin. We’re privileged to be a part of the school. [Resp. 7]

I love this school and am grateful to my Lord for the opportunity to attend here. [Resp. 8]
Thank each of you for your part in my seminary education. I am grateful. [Resp. 18]
I am very grateful for my time at DTS and the dedicated, wise, and competent faculty and staff.
Thank you and praise God. [Resp. 21]
It has been a great experience; highly satisfied overall, very impressed with the quality and content of teaching; it has been very helpful and has improved and sharpened my ministry skills.
Thanks to all. [Resp. 24]
Great Seminary [Resp. 26]
Next to marrying my wife, coming to DTS was the best decision I have ever made! [Resp. 32]
Overall it was a privilege to be a student here. [Resp. 34]
Despite whatever minor complaints I have as a student, I still regard the seminary as world-class and am grateful to everyone who had a part in my seminary experience. I will always support the seminary and highly recommend its educational program to prospective students. [Resp. 40]
This has been an amazing three years. I’m grateful for the opportunity to study and to learn and know that God will use this experience for future years in ministry. [Resp. 41]
I feel so very humble and bless to have been a student at DTS and will praise God for what He has done while I have been here; I will cherish my time and all the friendships I have made during my time as a student. DTS has certainly changed my life; thank you to all who has had a hand in the process. [Resp. 43]
If you would like to talk, my name is Colby Torres. I work at the book center. I think it is important that people know who is putting these comments down, in case there is any questions they would like to ask me or any concerns they may have. [Resp. 46]
I am glad I went to DTS! [Resp. 50]
Thanks to Dallas Seminary. I have enjoyed my time here, and look forward to visiting often. [Resp. 54]
I really appreciate the grace, warmth, gentle correction and leadership, and love demonstrated by the DTS professors, DTS staff (especially the library staff and the grounds people), and the DTS campus police. [Resp. 62]
I could not be a bigger believer in DTS. I think this is a great school run by great people, and the problems it faces are exceedingly difficult, and small in comparison to it’s successes. Thank you, Dr. Pond (or whoever reads this) for trying to refine it further. I’m opinionated, but all in all you’re doing great! [Resp. 63]
Overall, I am very thankful to DTS. I have learned a lot! ... I have also seen Saints trying their hardest and giving their very best! [Resp. 65]
DTS is an awesome school and I will support it as an alumni! Thanks for a great experience and I pray that God will use this investment for His glory! [Resp. 66]
Thanks for giving an opportunity to do this survey. I’ve enjoyed filling it out. I wish there was a way for me to have a copy of all the things I just wrote. How about adding a field to send this to your email address with the questions and my answers? You could still have a way to keep this confidential if you must by erasing the email afterward. [Resp. 71]
Thank you to anyone who will read this for your hard work for the Seminary. It is appreciated! [Resp. 72]
Other than my salvation and my marriage, my time in the D.Min. program at Dallas is the best experience I have ever had. Being on campus, in the dorms and class sessions during the resident weeks, where I could sit at the feet of godly professors and interact with great peers, is something I will never forget. I thank God for such an opportunity! [Resp. 77]

Despite the above, negative comments, overall I have had a great time here. I would recommend this school to almost anyone who I think could handle the difficult work load and hectic pace. I do not know how an MDiv could possibly prepare one for ministry like the ThM does. [Resp. 81]

I loved my DTS experience. The men teaching their courses, particularly in the Hebrew, Greek and Bible Ex departments are phenomenal men who demonstrate great expertise in their subject matter along with scripture. They teach the Bible the way I am used to growing up. They clarified many questions for me. This is the only place in the world where I can get trained properly in Biblical languages with the proper Biblical meaning attached.

Thank you for a wonderful seminary experience. [Resp. 82]

I greatly appreciate and am thankful for my time and experience at DTS. I will remember it fondly. THANK YOU! [Resp. 84]

Thank you for everything...seminary has been so formative to who I am! [Resp. 86]

This was one of the most challenging four years of my life and I want to thank you for giving me the chance to learn under some of the most incredible people. I pray that God continues to bless this school as a whole. [Resp. 95]

Thank you so much for the privilege. [Resp. 96]

I thank God for the chance to study at DTS! It has been a great adventure and I would highly recommend the seminary to anyone. [Resp. 97]

I am looking forward to doing ministry. I have been well prepared. Thank you and God bless you. [Resp. 98]

Thank you for your service to us students. It would be a joy to see the doctrinal statement lived out more fully each year that the seminary continues, namely that we be a people that love one another fervently. [Resp. 99]

I am overwhelmed by the over-all quality of the training at DTS. Most of the professors are very humble and always willing to help. I am so glad that I came to DTS. [Resp. 103]

You are doing a great job, thanks for having me here. [Resp. 107]

Continue to run the race!! We need a seminary like DTS that teaches the Scriptures thoroughly and thoughtfully without a attitude of ‘we know all the truth.’ [Resp. 109]

I really did enjoy my time here at DTS and attribute much of my Biblical and theological knowledge to these past 5 years. Thank you for everything! [Resp. 110]

I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to study at the Seminary and look forward to completing the semester and moving on to studying apart from a class schedule. [Resp. 113]

Thank you, DTS. You were a blessing from God to me. [Resp. 114]

Over all I am pleased with my experience but there are just those few things that I really am frustrated with. I hope you will at least think through these. [Resp. 115]

I received many queries about DTS from current Moody students. I encourage them to come, noting the accessibility of professors and quality of electives. But I also must warn them that the core curriculum is long and often frustrating: the classes are huge, the students at vastly different levels of learning, the professors can do nothing but lecture, and ones papers are read by one’s peers. If the core curriculum were smaller, such conditions would be manageable, but they exist in class after class. The credit tests which are designed to allow students to test out of certain classes are sometimes refused to students (Christian Ed Depart, Church history Dept), require knowing the particular idiosyncrasies of the professor who designed the test (Greek 103, BE NT exams), and are overly focused on trivia or highly subjective interpretations (all BE exams). A student may enter the program believing he can use his Bible knowledge and find that no amount of study could prepare him for what he faces. [Resp. 116]

It has been great to study here for four years, though it is challenging, I never regret my decision of coming to this seminary. Keep the good work! [Resp. 118]

Thanks for the privilege of attending DTS. [Resp. 134]

I really enjoyed my time at DTS and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone [Resp. 141]

On the whole, I loved my experience at DTS. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years here and think that with a few adjustments, the experience for future students could be even greater. [Resp. 148]

It has been a very rewarding experience. Tough, long, but I’ve grown through the process and I feel I’m better equipped now as a leader than when I started my seminary journey. Thanks DTS! [Resp. 150]
Simply Thanks For The Opportunity! I hope to see more students with Special Needs as well as older, non-traditional students take the challenge and follow the Lord to DTS and beyond. [Resp. 152]
I enjoyed my time at DTS & will miss it tremendously. [Resp. 153]
I am thankful to God for using the difficulties of seminary life to shape my character and vision and thankful for the professors who inspired, encouraged and directed my growing faith and trust in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. [Resp. 155]
Coming to DTS was a dream come true and a life-changing experience. One of the greatest investments I've made was in DTS. [Resp. 158]
The school is GREAT! I have really enjoyed my time here. I have learned a great deal. It was the best move my family and I could have made. We do not regret ONE THING about coming here. You have made it a great place to be and we are very grateful. Thanks for ALL that you do. And that is a lot! [Resp. 159]
I praise God that four years ago a friend asked me this question: 'If you are going to seminary, why not DTS?' [Resp. 162]
I truly appreciate what DTS stands for. [Resp. 164]
In spite of all my comments, I am so grateful for the ability the LORD gave me to study at DTS and to be a part of its community for the last three and a half years. [Resp. 170]
I am so blessed to have been a student at Dallas Theological Seminary. I will always treasure my time here, and I will give back in every way I can to show my gratitude. [Resp. 173]
I will always look back on my time at DTS with fond memories. I met and developed relationships with great people and learned a lot about God and His plan for His creation. [Resp. 177]
Overall I am thrilled to be a DTS alumnus, and encourage anyone I know who is considering Seminary, to apply to DTS. I feel God blessed me with the best education I could ever get. [Resp. 181]
My experience at Dallas Seminary has been generally good. I am very pleased that the professors and faculty promote being 'real' instead of encouraging a superficial 'religious' atmosphere. The school is very open to discussing in chapel and class the temptations and challenges of the Christian life. [Resp. 183]
I love my time at DTS. I think that the education that I received was wonderful. I could not imagine doing effective youth ministry without the things I learned at DTS. [Resp. 190]
I am a better man leaving the seminary than I was coming in, so I can not complain. [Resp. 191]
I have enjoyed my time at DTS and recommend it to anyone! [Resp. 195]
I truly thank God for this school. While I don't agree with everything taught here, God has used it in great ways to prepare me for serving Him better. [Resp. 197]
I loved my time with DTS and I am glad I persevered to the end. [Resp. 204]
I am very grateful for the quality of education that I have received at DTS. [Resp. 205]
DTS has been a wonderful part of my life. I will miss it! [Resp. 209]
I love DTS! I think the next 5-10 years are going to be critical for the Seminary to adapt to meet the needs of the entering students who need to be equipped to reach the 'Millennial Generation' (post Gen-X). Right now I think DTS is still geared to train people to reach the culture of the 1950s- 1970s. M.A. in Media & Communications is a step in the right direction but not nearly enough. [Resp. 211]
I have loved being a part of DTS these 7 years! It has made an EXTREME difference to me personally and to ministry. It has been wonderful to be able to take only 2-3 classes/semester, allowing more time to digest and understand God's truth. Thank you so much! I almost hate to graduate! [Resp. 214]
God has made me a better person through DTS. [Resp. 216]
All in all, I thank God for the opportunity to study at DTS. [Resp. 219]
I am extremely satisfied with DTS [Resp. 222]
I feel the seminary is effective in its mission. [Resp. 234]
Great resources in library and media center; very grateful for help found there! [Resp. 240]
I love DTS and will miss it. There are some real warts, but we are all adopted sinners. [Resp. 242]
All in all, this has been a rigorously rewarding experience and my best ThM learning occurred in Hebrew language studies with Dr. Chisholm! [Resp. 243]
I'm thankful to God for my rich time at DTS. [Resp. 246]
Overall, I did enjoy my time at DTS and I know that it will be valuable to achieving my ministerial goals. [Resp. 259]
I liked best.... It is the best. [Resp. 265]