Open-Ended Responses
Table of Contents

FACULTY ............................................................................................................................... 3
PERSONALNESS, ACCESSIBILITY, FLEXIBILITY ................................................................. 3
Kudos................................................................................................................................. 3
Concerns............................................................................................................................ 4
Suggestions for Improvement ............................................................................................. 4
EXCELLENCE, REPUTATION ............................................................................................ 4
CLASS PLANNING/CONTENT AND TEACHING STYLE ....................................................... 5
CURRICULUM, ASSIGNMENTS, THEOLOGICAL EMPHASIS .............................................. 5

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS .................................................................................................... 5
CURRICULUM DISTINCTIVES (GENERAL) .......................................................................... 5
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 5
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 5
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 6
CURRICULUM DISTINCTIVES (IN PARTICULAR) ................................................................ 6
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 6
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 7
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 8
SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS/COURSES .................................................................... 8
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 8
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 8
On-Line Courses ................................................................................................................ 12
SPIRITUAL LIFE .................................................................................................................. 12
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 12
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 12

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUPS .................................... 13
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 13

WORKLOAD, TIME COMPRESSION .................................................................................. 14
EVENING PROGRAM AND SUMMER SCHOOL ................................................................... 15
EXTENSION PROGRAM AND ONLINE COURSES .............................................................. 15
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 15
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 15
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 15

STUDENT LIFE .................................................................................................................... 16
CAMPUS ATMOSPHERE ..................................................................................................... 16
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 16
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 17
RULES AND POLICIES ....................................................................................................... 17
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 17
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 17
DIVERSITY ........................................................................................................................... 18
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 18
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 18

ADMINISTRATION ............................................................................................................... 18
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 18
What I Didn’t Like .............................................................................................................. 18
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................. 19
ACADEMIC DEAN’S OFFICE ............................................................................................. 19
ADMISSIONS OFFICE ......................................................................................................... 19
BOOK CENTER ..................................................................................................................... 20
BUSINESS OFFICE SERVICES ............................................................................................ 20
CAMPUS COMMUNICATIONS (E.G., KERYGMA, THRESHING FLOOR AND THE DTS WEBSITE),
MEDIA PRODUCTION, AND CAMPUSNET ........................................................................ 20
Appendix 1 – Page 2  2008 Graduating Student Survey

CAMPUS POLICE ................................................................................................................... 21
CHAPEL PROGRAMS ........................................................................................................... 21
CLASSROOM CONDITIONS .............................................................................................. 21
COUNSELING SERVICES ................................................................................................. 21
FINANCIAL AID SERVICES ............................................................................................... 22
FOOD SERVICES ............................................................................................................... 22
HOUSING AND RELOCATION OFFICE AND RESIDENCE HALLS .............................................. 22
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................... 23
MINISTRY PLACEMENT SERVICES AND ALUMNI OFFICE ...................................................... 23
ONLINE COURSE SUPPORT .............................................................................................. 23
PARKING ........................................................................................................................... 23
What I Didn’t Like ............................................................................................................... 23
What Should Be Changed .................................................................................................... 23
REGISTRAR’S OFFICE SERVICES .......................................................................................... 23
REGISTRATION PROCEDURES/REGISTRAR ITEMS ................................................................. 24
GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT SERVING STUDENTS .............................................................. 24
SEMINARY .......................................................................................................................... 25
THE COMMITMENT TO THE BIBLE AND ITS EXEGESIS, PREACHING, AND TEACHING ............. 25
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 25
THE THOROUGHNESS OF THE TRAINING ................................................................................ 26
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 26
What I Didn’t Like ............................................................................................................... 26
THE COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY ............................................................ 26
THE COMMITMENT TO ITS HERITAGE OF CONSERVATIVE DOCTRINE AND INTERPRETATION . 26
What Should Be Changed.................................................................................................... 26
INTEGRATION OF LEARNING ................................................................................................. 27
What Should Be Changed.................................................................................................... 27
PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY ............................................................................................. 27
What I Liked ....................................................................................................................... 27
What I Didn’t Like ............................................................................................................... 27
What Should Be Changed.................................................................................................... 28
THE COMMITMENT TO DISPENSATIONALISM ........................................................................ 28
GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT ............................................................................................. 29
Faculty

*Personalness, accessibility, flexibility*

**Kudos**
I liked best.... The faculty. [Resp. 4]
I liked best.... The humility of the teachers. [Resp. 13]
I liked best.... that some of the professors taught me things that challenged my thinking. [Resp. 30]
I liked best.... Books selected and the friendly professors. [Resp. 31]
I liked best.... The high quality of the majority of the professors and their spirituality. [Resp. 32]
I liked best.... Competent and compassionate professors [Resp. 40]
I liked best.... The honesty and humility of the faculty. Almost every professor was truly concerned about the personal wellbeing of the students and how they absorbed the topic. Most professors revealed personal attributes and challenges that they have faced as Christians and how they overcame those challenges. These are professors who model what it means to be a servant leader. [Resp. 44]
I liked best.... The attitude of the facility most and some-what for the staff. [Resp. 45]
I liked best.... The passion that the professors had to teach another generation of Christian leaders more about God in order to impact the world. [Resp. 51]
I liked best.... the professors [Resp. 61]
I liked best.... the professors. Their love for God and His word was inspiring. I love to learn and so it was such a privilege to sit under their instruction. [Resp. 64]
I liked best.... gracious faculty [Resp. 73]
I liked best.... its faculty [Resp. 96]
I liked best.... the fact that not all the professors agree on everything, but they treat each other with respect. Different views are considered part of the Christian life. No one opinion is shoved down someone’s throat. [Resp. 97]
I liked best.... The quality of the professors. [Resp. 98]
I liked best.... The professors....especially the OT profs. [Resp. 108]
I liked best.... Great professors. [Resp. 113]
I liked best.... the professors who are willing to take time outside the classroom to impart life-on-life wisdom to students. [Resp. 116]
I liked best.... the opportunity to think honestly without fear of disturbing my professor’s faith. [Resp. 117]
I liked best.... the professors are incredibly gifted. [Resp. 123]
I liked best.... The teachers and the Landry center. [Resp. 129]
I liked best.... the opportunity to learn for dedicated, well-informed teachers of God’s word. [Resp. 134]
I liked best.... The professors and how they really cared for the students. I did not feel like a number but rather a person. [Resp. 141]
I liked best.... the professors and their teaching. [Resp. 168]
I liked best.... the faculty. [Resp. 173]
I liked best.... The Godly models of Christ that each of my professors displayed every day and their willingness to meet and discuss your concerns. [Resp. 180]
I liked best.... seeing mind of professors [Resp. 183]
I liked best.... The teachers are very experienced in their fields and willing to meet with the students. [Resp. 192]
I liked best.... The grace displayed by the Professors [Resp. 201]
I liked best.... The encouragement that was given by most of the professors. [Resp. 202]
I liked best.... the quality of its professors [Resp. 203]
I liked best.... the professors because they are knowledgeable and most of them seem to genuinely care about students. [Resp. 207]
Concerns

I liked least.... The tendency of some professors to unfairly straw man any position that is not their own, boring lectures that simply involved a professor reading notes without engaging the students, the forced and artificial community (essentially, with the spiritual formation requirement it seems like the seminary is seeking to fulfill a role that should be fulfilled by active involvement in a solid church), some of the administrators in Dallas that make students feel like we are an annoyance and just cogs in the DTS machine. [Resp. 18]

I liked least.... that several of the professors do little more than regurgitate back to us what we had already read in preparation for class. [Resp. 30]

I liked least.... Narrowness of theological positions in faculty; lack of diversity in faculty [Resp. 43]

I liked least.... I never was able to connect on a personal level with any of the professors. [Resp. 52]

I liked least.... that many professors seem distracted from being available to mentor students, especially outside of class hours. [Resp. 106]

I liked least.... Some of the required classes were taught by teachers who were not especially thrilled or skilled in that area. [Resp. 176]

The school is a family to me and I care so that is why I write this. I do not like it when the prof’s say their idea is right and other preacher’s are wrong or heretical. This does not show humility and openness to what the Lord is teaching us. There are many things that we will not know until we get to Heaven. It hurts the unity of the Body for believers to bash other believers on these gray issues. People need to be taught in love and not to be damned by angry prof’s (God is the one who has the last say). I also see way too much academia and not enough grace at the school. Knowledge puffs up. I have had graders and teachers who are so stuck in their ways that they forget that this is training to be ministers of God’s grace with truth and love not Bible enforcers. We need to show more love at the school and in classes. We are going out to Love others in Christ’s name and when this is not shown on campus we have a real problem. People need to be able to connect more at the school so that it is a safer place. [Resp. 192]

Suggestions for Improvement

Requiring professors to “mean by their signing the doctrinal statement” not just their willingness to “teach” in accordance with it, but “I agree to believe and read the Bible this way” while I teach at this institution. I believe the pastoral management by the president (leadership team) of the faculty and then by the faculty of the classroom serve as effective models for students. This need not be perfect (it cannot be) but should model integrity and submission, by faith, to and for the glory of God.[Resp. 3]

Widening its evangelical stance and introducing a diversity of evangelical positions on campus.[Resp. 54]

Emphasizing the value of faculty relationships with individual students, through the use of open-door policies and general availability of teachers to truly invest in their students’ lives in a more personal way to provide guidance, coaching and encouragement.[Resp. 67]

Continue to work toward developing leaders.[Resp. 113]

Having the professors grade the students work. Often times one can get by on subpar work just because students are grading. This results in a lack of motivation for the one turning assignments in. Who wants to do an assignment and spend a lot of time on it only to receive it back with a few vague comments and a 95 even if it is not good work? [Resp. 156]

Adding more missions faculty.[Resp. 173]

Attempting to give students a more balanced appraisal of differing theological backgrounds and give them enough knowledge of what other theological traditions believe in order to choose to be a dispensationalist.[Resp. 150]

Having missional, evangelistic values.[Resp. 205]

Excellence, Reputation

I liked best.... A high degree of professionalism, grace and competency in the faculty. [Resp. 16]

I liked best.... the intelligence and experience of the faculty which they bring into the classroom and use to illustrate the importance of the lessons to hands-on ministry. [Resp. 63]

I liked best.... The excellent teaching from amazing professors. [Resp. 140]

I liked best.... The expert knowledge of the professors. [Resp. 181]
Class planning/content and teaching style

I liked best.... The excellent faculty upholding the importance of interpreting the immovable Scripture while interpreting the changes times around us. [Resp. 94]
I liked best.... Commitment to teaching the entire Bible, holding to doctrinal truth, and unity of the outstanding faculty and administration. The education is very thorough and prepared me very well. [Resp. 95]

Curriculum, assignments, theological emphasis

I liked best.... the theological approach and the dedicated faculty and staff [Resp. 14]

Academic Programs

Curriculum distinctives (general)

What I Liked

I liked best.... The quality and strength of the teaching [Resp. 20]
I liked best.... You taught me how to not merely understand Truth but how to SEEK truth; how to Study God's Word. That will serve me well forever. [Resp. 22]
I liked best.... the challenging coursework and the professors. [Resp. 38]
I liked best.... My better understanding of the bible and how theology fits in. [Resp. 48]
I liked best.... The passion and commitment by the professors. The courses and curriculum are outstanding. The staff and professors’ love for and devotion to Christ is without question. [Resp. 49]
I liked best.... The environment in which a spiritually high quality theological education is provided [Resp. 71]
I liked best.... The well rounded education that I received. [Resp. 89]
I liked best.... the biblical and theological training [Resp. 119]
I liked best.... the diversity of academic knowledge, life experience, and culture. [Resp. 132]
I liked best.... I learned a framework there through which to filter life, including theology, culture, and biblical interpretation. I learned many sides to many arguments and do not feel that I was “indoctrinated,” but taught to think for myself within the confines of Christian orthodoxy. [Resp. 154]
I liked best.... The grace applied by the professors, their love for the Lord that was apparent, the quality of the assignments, and the times of worship and praise in chapel. [Resp. 155]
I liked best.... the opportunities in the classroom [Resp. 166]
I liked best.... The quality of the education that I received. [Resp. 167]
I liked best.... the teaching. [Resp. 171]
I liked best.... I cannot even begin to summarize. DTS has changed my life and I would do definitely do it all over again. For the most part the teaching and the professors have been top quality and a major blessing to my life and spiritual journey. I have most appreciated the wisdom and humility of the professors as they have taught difficult and controversial doctrines and topics. [Resp. 198]

What I didn’t Like

With most of the items that I gave a neutral it is because I came in with an undergraduate degree in Bible and Theology plus five years of full-time Senior Pastoral experience. It seems that the DTS Th.M. program is designed for students who have a secular undergraduate degree and little ministry experience. So for me, the program did little to enhance the knowledge and skills I had already obtained. (Resp 30)
I liked least.... the lack of exploration in various theological subjects. [Resp. 204]
I liked least.... its loss of focus on missions and outreach [Resp. 205]
What Should Be Changed

Keeping high standards of academic excellence - it is what drew me to the school. I don't want a degree given, I want a degree earned and a heart and mind that had to grow.[Resp. 68]

Making sure what they are doing is going to train leaders for this generation. Anything that taught me to be a leader was outside the classroom and if it happened in the classroom, it was me taking notes on what and who my professor was to me. So many Th.M guys are awkward with people or judgmental because they spend their whole day writing position papers on theological topics that they can argue later. Some counseling students can lead people in the counseling office but have no idea how to step into the role of pastoral counselor if that job comes up for them. Also, this generation thinks differently, acts differently, dresses differently, and I feel like that doesn't get touched on. Sometimes I walk around campus and I feel like I am being pushed through to be a conservative pastor in a conservative church with God all figured out. I know that is not what you all want, nor is that who you are!!! But when we write only position papers and doctrinal statements (all not assuming people have theological grids when they enter.[Resp. 195]

Curriculum distinctives (in particular)

What I Liked

I liked best.... the counseling program was awesome. [Resp. 28]
I liked best.... I like all the NT and OT courses. I also like the Expository Preaching courses. [Resp. 34]
I liked best.... Languages and Mission classes [Resp. 37]
I liked best.... The Historical Theology department. [Resp. 53]
I liked best.... the basic training I received in Koine Greek and NT exegesis. [Resp. 54]
I liked best.... the academic classes in the OT and NT departments. This type of rigor was expected from a Masters level program. [Resp. 62]
I liked best.... Finding my home in the Media Arts department and customizing my courses to prepare me to serve. [Resp. 72]
I liked best.... The NT and OT depts and Mark Heineman... and the thesis. [Resp. 80]
I liked best.... Training in languages and theology. [Resp. 83]
I liked best.... The teaching is world class--it just cannot be beat! I enjoyed my theology courses the most. I appreciated theology professors teaching different view points, and not necessarily requiring students to agree. I felt free to ask questions and dialog. [Resp. 85]
I liked best.... the NT and OT classes. [Resp. 99]
I liked best.... the Christian Ed department. [Resp. 112]
I liked best.... Missions with Dr. Young. [Resp. 120]
I liked best.... Great classes and Great professors especially in the PM and ST departments. [Resp. 122]
I liked best.... the professors in the languages, theology, and pastoral ministries department. They have been the most helpful in walking through questions that I have had. I have felt that they also have cared the most about my well being. They have been willing to hear my arguments and patiently respond. I don’t necessarily have a problem with the other departments but these departments I will remember and cherish. [Resp. 130]
I liked best.... its discipline in expository preaching [Resp. 149]
I liked best.... The Faculty, the emphasis on the original languages and expository preaching. [Resp. 156]
I liked best.... The training I received in languages, exegesis, and critical reflection in all courses within the Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies departments and some courses within the Theological Studies department. [Resp. 174]
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least…. the ominous change toward progressive dispensationalism in the Theology Dept, weakening DTS, as well as what I perceived as an inappropriate elitist, arrogant attitude by some professors in that department when teaching some of my classes and when dealing with other professors' and students' objections to that theological position. [Resp. 1]

I liked least…. that the Christian Education department is out of touch with large church children’s ministries today. [Resp. 5]

I liked least…. the low regard sometimes exhibited towards the MA BS degree track. It has a more rigorous BE and ST requirement than several of the other MA programs and is particularly suitable to those of us with a lot of life experience in the workplace, in the home, and in our spiritual lives. It is also well suited to a number of minority pastors with whom I shared many classes and all of whom I respect greatly for the challenging work they do. The MA BS doesn’t deserve to be grouped with certificate and non-degree track programs on the website or in the minds of the Seminary. [Resp. 10]

I liked least…. the discrepancy in the importance of dispensational theology between the BE/PM departments and the OT/NT departments. [Resp. 54]

I don’t think that as a result of my time at DTS, I have grown more in my awareness of the missionary enterprise or the spiritual needs of the world. I think this is due in part to the fact my degree program did not require any world missions classes, which would have contributed to my knowledge of God's activity in the world. At the same time, I could have participated in prayer meetings or studies outside of DTS that would have helped me think more about God's work around the world. [Resp. 56]

I liked least…. that I felt like I took some courses that were not nearly as valuable to me as other courses. Sometimes I felt like I had already taken a course, but I was required to take it again in a different department. The classes in the BE department were not nearly as helpful or interesting as those in the ST and PM departments. [Resp. 63]

I liked least…. too many BE classes. NT students should be exempt from NT-related BE classes and likewise for OT students. BE classes are not really geared for a Th. M. student but seem more appropriate for those not required to take languages. [Resp. 99]

I liked least…. The BE classes. I think that requiring every DTS student to study every book of the Bible is an admirable goal. I just do not think that 6 classes are necessary to achieve that goal. I took one OT survey and one NT survey class in college, and I learned more in the college-level NT survey class than I did in all three BE New Testament classes combined. Some of that may be due to the fact that I had a fantastic prof in college. But some of that is also due to the fact that the BE curriculum is largely redundant for ThM students. For example, we translated portions of most of the prophetic books in OT 104. So when I took BE 104, I learned nothing new. Among ThM students I have talked to, this is pretty standard. We learn lots in OT/NT classes, and little in BE classes. Why can’t we have one or two OT survey classes, one or two NT survey classes, and then be required to take OT and NT exegetical electives? We would learn lots more this way, we would maintain and develop our Greek and Hebrew skills, and we could still easily cover every book of the Bible. In all honesty, we do not "study" every book of the Bible in BE classes currently. We study some books and skim through others (sometimes several books on the last day of class). If this is all we're doing currently in BE classes, then condensing three OT classes into one, or even two, survey class(es) and similarly with NT would not mean any real loss of content. Students would learn much more information (both qualitatively and quantitatively) if we transferred more content to the OT and NT departments. [Resp. 108]

I liked least…. I’ve felt that it is difficult at times, as a counseling student, to turn in the same quality of work in the Bible classes as the ThM students [Resp. 160]

As an MACE student I feel a lack of understanding of church history. I learned about being a leader, but don't feel I had much experience actually leading. This is an area I feel quite disappointed in with my time at DTS. [Resp. 113]

Though I taught weekly, and the preaching classes have helped, I’m just not sure I developed my spiritual gifts of teaching and administration; however, there were some elective i could have taken. I just didn’t get around to them. [Resp] 127
What Should Be Changed

In the Counseling program there is currently no requirement of Church History, yet we are expected to know Church History on the TBTK. Any exposure to Church History comes about while taking theology courses, which are already like attempting to drink from a fire hose. Brief Church history exposure during a theology course does not seem adequate. (Resp) 132

In the counseling program students are not required to take any church history classes. I think that there should be some integration of the history of the church in all programs (Resp) 194

Suggestions for programs/courses

What I Didn’t Like

I am committed to evangelism, but I do not think the PhD program “encouraged” it in any fashion. [Resp. 14]

I liked least…. The requirements of the Turabian details for papers. While this level of regimented detail would be required for those completing a ThD, I found the level of minute requirements to be a burden. If this is so important, perhaps there should be a first year class like BE 101 to teach the system. Those students who knew how to use the computer systems to generate the proper formats were at a distinct advantage. [Resp. 44]

What Should Be Changed

I think it would be nice to have PM101 Evangelism course as part of the curriculum for the Christian Education degree.[Resp. 9]

Adapting courses to the changing times of today. Some of the courses reflect issues of years ago rather than the changing times of today. Add new courses to reflect pluralism and issues that students will face in ministry.[Resp. 11]

Lightening up on assignments and delving deeper into fleshing out/internalizing faith and theology spend more time on applied-practice of Bible study methods throughout BE courses - versus somewhat miscellaneous assignments improving furniture in commons and add patio furniture outside Mitchell price more competitively books in the book center.I would like to see more 'fleshing out' of theological tensions in groups. It would be encouraging if students had more time to assimilate and internalize the most important tenets of the faith practicing verbalizing apologetics, specifically in relation to cults and people groups would be very helpful perhaps somewhat less reading assignments and more emphasis of reading assimilation through short reflection reports or class discussion regarding the reading. highly encourage beginner class on maximizing computer skills in order to take full advantage of computers in relation to assignments and ministry (Resp) 17

Training some teachers in effective pedagogy. Some professors just read their notes or zip through a PowerPoint presentation, without thinking about how people best learn. I think the theology classes could be condensed from 6 to 4 classes but that more history classes and culture engagement should be required. The format of the Bible classes could be trained as well. I think trips (to Israel, to Europe, to mission field) should be highly encouraged and rewarded with much credit.[Resp. 18]

To keep it short: Give the Th.M. students more freedom/choice in their class selection and if possible dump some of the less popular & relevant classes. The intro to counseling class & Ed. Process of the church were really a waste of money when I look back at the material I was exposed to and the classroom subject matter. Please do not see this as a slap to the men I took the classes from; it is the curriculum I am dealing with here, not the great prof's!!! Th.M. is a long and tough degree. Let the students choose a bit more, that is all... Make sure your Intro to Theology prof's don't skip Dispensationalism like mine did in the fall of 2001. What an odd character he was. I had to do a lot of catch up. [Resp. 22]

Making many classes more engaging[Resp. 24]

...ALLOWING STUDENTS TO SELECT THEIR OWN ELECTIVE COURSE AND NOT REQUIRE ELECTIVES FROM THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES.[Resp. 26]

PowerPoint skills are kind of assumed, and not really taught. Also, more instruction in how to teach, and how to conduct Bible studies would be appreciated, even if the student in question is not going for a Th.M. I don't remember those topics even being addressed. (Resp) 27

Teach niceness classes to those who are going into ministry...come on! lot's of rude people here.[Resp. 28]
Require or develop a leadership course that is relevant to world missions. (Resp) 31
Thought that the third and fourth Hebrew classes were ineffective. Felt like the fourth class was a repeat of the third and that most of what we did in that class was busy work. (Resp. 47)
Not sure how I would change it but Only in 1 class, not in the missions department, did I feel demanded ministry development (evangelism). It seems it should be a larger part of the seminary experience. All of my missions classes but one had requirements in that regard. (Resp) 48
DTS needs to include classes on the development of interpersonal skills. Great effort is spent in training up Bible and theology experts, but many coming from DTS lack affective people skills. This great body of knowledge and love for Christ is lost, if one cannot either relate to others. (Resp) 49
The pastoral ministry track does not have enough pastoral leadership classes and business/legal classes. I took on in the CE department as an elective, but it needed to be a required course for PM students. PM 301 really helped prepare me for service in the local church. The other required church leadership course, 302, was helpful in gaining an understanding of worship, but did not help in how to actually manage a church. The PM track needs to provide more leadership training to those who are planning to go into any level of pastoral ministry in the church. After five years at DTS, I feel like I have a strong grasp of the biblical text and on theology, but my leadership and management skills are lacking. I have been forced to supplement that area of my training in other ways. Like I stated above, the PM track does a pretty good job preparing students to preach and teach God's Word, but the track does not offer enough in the area of church leadership. (Resp. 63)
I don't know if there is anything that the seminary could do. I really struggled with Hebrew and still don't feel very comfortable with my own assessment of the text. I do feel I could evaluate academic commentaries and will probably have to rely on much of their work... Offering classes regarding the spiritual disciplines. Due to the academic nature of DTS, I think it is easy to lose sight of developing one's personal relationship with the Lord. Offering classes that explicitly teach on the disciplines could perhaps make for a more examining where there are duplications in the program and examining the methods used in teaching the various classes. I like it when professors use multimedia and music in their teaching. Humor and stories are also very helpful in illustrating the given points. (Resp. 63)

Adding a comparative systems theology course. (Resp. 69)
I think there is a need for a theology class which addresses comparative systems. This would be helpful so that dispensationalist is put in contrast to other approaches to theology (covenant, etc.). It seems that people have an expectation that having a ThM means I would have this knowledge and I don't feel that I do. (Resp) 76
Hebrew needs to be longer over the course of the student. I knew a good year of Greek before coming so that helped. But the languages really need about 4 days of classes (not two) a week for the first year. The more consistently you are in the language the more it is learned. In fact, six sentences a day and vocab quizzes and one hour of class 4 times a week is perfect. But that is not what is offered at DTS. This can be done with classes offered early in the morning (end by 8:30ish) or in the evening. Otherwise there is too much work for too little class time the first year of Hebrew. It needs to be medium/manageable workload and class time more frequently. As far as the prep side preaching classes and teaching classes should be increased a bit more. Preaching needs to tie the theology of man and sin and what is faith and how to grow it and hermeneutics better to its courses. Otherwise it is just a cheap method that is aimless in achieving its goals. I also think more practice in teaching to specific learning styles would be helpful... There needs to be an abbreviated track for those who have a Biblical studies undergrad degree. (Resp. 80)

Taking BE classes out of the degree program and consolidating them into classes addressing textual and critical issues. (Resp. 83)
See previous statement. Get the students back into the History of the church. It disappoints me to know that I was never required to read Calvin, Edwards, Luther, etc. but Chafer was required. That's just biased and poor theological reflection. (Resp. 86)

Requiring more HT and BC classes in place of Chapel hours, CE course, Language courses... and placing Vic Anderson to head the PM dept. (Resp. 92)

Offering the MACE through the Tampa extension [Resp. 102]
Reminding and enabling students to seek development in core competencies of ministry that are difficult to obtain in an academic setting. DTS does not help students develop conflict management skills, pastoral listening with time boundaries, or the business/administrative skills that often occupy the time of people in ministry. The issues in CE325 "Legal and Financial Issues in Ministry" and BC290 "Pastoral Counseling" are some exceptionally relevant to all Th.M. tracks but are overlooked by most students. (Resp. 106)
Why do we only take 10 hours of Hebrew language (the two hours of OTI don’t count) when we take 15 of Greek???? This is unfair. We should get 15 hours of Hebrew as well as 15 hours of Greek...or at least we should require 12 and 12. Greek is a more highly inflected language which means that it is actually easier to interpret correctly. Hebrew is less inflected which means that it is more difficult to interpret correctly. If there must be a discrepancy in the credit hours of language taken, then the discrepancy is currently backwards. If anything, students should take more Hebrew since they have to really know a language with less morphology in order to interpret it correctly. [Resp. 108]

I recently attended an event put on by the "Academic Forum" (a student group), in which two professors were dialoging over differences of viewpoint on a passage. Both professors did an excellent job, and I felt greatly challenged as an observer to form an intelligent opinion on what they had been discussing. I realized that this "learning by debate" is an element that has been largely absent in my time here. When one is forced to present their beliefs, they must be owned instead of simply taken in as information. I think classroom interaction could be improved by incorporating some element of debate or dialoguing and/or articulating in real-life situations the issues of theology or the relevance of Biblical texts. I would also love to see more professors engaging each other in presentations/debates over issues or with guests outside the seminary. (In saying this I realize that our faculty is over-worked as it is!) In summary, I feel incredibly equipped with wonderful information, yet condensing the BE track into 4 classes. adding an OTI class. integrating the curriculum more...Condensing the BE track into 4 classes. adding an OTI class. integrating the curriculum more.[Resp. 117]

Reducing assignments just for the sake of making work and focus on specific things that contribute to the goal of the class. This includes the multiple readings of the same opinion but in every author possible.[Resp. 120]

None of these are huge befs even though I may write a lot. 1. Allowing PM students to take a real counseling class. Now before you get all huffy and tell me that the one required is a real one and I could take others as electives please consider this. You are in a coinciding class that is heavy on lecture and light on practical application for your ministry, and whenever you get close to talking about something that would be useful the prof tells you to take such and such class for that information and he continues off talking about the importance of the integrated counseling method. If the first counseling class I take is like this why would I take a chance with another one, I'm better off taking a preaching class I know will help me. all I'm saying is replacing the required counselling course with something a little more practical would be helpful, and maybe even encourage other disciplines to take more classes in counseling. 2. Change up the BE classes some. I mean some of them were little more than glorified Sunday school classes which makes them a bit dry and boring. 3. Related to BE classes what's with Adding the Institutional type objective assignments? When these come up often it seems like teacher adds the assignment, and keeps everything else the same work and lecture wise. So I get an assignment on biblical chronology because it's important for us to know, but the prof never once talks about it in his lectures or notes, and we do it on our own and turn it in. I know its graduate school and we can handle it but don't say that its vital for us to understand but not enough to deal with in class itself. 4. Dress Code: I follow it because I want to follow the rules I agreed to. But please do something about the multitude of people who apparently don’t have such moral objections. I would prefer to wear shorts and a t-shirt and if you would change the dress code to that great. But please don’t say its important for us to dress casual but not enough that we do something about it when people don’t. 5. alchahol: What's with that? I don't drink because I said I would not but we all know its, dare I say, a legalistic rule that seems opposed to a number of passages in scripture. Why hold to it then? "Jesus, don’t you dare turn that water nto wine. Stop! Don’t you know that its against the DTS code of conduct? And besides there could be a weaker brother at this wedding that you’re going to lead into sin." that’s all. but really if after 4 years that’s all I have, you did pretty good DTS. Kudos.[Resp. 122]

More experience/field based courses less language change dress code - focus on modesty not a professional attire that isn’t the norm in churches today. change alcohol policy - Christian liberty should be emphasized, after all there are lots of pros who don’t even abide by the policy. isn’t this legalism? Present various views in a balanced way, not just DTS’s doctrine. When teaching Dispensationalism, DTS should also teach Covenantal Theology or else students graduate without even knowing the other side.[Resp. 126]

Developing two tracks for Biblical languages. One for those wanting to pursue academic and one for those wanting to pursue pastoral ministries. The pastoral ministries track would focus more on practical uses of the language and less on rote memorization of paradigms (which most people forget within a year or two)[Resp. 128]

Definitely by teaching more pastoral care in the Pastoral ministry department. The emphasis of the department is definitely preaching - and they do this very well - I really enjoyed those classes. They also offer Leading the church - two classes on this which is helpful. But I feel there is a real need for more pastoral care to be taught – how to care for the sick, the homeless, the elderly, the young, a congregation whilst trying to prepare sermons etc. This was missing and would be most helpful.[Resp. 133]

Putting more emphasis on practically loving people. Do well with knowledge, but need to help bridge how to use that knowledge with people you are leading in your churches.[Resp. 135]

Taking out a few courses that are redundant or unnecessary all together..[Resp. 137]
Continuing to expand its involvement in current contemporary issues, I love the conferences “Jesus in Media” “beyond the church doors” etc.[Resp. 139]

Bringing more interaction/group projects to the classroom. Continue to grow in requiring profs. to bring multi-media into the classroom.[Resp. 141]

In the last few semesters, I have been struck by the lack of biblical direction in the counseling classes. I understand that students are given BE and ST classes as a requirement for graduation from the BC program, but I do not see a lot of Biblical truths being stressed in dealing with counseling of a client other than the understanding that the student is to "work out" their own way of integrating the scriptures with in their own modality of integrative counseling. I would like to see each class bring more scripture into how to do the work of counseling. Perhaps a class that would focus on passages to use in marital or individual counseling situation. I have stated to my instructors many times lately that I do not want a cookie cutter or formula to follow but a rough guidance of “These scriptures I have found useful when dealing with this particular issue in counseling” would be nice. [Resp. 142]

More application/self Bible study skills covered in BE and ST classes in regards to subject matters covered [Resp. 143]

Making HT101 mandatory for all students instead of CE101[Resp. 154]

I feel like I need more work in Hebrew, but I feel like it is my responsibility to work hard to continue to learn in this area. [Resp. 156]

Maybe make the curriculum a little more challenging within Christian Education. [Resp. 159]

BE courses - should not be required for students who went to Bible college. Testing out of the lower level only to take a higher level BE course is also self-defeating. Looking back, sure, I could have had a better attitude toward them, but since I felt like I already knew the material it was very difficult to find the motivation to do the work. I know part of this is my responsibility. Also, there are essentially two years of overlap from undergrad at a Bible Possibly better integration of counseling students into DTS activities[Resp. 160]

Continuing to use media communication to understand the thoughts of the students[Resp. 166]

Reevaluate the required courses for the counseling program and possibly change or morph some of the classes, ie career counseling, professional development, so that they are more efficient at teaching counseling skills.[Resp. 176]

Being more uniform in the teaching of various classes taught by different professors. eg. into to theology varies greatly depending on who teaches the class. Some professors classes are very strong while other's are weaker based on the assignments utilized to teach.[Resp. 177]

Doing everything it does better. I don't think I would recommend any big changes. The programs are fantastic. The facilities are great. Everything is headed in a good direction, just keep it up. And, go paperless. All assignments should be submitted via e-mail or through my.dts.edu. All “paperwork” should be done through CampusNet. I don't understand why this wouldn't be something the seminary moved to 3 years ago. Think of the trees and paper cuts and man-hours you'd save.[Resp. 182]

I think that the premil, dispensational methods should be taught in a specific course more thoroughly. Getting piece-meal theological method instruction did not help a lot. Perhaps, the new research in educational methodologies should be applied to DTS. Though they are my personal favorite method, lectures are proven to be less effective while physical involvement of some sort encourages growth in people’s understanding the most directly. Group work, manipulatives...let's be creative!... The seminary should hire teachers to teach students...not only counselors. While the counselors are excellent at counseling techniques, this season of learning could be further enhanced by people who are passionate about teaching counseling, not just counseling. [Resp. 195]

Getting more student input and by getting it after each students first year and when they graduate. I would have loved to give my two cents about how the seminary could improve while I was still attending. It would also be helpful if the seminary could constantly discuss how to best balance the academic and the spiritual in the classroom. We need more classes like Ramesh Richards Spiritual Life class. On the other hand none of us want to add another year or two to our degrees so I'm not sure what we can do, but it will always be a tension that should be addressed.[Resp. 198]

Making all students (including MA students) take RS101.[Resp. 202]

Providing a way for the students to really explore various aspects of Christianity...Teach diverse ideas about theology. DTS has a strong view of prophesy and the events of eschatology. However, it seems as though the profs are scared that the students will turn away if they explore other theologies (liberal, pluralist, etc.) I think it would enhance our faith if we were enabled to really understand the world around us. [Resp. 204]

Specifically in terms of STM, I guess more time should be allocated for the students to grasp the subject and think over it. [Resp. 205]

Creating more practical activities in real world ministry[Resp. 208]

Remind students that it’s not about the grade. [Resp. 209]
On-Line Courses

Lessening the involvement of TAs in grading student papers, increasing the professor-student interaction, increasing the professor involvement with online classes (I taught college online for 4 years, for 2 institutions, and was heavily involved with all my classes and students), lessening of the secularization of policies and treatment of students(probably due to involvement with SACS), returning to its theological roots, and making professors more involved with the online courses. Also, make it easier for part-time students to take classes. [Resp. 27]

Having more options in terms of online and evening classes. We also need more full time counseling faculty. [Resp. 82]

The on-line classes attempt to produce an artificial community that just doesn't work. [Resp. 114]

Establishing an online prayer group for seminary students. [Resp. 124]

Spiritual life

What I Liked

I liked best.... The Godly teachers and their investment in my understanding of Him and His ways. The concentrated period of study of the Scriptures and the clear presentation of an integrated and systematic theology was reinforcing to my lifelong self-study. I describe it as "seeing in color what I previously saw in black and white." I am thankful to God for this opportunity and want to be a faithful steward of this grace in my life ... to His glory. [Resp. 3]

I liked best.... The thing I like most about Dallas seminary is through the classes and interaction with all my professor I gain a greater love for Jesus Christ and people. [Resp. 15]

I liked best.... It pushed me in ways I had no idea it would. In a sense, I used muscles that I didn't know I had. While my time here was rough, there were many times when people came around and comforted me. [Resp. 170]

I liked best.... I now have a different view of God and faith, I feel like my life has changed for the better [Resp. 179]

I liked best.... my growth in the Lord. This was the greatest experience I have ever faced in my entire life. This is also one of the hardest experiences I have had to face. Yet, while I have been here it has pushed me closer to the Lord more than ever! Also during my experience it taught me to open myself to allowing help from other people. This time in my life has opened myself up to so many new things, things to allow the Lord to open up my life and allow me to grow in him more than any other time in my entire life. [Resp. 210]

What I Didn’t Like

I am just tired and feel somewhat guilty that I am not more energetically pursuing my relationship with our Lord. (Resp) 46

Program is just so long that it wears on you after a while. Took a toll on my personal walk with Christ and made it a challenge to look at Christianity outside of an academic lens. (Resp) 47

The program demands so much time that it leaves little room for spiritual growth. There is nothing within the DTS program that I believe focuses on the students spiritual life. I know that spiritual life is suppose to attempt to meet this need, but from my experience it did not. Since I am a student that commutes, it left little room to build relationships with guys that stayed in Plano, Denton, Cedar Hill, etc. There was really no opportunity to fellowship and build a relationship. Also, there is such a focus on academics that integrity, and character seem to be pushed to the side. I will be spending the next couple of years getting back to the basics of having quality time with the Lord. [Resp. 51]
Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Formation Groups

I liked least.... The seminary is not dealing with the spiritually bankrupt students. There is no focus on spiritual life and cultivating intimacy with our Savior. [Resp. 16]

I liked least.... would have liked to have seen greater working out of theology in community with professor involvement [Resp. 17]

I would believe that the Spiritual Formation would have been helpful. It was not a requirement as I began at DTS before that was a requirement. (Resp) 44

I liked least.... The Spiritual Formation Program as described is wonderful, but in delivery it is unhealthy and in some respects carried out in an un-Christian way, usually at the hands of highly unqualified students and staff. [Resp. 71]

I liked least.... the way that Spiritual Formation groups are formulated and seen by the Seminary as a adequate place for community and growth to happen. [Resp. 111]

I had a great SF experience...I just thought someone should know that it does work. It depends on what one puts into the program. MY GROUP WAS GREAT! [Resp. 122]

I liked least.... Spiritual Formation -Truly one of the most negative experiences in my life. I know they say ‘God teaches you patience and endurance through it ’ but seriously people - I HAVE ACTUALLY WARNED OTHERS WHO ARE CONSIDERING DTS OF THE TERRORS THAT WAS MY SF GROUP! [Resp. 164]

I liked least.... Spiritual Formation. I didn’t find the four semesters helpful, in fact the burden of the couples SF was more than the benefit. It seemed like a box to check so DTS could say they’d done their part in developing my spiritual life. life among the body of believers at church were of greater assistance. [Resp. 196]

I liked least.... Spiritual Formation groups. The group grew together at first, but the leaders and the participants did not take it seriously the last year. [Resp. 202]

I liked least.... Spiritual Formation [Resp. 211]

What Should Be Changed

SF is a total crapshoot because some people don’t want to be in it and drag the whole group down. Also, I don’t think the curriculum is really that helpful and our group only was beneficial to the participants when we chucked the curriculum. [Resp. 11]

Change the curriculum of Spiritual Formation to spiritual life disciplines and accountability. Mandate a disciple-making class(es). Have more required PM spiritual life classes and mentoring with professors. [Resp. 16]

To me the most important thing that could always be improved is to not lose site of the student in lieu of the education.... Is the student growing to be more like Christ while they are learning about Him. Most of the professors kept this in mind, on occasion a few seemed to forget this. [Resp. 60]

Investing in the quality of leadership in Spiritual Formation that is provided routinely in the classroom. [Resp. 71]

Providing personal coaching experience through personal mentorship [Resp. 77]

Having professors lead SF groups [Resp. 131]

More time for Spiritual Formation [Resp. 144]

More emphasis on Submission and “Servanthood” and humility [Resp. 149]

Better balance of education and application. [Resp. 154]

Not requiring SF. [Resp. 164]

Motivating students to love each other. [Resp. 171]

More emphasis on putting knowledge into practice. Rethink spiritual formation program. Did not find that it met tis stated goal. Found the internship exit interview of directed reflection and MMPI to be the most helpful spiritual formation activity. [Resp. 190]

Allowing Spiritual Formation to be done in the context of the local church. Almost every church in town has multiple DTS students. Allow those students to serve the church (a requirement) and do SF (a requirement) at the same time in order to facilitate the same relationships you have as a goal with less cumbersome requirements. [Resp. 196]

Changing Spiritual Formation, growing in insight, in the CE department specifically, on how the Church is changing and growing different that it used to be. [Resp. 211]
The spiritual formation program needs a lot of help. I mean really a lot of help. I loved my group. But the system seems broken from all I hear. [Resp. 47]

Thought the spiritual formation groups were ineffective. [Resp.149]

Spiritual Formation needs to be changed. I, and many of us are very involved in our church, which is what we are supposed to be, especially in seminary. In my church, I am super involved in an amazing community group. Spiritual Formation asked me to divide my time/life between them and my church. Spiritual Formation can never be the type of community that exists in the church and it is not fair that I was asked to do that. I did give 100% to my church community group, because that is where I felt that I was called. And so, my Spiritual Formation group suffered in that, which was not fair for them. None of them are involved in a church, so they don't have anything besides SF. So, while Spiritual Formation has great purposes, it is not fair for the students who are involved in their church and isn't that what we are supposed to be doing? [Resp.185]

Workload, time compression

Because of adding DTS to my life (a real blessing), I actually had to gear back (and reduce) church involvement in order to make room. Only so much time! During this time, I continued to serve as an elder, shepherding/mentoring young families, etc ... so don't mean to imply idleness or that DTS failed in some mission. [Resp. 3]

I liked least.... I really don't have anything here to say. I didn't enjoy writing as many papers as I had to do but understand that is my own issue. I would like to see more professors have students explore their giftedness and utilize those gifts when developing projects. [Resp. 6]

I liked least.... Always piling on another thing. For instance, making students do chapel, spiritual formation, language labs, etc. It is too much! Most students are doing ministry, working, family, etc. outside of seminary and while I agree it is supposed to be difficult it is often crushing and unfortunately be detrimental to one's personal commitment to the Lord and family life. [Resp. 47]

It was difficult to keep up with the languages while doing other coursework. [Resp. 71]

I liked least.... Very busy life. [Resp. 113]

I liked least.... busywork. [Resp. 120]

I liked least.... It was hard work, mentally, emotionally, and physically, but that’s part of the growing process. [Resp. 122]

I liked least.... Too many time demands that replaced my quiet times. I have thought much about it and there is no way to overcome the need for reading and writing. Prayer was just much shorter unfortunately. [Resp. 129]

I liked least.... The amount of work that is crammed into the Greek 101, 102, 103 classes - way too much for each semestere and it really takes a toll on the other classes. I got much better in my other classes when I finished my languages. In 101-103 Greek the work load is unbelievable - seemed a lot more than the workload in OT101-103. [Resp. 133]

I liked least.... the rigors of never-ending and many times unattested and undeveloped "busy" reading [Resp. 139]

I liked least.... The workload made it difficult to follow the very same professors' suggestions about being involved in ministry and growing outside the classroom. [Resp. 140]

I liked least.... Time spent on assignments and not on relationships [Resp. 144]

The demands upon a seminary student's time, between family, work and school, make it really difficult to maintain the consistency that was previously present. The workload is usually finished in later hours that I usually kept prior to attending seminary, and that made early mornings more difficult for me. Still, that was my own personal responsibility, and the seminary couldn't manage that for me. Overall, the experience has been great, and I would highly recommend it to others. (Resp) 151

I never cared about academics too much before I came here. Just like other friends, there is a subtle way about the institution that makes you care about grades in a way that can take the emphasis off God's work in you and put it on your work for class- needing to get an A. With that and the large portion of work to do, having to have a part time job to get a gen. scholarship and being involved in church and internships, there is little time for family and listening to God. (Resp) 171

Make it easier for students to be involved in ministry. Not having so much busy work but assignments that are applicable to ministry where they get credit. [Resp. 192]

I liked least.... the amount of academic work, and the consequences of it... I wish I could have more time to spend with people, more practical issues of life. [Resp. 208]

I liked least.... the pressure, there is alot of pressure that is put on the students, sometimes it seems a little overwhelming. [Resp. 210]
Evening program and Summer School

I liked best.... Flexibility to continue to work full time and still work on my Seminary training [Resp. 6]

Extension Program and Online Courses

Overall I am very grateful for the administration—especially the remarkable staff in Houston and the financial aid staff. The care from the Houston staff, was deep, sincere, and thorough. [Resp.114]

I started out in the counseling program. However during the earlier phases of study, I found their office unresponsive to multiple emails regarding specific information and program advice. Later this was rectified, but first impressions are important. Similar incidences were experienced by others on the Houston campus. I pray DTS will understand the importance of responsiveness to all students whether external or Dallas residents. All in all a fantastic school and a wonderful biblical experience. I would do it again in a heart beat! [Resp.186]

What I Liked

I liked best.... the diversity of students at Houston extension, strong Trinitarianism that I learned, generosity with financial aid, outstanding class offerings, the professors in the theology and Christian ed departments and the administration in Houston, the love and care of the staff. [Resp. 18]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... It is in Dallas, Tx and not within driving distance. Truthfully I so appreciate the assessability of the profs as I finished my dissertation. [Resp. 8]

I liked least.... There is a general lack of understanding about the life of an extension student. Because of our average age and the depth of our ministry experience, we are considerably different from the students on the main campus. [Resp. 20]

I liked least.... I’m an extension student, so communicating by email is essential. The biggest disappointment was the lack of response to emails from many of the professors, and occasionally the staff. I realize everyone is busy, but responding to emails is not too much to ask – this is called extending a simple courtesy as well as good communications. [Resp. 49]

I liked least.... its focus on the on-campus student body. I don’t think this is a overwhelming problem. It was the first thing that came to my head. [Resp. 69]

What Should Be Changed

Continuing to invest in the Houston campus. This campus should be a very profitable one for the Seminary because it doesn't require much in the way of infrastructure (residence halls, library, admin offices, dining areas, etc.). The Houston campus is also important due to the large number of practitioners who are part of the student body. [Resp. 10]

Providing more full time staff at the extension [Resp. 20]

Providing extension campuses for doctoral degrees[Resp. 35]
The seminary could be more supportive of and sensitive to commuter students who work full time and work in ministry. We are the front-line TODAY, not just the potential troops who attend full time and live on campus. I have attended for 6 years to get an MABS, worked full time, managed a family, held together a marriage barely, lost most of my savings, planted a church that has touched thousands, and pulled a 3.4 GPA. I have gained nothing from ALL the money I paid for student services as I drive in and out at night, or online, summer or winter. I was penalized for only taking one or two classes by carrying heavy overhead fees that didn’t benefit me at all. I know almost no students, have only met with faculty less than 5 times, have only had one class with the senior pillars since the best only bother with ThM and doctoral classes. MABS is not a dead end degree and should be treated as the practical vocational preparation (is it preparation if what is learned in class is preached that Sunday) it is in reality. Please do not take the tone as bitter. I am being frank in hopes that improvements can be made for current and future students and the advancement of kingdom work. One suggestion, pair a full time ThM with a commuter student. We can share experience and education. The full time student gets to be involved in stimulating conversations between classes, gets to know profs etc, that we don’t have the luxury of. The commuter student has practical experience in the real world and actual ministry immediately. One gains the experience of campus life, the other stays connected to real life. God Bless and Vaya con Dios

[Resp 78]

As a San Antonio extension student, I am excited to see the renewed attention this site is getting. SA students usually feel disconnected from the main campus. An on-site office staff person, such as the one in Houston, would be a huge benefit to students here.[Resp 85]

### Student Life

More effort could be made to help in-coming pastors and people like that to use the Baylor facility easier. I feel like I got nowhere when asking about this and using the facility. However, my education is not about workouts it is about study so overall the 6 years were incredible![Resp 86]

### Campus atmosphere

#### What I Liked

I liked best.... amazing pool of talented and seasoned professors great resources diverse student body (denominationally and ethnically) [Resp. 17]
I liked best.... The students development of relationships with each other and the professors
I liked best.... the experience of grace on campus. the way people serve you is very humbling and an awesome experience to behold. [Resp. 25]
I liked best.... Unlike my work life where people are fighting on a daily basis in their marriages and over their children, thinking less of God than themselves, DTS provides a safe haven where prayer is important and where people love and care about you even if they do not know you. I have made some life long friends at DTS. [Resp. 29]
I liked best.... the opportunity to lean with other pastors from different backgrounds and types of churches. [Resp. 35]
I liked best.... The love and affection for the spiritual and educational well-being of the students demonstrated by the staff and faculty. [Resp. 46]
I liked best.... the ability to come somewhere and learn. [Resp. 86]
I liked best.... the atmosphere of community on campus. [Resp. 91]
I liked best.... The interdenominational aspect, and emphasis upon the scriptures. [Resp. 92]
I liked best.... The community of believers here that has greatly influenced and shaped my growth as a Christian. I have greatly appreciated all of the knowledge and information I have received from my coursework. Equally important and life-changing for me has been the “iron sharpening iron” of living in the DTS community. [Resp. 110]
I liked best.... the intensity with others who are going through the same... you are able to learn more than what is required because of the community [Resp. 127]
I liked best.... the sense of community. Even as a student who commuted every day from outside the Dallas area, I never felt as if I was an “outsider”. I have developed close friendships with other students that will remain for long after we have all departed DTS. [Resp. 142]
I liked best.... The opportunity to engage in deep, spiritual conversations with professors and peers. [Resp. 145]
I liked best.... interactions with professors and other student to engage in discussion of biblical and theological issues. [Resp. 150]
I liked best.... I've loved the interactions with peers and professors [Resp. 160]
I liked best.... the friends that I made. [Resp. 177]
I liked best.... The prof's and my classes. The coffee shop. The chances to interact with other students in chapel and in group projects. WEC. [Resp. 182]
I liked best.... the godly atmosphere [Resp. 186]
I liked best.... the community [Resp. 204]
I liked best.... the atmosphere of dependence upon the LORD. [Resp. 208]

What I Didn’t Like

Students need to be nicer to each other. The Thm students typically look down on the counseling students. (Resp) 28
The seminary should focus more on actually doing ministry and serving people in the community in tangible and loving ways. We should have some kind of outreach to the poor of our community so that students can grow in service and gain humility along with knowledge. (Resp) 83

Rules and Policies

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... Dress code, chapel requirements [Resp. 56]
I liked least.... legalistic student code. But I understand the need to have a dress code, and the no alcohol policy probably reduces many unnecessary problems. [Resp. 74]
I liked least.... nebulous rules about drinking and dress codes [Resp. 86]
I liked least.... Dress Code and Alcohol Policy are outdated and don't have a strong basis in Scripture. [Resp. 126]
I liked least.... the lack of character in some students, and the administrations refusal to hold them accountable (drinking, dress code,etc.) [Resp. 127]
I liked least.... Dress code in the library after hours [Resp. 135]
I liked least.... The policy on alcohol and drinking. I do not understand this policy at all and feel there are many "loopholes" in the wording. This is a HUGE source of confusion among students. Would the seminary “fall apart” without this rule in place? Do you feel students are responsible in how to handle this policy without mention of such a requirement? What is DTS so afraid of? Once I am in ministry the question of drinking is still there. Now I am forced to face it and deal with it apart from DTS. Overall there needs to be consistency in what is written about/allowed in the handbook and what comes from Dr. Grippa. Dr. Grippa writes letters and puts them in our box that say "it is not allowed"....well if that is true why does the Handbook not specifically say that. This was by far the most frustrating rule/regulation that I never understood and a LOT of students feel this way. [Resp. 141]
I liked least.... the changing attitude of students: people are less concern about their christian integrity at school including dress code, daily language, and especially, disturbance in class including playing video games or going online through laptop during class. [Resp. 149]
I liked least.... strict dress code [Resp. 166]
I liked least.... dress code. ....more flexibility is needed. I don't mind the dress code but it would be nice to have a little bit more flexibility whatever that might look like. [Resp. 198]
I liked least.... The dress code [Resp. 201]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by making a decision about the dress code and enforcing that decision. The repeated announcements and flyers concerning the dress code is fine, but the lack of enforcement by faculty and staff makes it all a joke.[Resp. 42]
Enforcing the dress code.[Resp. 98]
Diversity

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... There was no diversity. After Dr. Lane left the urban ministry department was no longer and there was no one who was ever brought in to help assist the African American students in that area. This was one of the reasons why I desired to attend DTS because I felt here was an opportunity to receive sound doctrinal teaching that would also be culturally relevant, but I quickly learned that I was mistaken. Another issue that I disliked was the lack of diversity within the preaching department. There are various styles of preaching that many students may have, even with still maintaining the DTS requirements. This goes into the need for more variety within DTS. There are some well qualified minority students who are in the preaching department who are able to meet all of the exegetical, theological, and homiletical requirements that DTS have, but they are not able to preach at chapel because they do not fit the DTS mode or typical DTS style of preaching. I think that it would not only be beneficial to the DTS staff, but to the entire student body as a whole if there was more variety in preaching style. It is very surprising to get all of the wonderful feedback and etc while in preaching class, but when it is time to preach at chapel or before the student body, you just do not fit the mode. [Resp. 51]

I liked least.... I experienced significant and disappointing bias from both students and even some professors that I perceived to be sexist against women. I had never experienced this in a Christian setting before, so it came as a shock to me. It is not easy to be a female student at DTS. If male students are not corrected in class by a professor, the problem is perpetuated to the detriment of future female students, future church ministry and personal sanctification. [Resp. 85]

What Should be Changed

Having greater diversity on the faculty. [Resp. 168]
Providing practical assistance for women to minister in the church setting [Resp. 203]

Administration

What I Liked

I liked best..... ...THE FRIENDLY FACULTY AND STAFF WHO ARE VERY QUALIFIED AT WHAT THEY DO.

What I Didn’t Like

Sometimes I have the misgiving that the seminary is excessively focused on increasing the size of the student body. Sometimes I wonder whether the seminary’s efforts result in a dissemination of knowledge more than a preparation for ministry. Considering the rate of attrition of seminary-trained people from ministry, I would feel more reassured if I were more aware of how the seminary was seeking out ways to build up those involved in ministry. [Resp. 106]

I have honestly found much of the administration very disappointing. I have been discouraged at the lack of communication between services and professionalism in many of the jobs.[Resp.189]

Cost

I liked least.... The cost & distance - time away from my family. [Resp. 68]
I liked least.... Tie: It’s in Dallas. The expense. [Resp. 92]
I liked least.... How much it costs. How can one graduate with so much debt and be able to go out and work in a ministry. [Resp. 97]
I liked least.... The cost of attending [Resp. 132]

**What Should Be Changed**

Becoming more engaged in respectful dialogue with other seminaries - both to influence thought and to build partnerships. The state of American Christianity is moving toward post-modernism, and we need to make allies, not enemies, among others who still bend the knee to our Lord.[Resp. 2]

Hiring specialists in raising funds from the corporate world. There are so many entities which are called Christian faith based businesses and still these institutions support anti-Christian foundations.[Resp. 13]

Remembering the commuter student.[Resp. 69]

What should be improved...Lowering costs and providing more scholarships for non-minority students.[Resp. 62]

Being more inclusive of off campus commuter part time students.[Resp. 78]

Being more aware of and better addressing the needs of second-career seminarians and the issues they face.[Resp. 95]

What should be improved...Lowering tuition costs.[Resp. 97]

Being more ministry focused than business profit center focused.[Resp. 109]

Clearly directing students to how their comments have changed the way things are run at DTS. If we don't see how things are changing, we may begin to believe that they aren't.[Resp. 112]

Continuing to remind everyone associated with this seminary what our real purpose for being here is.[Resp. 121]

Not feeling like that have to grow to be successful. Sometimes smaller is better.[Resp. 127]

Communicating more effectively with the students and between departments.[Resp. 194]

Ability to be relevant to today's world[Resp. 212]

**Academic Dean's Office**

Please provide feedback to the student on class evaluation forms, specially where the student points out serious issues on the quality of instruction. At present the process appears as nothing more than lip service to procedures demanded by academic accreditation agencies.[Resp. 46]

Hiring more professors and working on programs which facilitate greater student involvement with their leaders.

[Resp. 123]

I liked least.... Student graders. [Resp. 156]

As in secular institutions of higher education, with which I've worked a great deal during my tutoring ministry efforts, DTS relies too heavily on paper grading by TAs. I, for one, attended DTS, in part, because of its renowned faculty, hoping to gain from the immense wisdom compiled through the decades by these dedicated individuals.

Given the expense of the seminary education, a student should be able to have those wise faculty members grading their work, giving their experienced feedback and guidance, rather than receiving the feedback of quite often a peer, and most often no more than someone who took that course before. With papers being so subjective, this trend causes poor, opinionated and sometimes faulty grading, as well as a deterioration in the quality of an institution's courses and teaching, lessening the excellence that a seminary like DTS has built through the decades. [Resp.180]

**Admissions Office**

The only problem I had during my entire stint at DTS was with the communication or lack thereof with regards to transfer credits from another seminary. Several email and phone calls did not seem to resolve the issue but thankfully someone stepped in and personally took care of it. It was a small thing that seemed to be important to me at the time but in reality was hardly a bump in the road. I was incredibly busy with a growing church and it seemed bigger to me at the time. I apologize for whatever feathers I ruffled.[Resp. 8]

Requiring prospective students to have some working experience before coming to seminary. It seems that many of the younger students are only in seminary because it's the next logical educational step or because they don't know what they want to do in the future.[Resp. 116]
I feel that the thing that impedes this the most at DTS is the spiritual maturity of the individuals admitted to DTS whether it be for the Thm. MABS or counseling program. I feel as though anyone who wanted to enter into seminary could. The bible teaches about how one person can affect the whole community with their sin and immaturity let alone many. I encountered in my time at seminary far to many individuals that were far more concerned with themselves or other things than their desire to see God glorified and manifested in their lives. I understand the desire to grow as a school, but I feel as though growth is causing all areas of the school to become worse. I would love to see less people at the school but with godly hearts and godly passions who are being sought after by professors who care in a hands on way than for DTS to be a large and successful seminary. (Resp) 130

When I switched majors to a MABS, I was told that I could not be a minister or a Christian teacher unless I did specific DTS programs. God is the one who calls NOT DTS. I thought this was a very arrogant comment and think the system should be changed. Overall, This program has been great and the Lord has done some amazing things in my life but I do believe that some changes do need to me made at DTS for the next generation of students. (Resp) 192

Book Center

BookCenter has over-priced books, very few students I talked with actually bought textbooks there. [Resp.11]

Business Office Services

The business office was warned of the credit card billing procedure violation of the law, but they ignored it in pursuant of profit instead of being above reproach. This made me sad to be considered a graduate of DTS. [Resp.177]

Showing more grace to the students. Like serving their needs and not dropping their classes or charging them extra fees that they cannot afford. This would improve with better communication and not being so rigid. God’s grace has been showed to the school so it should be showed to the students. [Resp. 192]

Campus Communications

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

I have never understood the need of jott and tittle and the Student government in so far that they accomplish anything useful for the student body. While I appreciate the hard work gone into our campus newspaper, it seems silly to continue printing such a thing when most of the world is moving away from the print medium and into the digital age. As for the student government, this might have been a useful institution in the past and might have provided for some useful benefits in the past or even in the present for students who live on campus. The majority of students do not live near campus and are not involved in campus activities but in church related ones. It seems that money and time is spent unnecessarily. But I will admit, I do not know the full use of the Student government. [Resp.22]

The heavy use of email and internet takes away the personal touch of seminary education. [Resp. 77]

I noticed that many of the mass emails that were sent out had incorrect information on them. I would recommend that all the departments confer before sending out information about dates, times or deadlines. It is very confusing to get conflicting I do not enjoy the heavy use of email by the seminary. It takes away the personal touch in education. [Resp. 89]

The means of keeping students informed relies too much on ‘it’s your responsibility’ and electronic transmissions. Paper in the mailbox, while more expensive and messy, is far more effective in making sure I KNOW I have received a message from the institution. The media is the message, and electronic is NOT important, especially now. Paper is important. [Resp.92]

There were a few times when I do not received emails about important deadlines for events and class registration. Though, it was not a majority of the time, it was a huge frustration for me. At times, I had to make arrangements with work to change my schedule for a special trip to campus in order to straighten things out. I found most of the departments and services helpful. [Resp. 98]
Campus Police

The Police Kiosk needs to be located on the other side of Live Oak. The middle of campus is already quite safe. We need their presence outside the middle of campus for safety reasons and car thefts. [Resp. 11]

Police: When cars get broken into on such a small campus there seems to be a break down somewhere. [Resp. 49]

Chapel Programs

I liked least.... mandatory chapel attendance [Resp. 36]
Too many students seem to think that Chapel is not worth going to. It should be required for all, either at the Chapel or on line. The Chapel was important to me as many of the speakers were sharing in areas where I needed encouragement. The younger students need Chapel for sure. [Resp. 45]

Chapel is really wasted time in the middle of the day. It needs to be 20 min long at most. There is too long of a break between 10:25 am and 1 pm when classes resume. For those of us with a job and live off campus this is a huge waste of time... plus the speakers... they did not grow my faith much. I mean, give me a sermon about the greatness of God please... only heard 3 or 4 over 5 and half years that actually promoted and spoke of God and were not psycho-babble that just tried to change my behavior with a good story. Seminarians are under a ton of pressure on so many fronts. Give them fresh air by giving them a greater view of God... not some image we need to try to strive for... we know that stuff just grow our faith and trust in the living God. Anything else is a waste of time. There won’t be lasting effects of chapel messages unless God is presented in grand form for all he truly is and can do...I liked best.... Chuck Swindoll’s chapels! [Resp. 102]

I liked least.... Chapel. I can appreciate but more flexibility is needed. Having to attend a heavy number of chapel services was more of a stressor and burden for me than a spiritual refresher. [Resp. 198]

Provide more opportunity to be involved in Chapel beyond the student chapel service in leading the singing, and/or prayer. [Resp. 169]

Some classrooms in Todd were very cold at times! [Resp. 179]

Classroom Conditions

I liked least.... the old bathrooms, they stink. [Resp. 13]
I liked least.... Lack of Wi-Fi in class rooms [Resp. 128]

Counseling Services

There is inadequate free counseling for students. There is little interaction concerning spiritual growth between the school and students throughout our time here. (Resp) 112

I liked best.... The community of believers who sheerrelessly loved me well in truth--I was able to get additional outside Christian counseling to become whole in Him because of my time at DTS! I am eternally grateful for every experience that I have had while at Dallas Seminary--you are my family! [Resp. 172]

I liked least.... I wish that DTS would do better psychological screening of their students. I had several interactions with students who probably had some sort of mental illness and it didn't seem like DTS did much about it. They still will be able to graduate without getting any help. Its scary that these people will be spiritual leaders one day. [Resp. 179]
Financial Aid Services

Tuition discount for 'A' students. Smile! [Resp. 31]
I liked least... The lack of financial assistance to students who have been living in the U.S. for a long time but are planning to return to their home countries to serve... Providing more financial aid to students who have a heart to serve internationally, especially to students who originally came from foreign countries. [Resp. 34]
Having more diversity with the funds that are given to minorities. It is a blessing to receive a minority scholarship, but there are requirements in order to receive it. One being having to go back in to your community or have to pay back the scholarship. This does not have an affect on me because I am going back to my community, but for those who might desire to do missions or have a desire to minister to another culture then they are unable to. Maybe look in to other ways to receive funding in order to give variety to minority students. Minority students are also not allowed to apply for the general scholarship. [Resp. 51]
I liked least.... I can't get financial aid if I don't take 12 hours. [Resp. 98]
I liked best.... discounted tuition for family [Resp. 109]
Offering a family discount if both the husband and wife are attending. It's a good thing, but it is unrealistic for family finances. As a wife, I have had a hard time "justifying" my education knowing the financial hardship it has put my family in.[Resp. 145]
It is disappointing that financial aid is not available for students who are taking less than 12 hours. Sometimes the students who are taking less than 12 hours are the ones who need the most assistance in financial matters. Those who have a family and are having to work two jobs to make ends meet are not able to take 12 hours but could use the financial help.[Resp.198]
I liked least.... The fact that you can receive only one scholarship and that the Israel scholarship isn't available to MA students. [Resp. 200]
Seminary expects so much from the students, that to require a student to work a part time job on top of Everything else in order to qualify for financial aid is a little steep. Especially if the student is married with children. If you want to help, help...don't push students so deep into the mud only to throw out a rope so short they can't even reach it. Provide communication seminars. [Resp. 209]

Food Services

While improvements can always be made, I think the Koine Cafe and the Mitchell cafeteria are excellent and do wonderful things. The food is always good. Good options. And the coffee at the cafe is delicious. [Resp. 47]

Housing and Relocation Office and Residence Halls

I do not agree with charging students market-based priced housing on buildings that were donated. You should price your housing on maintenance cost. This way you get students through your seminary with the blessing of no debt and you fulfill your promises when you solicited funds for the building, "provide affordable housing for students". People gave so students could live on campus, not so that the seminary could use the facilities to generate profit for other facilities or buying adjacent land [Resp. 109]
What I liked least...Another area that I found most difficult was the way the guys in Lincoln were treated when the seminary decided to sell the building. I was one of those guys and I felt we were treated very poorly. It was disappointing to see the housing department communicate extremely late in the semester (with 2 weeks left) and communicate in a way which came across very much as lacking compassion the news that Lincoln would be shut down over the next month or two - this disappointed me greatly. [Resp. 133]
The customer service in the Registrar’s office and in Housing seemed lacking much of the time. They ultimately got an issue taken care of but the manner in which it happened was often not timely (for the Registrar’s office) or with a kind spirit (for the Housing office). [Resp. 197]
What Should Be Changed

Two comments. Though I have never lived in Stearns or Lincoln, I have heard from multiple people that the living conditions were very poor and in order to save money the Seminary refused to fix things. I understand the need to save money, but not willing to fix plumbing, remove mold from the stairwell and replacing windows is appalling especially when single students are forced to live there. [Resp. 22]

The living conditions in Lincoln were atrocious and DTS should have improved living conditions or secured other housing. It is not good stewardship to have students living in sub-standard housing. [Resp. 23]

I would encourage a Swiss Tower survey of all residents regarding the housing office, their policies, their treatment of students, and the management. [Resp. 35]

Ministry Placement Services and Alumni Office

The Placement Services are not developed for Counseling students so do not apply to me. This leaves me felt me feeling dissatisfied in the area of career resources[Resp. 110]

Online Course Support

I liked least... the way the online courses were handled and administered. The GTAs did a HORRIBLE job of grading and handling the online classes, likely because they are overworked and undertrained for that sort of work. I strongly disagree with the advertised contention that these classes achieve parity with their on-campus counterpoints. Professors need to be more involved with these classes. [Resp. 27]

Continuing its excellent online class availability. [Resp. 38]

Parking

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least... The parking [Resp. 45]
Having to cross the major street in rush hour is bad. [Resp. 126]
I liked least... The daily parking struggle. [Resp. 142]

What Should Be Changed

Having more parking lots. [Resp. 183]

Registrar’s Office Services

I liked least... The lost and/or confused data at the hands of the Registrar’s office. Guys seriously, it wore me out. We’re talking multiple semesters here. Just watch who you hire, and don't be afraid to let a bad employee go. I'm not going to rehash all my problems with the Registrar’s office. (I will say Sabrina Woods is a wonderful and helpful woman who took the time nobody else did to make sure I was on track to graduate, even though I was a total stranger). Remind the staff that they are there to assist the students. At times I felt like I was dealing with a car insurance company. I am sorry at the negative tone my comments have taken towards my experience with the Registrar’s office. This certainly does not reflect upon everyone who works there. [Resp. 22]

I would encourage more interaction between the academic advising office and the student in order for the student to achieve his/her future ministry goals. [Resp 26]
I liked least.... Some of the class scheduling for those of us who work has made it hard to take all that I needed as quickly as I might otherwise have taken the classes. I have not had the easiest time receiving call backs or help from the Human Resources Dept about insurance issues. Unless I physically go there and find someone to help me, I am not going to be able to receive answers to my questions or help. [Resp. 29]

Registrars: When I come to ask about classes I need to take I would think that the person helping me should have more information than me, and be able to tell me what I need and when I can take it. Not have to look things up and then tell me I’ll have to ask the department. [Resp. 49]

There were several times when it seemed like the Registrar’s Office was too busy to handle my concerns. One person told me to email and not call because she didn’t have time to talk to students. At these times, it felt like I was just a cog in the DTS system. [Resp. 114]

The registrar’s office is a nightmare...it would be nice to have the registrar be more accessible. Especially for counseling students who frequently have to go to other schools to get credit for classes that dts doesn schedule at variable times, trying to get the transfer thing done was unpleasant. Perhaps it would be best to have a sheet printed up with the protocol for the whole process. [Resp. 154]

The customer service in the Registrar’s office and in Housing seemed lacking much of the time. They ultimately got an issue taken care of but the manner in which it happened was often not timely (for the Registrar’s office) or with a kind spirit (for the Housing office). [Resp. 197]

I really enjoyed my Seminary experience but I think there should be more night classes offered for those students who work full-time during the day. Although I loved my experience I know they are not because of the lack of classes available. [Resp 200]

Their communication skills, at the end of the semester and making sure all the graduating seniors know they are set to graduate.[Resp. 210]

Registration Procedures/Registrar Items

I liked least.... THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SEEK FOR ADVICE OR GUIDENCE FOR MEETING HIS/HER FUTURE MINISTRY GOALS. [Resp. 26]

Make it easier for students with an undergraduate degree in Bible and Theology to take advanced classes, or transfer in credits from their undergraduate program.[Resp. 30]

I liked least.... the inflexible response to special circumstances. I recently moved for a job and had only 1 class remaining for my degree and had met the residency requirement. Rather than allowing me to finish a single class by independent study, I had to, at enormous additional personal expense, fly to Austin four times to complete my final course. [Resp. 38]

I liked least.... the fall session ends too closely to Christmas. [Resp. 64]

Paying attention to when classes are scheduled. 1-2:15 always seemed to be the prime time for classes that were only offered once every 2 years. And I don’t think that I ever say Evangelistic Preaching offered (it was required for my track). [Resp. 74]

I liked least.... the course offering per semester [Resp. 82]

I liked least.... changes in course offering that deviated from published planned rotation caused a delay in graduation date. [Resp. 134]

I liked least.... having less options with my schedule of upper-level courses (often conflicting with prescheduled work time). [Resp. 191]

General Comments about Serving Students

Didn’t feel like I needed it, but was surprised to have no initiated contact from advisor ... just to make contact and be welcoming, should a need arise. I was able to manage my way through my experience successfully, but felt the pastoral side of the seminary could be enhanced.[Resp. 74]

I will always love DTS, support DTS, and encourage DTS as a place for quality training for ministry. That said, I think taking a look at how to make Admissions and the Registrar’s office more efficient and dependable is in order. I had a great experience at DTS overall. The classroom experience is amazing. The amount of lost paperwork, mistakes in records, conflicting advice, and at times borderline rude behavior by a minority of people in the above mentioned departments made my experience more difficult than it needed to be. Please, hear this for what it is: A comment you asked for and given to you only. Please encourage your office staff to remember even though they may deal with mixed up records and lost data all the time, that this is a big concern for the student!
I had a friend who decided against DTS because Admissions could not keep track of the info he sent in, more than once. We looked silly, and he missed out on a great experience here. I just sent two of my lay leaders to DTS. Do not misunderstand me! I love this school and the faculty. Just take a look at some of your staff and make sure they treat the students with the care and respect they deserve. I know it will get better! [Resp.100]

I feel like the seminary needs to do a better job at serving the students. They need to make communications more clear. Many students get beat up by the system and that is NOT right! There are too many rules and legalism occurs way too much on campus. [Resp.162]

Seminary

The commitment to the Bible and its exegesis, preaching, and teaching

What I Liked

I liked best.... the emphasis on literal, historical, inerrant Scripture through coursework covering the whole of the Bible and doctrinal positions, as well as the wisdom shared by some superb faculty. DTS's position on premillennial, classic dispensational theology has been one of its main

I liked best.... its commitment to the Scriptures. [Resp. 5]
I liked best.... it's absolute commitment to the Word of God. [Resp. 8]
I liked best.... it's commitment and adherence to the Scriptures alone as our guide for living.
I liked best.... the commitment to excellence in biblical truth and theological orthodoxy. [Resp. 10]
I liked best.... a strong commitment to God's word [Resp. 12]
I liked best.... it is consistent [Resp. 24]
I liked best.... its comprehensive focus on the Word and its in-depth teaching of Scripture. [Resp.
I liked best.... its commitment to biblical exegesis rather than necessarily conservative politics.
I liked best.... Foundational theological knowledge [Resp. 43]
I liked best.... its commitment to the word and sound theology. [Resp. 47]
I liked best.... the commitment to teach the Bible. [Resp. 52]
I liked best.... Focus on good biblical hermeneutics. Professors: warmth, knowledge, and humble attitude when discussing the subject matter [Resp. 56]
I liked best.... DTS is committed to sound Biblical teaching and theology. The professors are truly interested in the spiritual growth and development of the students as well as their academic
I liked best.... How I studied through the entire Bible [Resp. 68]
I liked best.... the strong academic, research, and communication emphasis. [Resp. 69]
I liked best.... its adherence to Biblical truths [Resp. 70]
I liked best.... its commitment to teaching scripture in a way that prepares for Christ-centered ministry that changes lives through evoking conviction by the Word of God. [Resp. 74]
I liked best.... the focus on the Bible [Resp. 77]
I liked best.... the strong commitment to Scripture and the caliber of speakers/teachers/preachers that graduate from there [Resp. 84]
I liked best.... how biblically and theologically centered it is in all facets of the seminary. [Resp. 121]
I liked best.... Commitment to Biblical Training [Resp. 126]
I liked best.... its love of the Word of God, professors. [Resp. 131]
I liked best.... Commitment to the Scriptures [Resp. 137]
I liked best.... the professors, the legacy, the integrity, the responsibility. [Resp. 139]
I liked best.... it's commitment to the truth of the Word of God. [Resp. 143]
I liked best.... The focus on the word and communicating it [Resp. 144]
I liked best.... the study of God's word [Resp. 152]
I liked best.... its focus on interpreting the Bible literally [Resp. 163]
I liked best.... it's foundation in God's word. [Resp. 194]
I liked best.... the commitment to God's word. [Resp. 195]
I liked best.... Theology and Bible. Dallas is exemplary at teaching the Bible and theology (from a dispensational viewpoint). [Resp. 196]
I liked best.... Theology focused on Scripture [Resp. 205]
I liked best.... it's unwavering commitment to teaching truth, and training individuals to teach truth. [Resp. 209]
I liked best.... Centrality of the Scriptures [Resp. 212]

The thoroughness of the training

What I Liked

I liked best.... the caliber of education which serves to create a legacy of men and women who have effectively served God. [Resp. 76]
I liked best.... that it, compared to many other seminaries, enables students to acquire a deeper level of knowledge and develop exegetical skills to continue to be students of the Bible and theology. [Resp. 106]
I liked best.... Teaching the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. [Resp. 124]
I liked best.... the commitment to teaching the Bible in its entirety. [Resp. 191]

What I Didn’t Like

If the school is truly focused upon the Great Commission - as is stated as one of its 20 precepts - why don't the requirements reflect that? As a MACM student, I took multiple missions classes. However, the ThM, unless a cross-cultural major, requires only WM 101. My church is a good example of what can result - despite a membership of over 20,000, we have only three international missions per year. Our international missions are overshadowed by local clothing drives and benevolence programs. Is one missions course enough to convince the ThM students of the value of international missions?[Resp. 44]

The commitment to excellence and integrity

I liked best.... its priority for excellence in academic education. [Resp. 36]
I liked best.... Standards of excellence, evangelical theology and competence of faculty. [Resp. 67]
I liked best.... the quality of education [Resp. 82]
I liked best.... its commitment to sound doctrine, Bible teaching and excellence [Resp. 128]

The commitment to its heritage of conservative doctrine and interpretation

I liked best.... The unapologetic evangelical stance. [Resp. 2]
I liked best.... Belief in the Word, Evangelical conservative theology, generally well designed curriculum. [Resp. 78]

What Should Be Changed

I liked least.... The indistinct (at best) definition of the theological position of the seminary. It is extremely apparent that the catalogue and doctrinal statement need to change or else flat out fire several pros in the OT, NT and Theology departments. The inconsistency of some of the teaching compared to what is on record, and the condescending attitude expressed in some classes by Profs as well as students regarding the standard positions of the seminary, with respect to Classic or Revised dispensationalism, is disconcerting to say the least, irritating to those holding those positions and hypocritical on the part of the profs if indeed they sign a full doctrinal statement. [Resp. 32]
I liked least.... We need better communication and inter-relationships with Reformed/Covenant brothers so that they do not see us (pre-Trib, pre-Mill Dispensationalists) as heretics. [Resp. 102]
I liked least.... the lack of balanced discussion of theological beliefs outside of dispensational background. [Resp. 150]
Integration of Learning

What Should Be Changed

Integrate curriculum so that professors know what other professors are teaching. (Resp) 117
Have students wrestle with integration more. [Resp. 153]
Better way of integrating church ministry with seminary experience. List of churches that students can serve at or something. (Resp) 157

Preparation for Ministry

What I Liked

I liked best.... the time I spent reading, researching and going deep in the word of God due to the discipline and dedication that was required to finish the assignments given to us by our professors. [Resp. 111]
I liked best.... The godliness of the professors and the atmosphere there has been on campus to pursue a life serving Christ with all we have got. [Resp. 133]
I liked best.... The friends I made, ministry connections, and the amazing professors! [Resp. 135]
I liked best.... the experience gained from practicum classes. [Resp. 176]
I liked best.... The class content will shape and mold your life as a Christian, while giving you the ability to stand in what you believe in; and effectively express it to others. [Resp. 200]
I liked best.... the security I know have in biblical and theological knowledge. Not to say I know it all, in fact, in some ways I feel like I know less because I now realize how much there is left to learn. But I have a security in knowing I have had amazing professors and resources to help guide me in my future studies and ministry. I know that my notes and resources from my classes will be well used in the following years. [Resp. 211]

What I Didn’t Like

Provide a proactive personal mentorship program (Resp) 77
I’m exhausted. DTS took 6 years and I only got a Master’s degree. What a waste of good time and money and ministry I could already be in. Efficiency is the key word here.[Resp. 80]
I think the seminary is weakest in developing interpersonal skills necessary for pastoral work. I have depended on developing these skills within the context of my church, but sometimes my church has also been weak in these areas due to guardedness and busyness among the church members. (Resp) 106
I think it’s almost impossible for a 2 year program to fully meet all of the goals stated above at a 4 or 5. The way that DTS could attempt to meet these goals would be through personal mentorship using some type of assessment tool by the mentor to ensure this happens. (Resp) 111
A more holistic approach to developing leaders. The seminary markets a program designed to train leaders but provides a program that trains students in how to study the word and communicate it. Study of the word an communication of it are essential but more emphasis could be placed on developing leaders in other ways. (Resp) 126
More training in Pastoral CARE for THM guys in the pastoral ministry track. Hospital visitation, home visitation, caring for the sick, care for the elderly, caring for the homeless, caring for leaders, caring for a congregation etc. This was my only disappointment with the whole of the DTS education. (Resp) 133
Continue to bring in current ethical and moral issues of today into the classroom setting, in all classes, whether BE or ST. People today want to know if we claim to have truth then how do we teach others how to apply it and live it out in their lives. There should be more than just teaching the truth (from a seminary prof point of view) but a continual helping us know how to teach it while living it out in our own lives. Continue to stress the importance of group work rather than individual learning!! We live in a day where students are lacking true social skills more and more due to the growth in technology. We need to learn how to connect with people at the same time we are learning in the classroom. Thanks for the Spiritual Formation group requirement! We need to learn to open up and share our lives with people who we are not familiar with. Great Job to DTS!! (Resp) 141

Practical Experience. The Christian Education Department seemed to be focused completely on Sunday School style education, and Southern Baptist Sunday School to be more precise. My church does not have Sunday School and I am working in a parachurch organization. I feel like the only reason I have the experience in working in an organization like this is because I have been heavily involved in volunteering for a parachurch organization for the last 3 years. DTS does a great job of preparing me in biblical and theological knowledge that can be used no matter what field, but I was really disappointed that I did not get any training on sharing the gospel in this world today, issues that people deal with day to day, ministering not in a Sunday School, but in the world everyday. (Resp) 211

What Should Be Changed

Lot’s of theory, little (opportunity) for application - artificial VS real ministry environment [Resp. 17]
Help me to find out what God wants me to do in ministry. [Resp. 77]
I do not think the program can do anything else to make sure I communicate the Gospel effectively now in an intercultural setting. It takes time and practice on my part. [Resp. 171]
Please improve the counseling program. I don’t feel prepared. Also, my college (Cedarville University) had a phrase that DTS would do well to employ: Anything in the name of Christ should have QUALITY STAMPED ALL OVER IT! I see this in certain areas of DTS, but it should be more pervasive. Thanks for listening. [Resp. 195]
More practicality in classes and more classes that are specific to the student’s concentration in each degree program. I believe the CE classes I took were practical, but I would encourage even more real world ministry assignments. [Resp. 207]
MACE needs to focus more on how to minister to people, outside the Sunday School model. MACE needs to require their students to take counseling classes, to learn how to deal with people and issues, and there needs to be more practical learning, outside of Sunday School. My classes all seemed to focus on Sunday School, or a church with that model. A lot of churches are moving away from that model, I am, and I felt like the DTS classes were still focusing only on this model. I am entering my ministry feeling 100% prepared in biblical knowledge and theology, but not prepared on how to directly minister to my youth and develop my parachurch ministry. [Resp. 211]

The commitment to Dispensationalism

Verify that the Dispensationalism that is touted in the Seminary’s doctrinal statement and catalogue actually get taught in the classroom. I have never—and I mean never!—had a theology class in which anything close to the catalogue was taught except with a sneer. It has been consistently the Bible Ex department that has taught what the catalogue states, and them alone. I am glad I graduated Bible School before I got here, or I would know very little of any kind of Dispensational systematic theology. Needs looking at, guys. [Resp. 32]
I think that the seminary is doing a great job at training in the text and theology that flows from a dispensational belief, but most students don’t really understand dispensationalism. Still, the seminary has been a great place for development, and I thoroughly appreciate my education.[Resp. 150]
General Encouragement

Despite suggestions for improvement, I believe DTS is tops.[Resp. 1]
I love this school and am very thankful for God’s grace in my life through it. My candid opinion here is just that, candid and given here ... not outside.[Resp. 3]
Thanks for the opportunity to receive my degree at one of the worlds finest Seminaries [Resp. 6]
My wife and I both value education. She with her educational degrees and me theological degrees. We both look back at our years at Dallas as the best we ever had. At the time she seemed to get more out of DTS than I did. I was pastoring in the area and perhaps too busy. While my Dallas experience was short (2 year STM) and then DMIn (by exten) it created the backdrop by which I guaged every church experience I have had ever since. It defined what a “good” church really was/ is. I will always be thankful.[Resp. 8]
Thank you for the opportunity to study God’s Word in the community of believers who love Jesus and want to serve Him.[Resp. 9]
Enjoyed my time immensely and hope to do more if I can be sure that it will an effective use of resources for God’s work of mission and ministry in my life.[Resp. 10]
Overall, amazing experience here. drinking from a fire hose for two straight years, I feel I will require numerous years to assimilate so much material. I am grateful for the teachings and the resources. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to study here, and for asking my opinion during my tenure. I will be praying for those who will come behind me through these profoundly influential classes and years. [Resp. 17]
DTS has been a great, enriching experience for me. Because of my studies I am a different person and as a result my effectiveness in ministry has increased. I have been in school for 6 years and I have seen DTS consistently strive to make things more available to extension students. I am especially thankful for the implementation of the MACE degree in Houston [Resp. 20]
I love DTS. I am so glad to be done and yet so sorry I couldn’t take many additional classes that intrigued me. I cannot believe my time there is really finished and I am sure I will wish I spent more time with this prof or that student.
I love DTS. Thank you for changing my life!![Resp. 22]
DTS is a wonderful school and I have recommended it to friends and supported it and will continue to do so. It not only trains godly servant leaders, but also it provides to so many in so many parts of the globe wonderful teachers and missionaries that selflessly do God’s work. [Resp. 29]
All in all great school!![Resp. 31]
Thanks for a great education. While the seminary is not perfect I appreciate what you do well and are trying to do well for your students.[Resp. 47]
Overall I am very grateful for my educational experience.[Resp. 60]
I loved my time at Dallas Theological Seminary. It was probably the most challenging and wonderful time of my life.
[Resp. 63]
I LOVED EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE SCHOOL! I never thought I would say this - but I receivd more from my tuition than I expected. I would pay it again. Maybe not for SF - but for everything else. Kudos. [Resp. 64]
Thank you - I love this school and the education I received!![Resp. 68]
I have really enjoyed my time at DTS. I feel that seminary has been a necessary and fruitful part of my preparation for ministry. I will recommend anyone who is thinking about ministry to strongly consider attending DTS beforehand.[Resp. 69]
Graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary fulfills a dream for which I will be thankful to God and my professors for the rest of my life.[Resp.
I have greatly valued and cherished my time here. It has been an extreme honor to study here the last four years.
[Resp. 76]
We loved our time at DTS. It was very tough, but very worth it. We became stronger Christians in many ways, stronger members of the Body of Christ, stronger individuals, and a stronger family during our time here. Even knowing the trials and difficulties we would face, we would do it all again because, looking back, we can see God’s hand in it all. We hope to take the opportunities that we had to learn and grow here and share those blessings with others who are not as privileged as we have been, to proclaim His word and build up the I thank the Lord for my experience at DTS!![Resp. 98]
I’ve appreciated my time and consider it to have been very, very valuable.[Resp. 99]
I am deeply and sincerely grateful for my time here at DTS. I leave with a deep sense of gratitude for those who have poured so much into my life during my time here. I will continue to pray that the Lord will bless Dallas Seminary as it continues to draw and train the next generation of Christian leaders.[Resp. 110]

It has been a tremendous blessing and privilege being here. God will definitely use what I have learned here in whatever future ministry He has for me. Thank you for serving me and providing me with a strong education I was able to successfully complete educationally and This has been a great 4 years [Resp. 123]
Thankful to God for DTS and its faculty and staff.[Resp. 124]
I owe my life to this institution. I didn’t know the meaning of the world theology before I applied here, but I’ve learned that it is knowledge that leads to godliness (titus 1:1). My and others lives will never be the same because of it. [Resp. 127]
I am blessed to have been a part of DTS.[Resp. 128]
I think you did a good job. You are a blessing.[Resp. 129]
I loved my time at DTS. And I am praying for you all.[Resp. 130]
I have absolutely loved my time here at DTS - it has been life changing. Thank you for impacting me in an incredible way.[Resp. 133]
Thanks for the enjoyable experience of learning.[Resp. 134]
I have so much appreciated the education I received while at DTS. What makes this school so great is the people! First class, all the way around.[Resp. 141]
I have loved my seminary experience and it has been the most meaningful endeavor I have ever undertaken. I will speak highly of DTS whenever I can and will seek to be worthy of calling for which it has trained me. [Resp. 154]
Keep up the good work - is sometimes amazing how concerned you are for the students! Very refreshing!... It is hard to be negative - my experience was one of blessing, challenge and welcomed learning. Thank you!!! Wonderful experience!![Resp. 155]
Thank you for the last 3 years. I will always remember it for my time of growth and interaction with profs and friends.[Resp. 170]
I liked least... I liked everything at DTS... I think that the seminary did a wonderful job in all aspects of providing a quality learning experience for the students. Thank you for a truly awesome experience.[Resp. 180]
Nope. Thanks for a great experience!![Resp. 182]
I have enjoyed my educational experience at DTS. It was a spiritually edifying and humbling experience that I will cherish forever. Thank you for everything. [Resp. 194]
Thanks for the education. I’m grateful.[Resp. 196]
I truly loved my DTS experience and it’s truly hard to depart away from the Seminary. I do feel fully equipped to answer the calling on my life and I truly thank DTS for allowing me to grow mentally, physically, and spiritually as a student.[Resp. 200]
I will miss DTS [Resp. 208]
It has been an interesting journey and I am very thankful for each professor, administrator who have invested in my life. It would not be the same without you. From the bottom of my heart, Thank you.[Resp. 209]
Thanks so much for everything! yall are amazing! God is working there in all our lives! [Resp. 210]
Wish I was longer here at DTS, STM was a short course with too much to take in.Wish I had more time to grasp things and think over them. Thanks [Resp. 212]