## Open-Ended Responses

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Faculty

**Personalness, accessibility, flexibility**

**Kudos**

I liked best.... the Professors and their teaching. [Resp. 11 CGS]
I liked best.... The determination of each professor to give you the very best that he/she has to offer. [Resp. 14 MABS]
I liked best.... the professors. They have a real love for the Lord, for teaching, and for the student. [Resp. 19 MACE]
I liked best.... great professors [Resp. 22 MACM]
I liked best.... The humility of the professors in approaching the Word of God and dealing with difficult issues. [Resp. 24 THM]
I liked best.... The attitude of the facility most and some-what for the staff. [Resp. 34 MACE]
I liked best.... very kind faculty and excellent lectures. [Resp. 35 STM]
I liked best.... accessible, personal professors who display genuine care for the student. [Resp. 45 CGS]
I liked best.... The interaction with the Professors. They are for the most part truly concerned about the students, and it is a joy to interact with them both in and out of class. Also the students. To be able to study God's word in an environment with others that are so different, yet so alike so international yet still the same beliefs is such a joy. I loved and will always treasure my time as a student at DTS, I have been blessed. [Resp. 53 MACE]
I liked best.... The availability of professors for help, counsel, advise and mentoring, and the way they helped cultivate my curiosity regarding things theological or biblical. [Resp. 55 THM]
I liked best.... the professors. [Resp. 57 THM]
I liked best.... The professors [Resp. 59 MACM]
I liked best.... THE SINCERE PROFESSORS HERE. [Resp. 61 MABS]
I liked best.... its faculty [Resp. 63 THM]
I liked best.... The Faculty. [Resp. 67 STM]
I liked best.... the professors [Resp. 68 THM]
I liked best.... The hearts of the faculty...I was blessed to have so many professors that were living the Christian life, walking humbly with God, who passionately communicated not only the head-knowledge but also the heart-knowledge of their subjects. They made what we were learning applicable to every day life. (That being said- I know that not all professors/classes are like that) [Resp. 71 MACE]
I liked best.... The professors really do care about the students. Chapel is great. Campus is beautiful. Education cannot be duplicated. [Resp. 72 THM]
I liked best.... the professors and the atmosphere in the classroom [Resp. 74 MACM]
I liked best.... Availability [Resp. 75 MABS]
I liked best.... the faculty are incredibly sincere [Resp. 81 THM]
I liked best.... Incredibly dedicated, brilliant, loving professors. Also DTS demanded a lot from me, which made me work hard but I received a great education and the confidence to step up and develop programs for my church and take on responsibilities that I was too afraid to tackle earlier in my life. [Resp. 83 MABS]
I liked best.... The amazing group of men and women who make it up. [Resp. 88 MABS]
I liked best.... The profs are incredible- challenging yet loving and full of grace! [Resp. 94 CGS]
I liked best.... the Biblical instruction from godly men/women. [Resp. 98 THM]
I liked best.... Faculty [Resp. 100 THM]
I liked best.... DTS has provided me with theological training that will last lifetime. I like that fact that each professor was well versed and extremely knowledgeable in the course that he/she taught. [Resp. 104 MACE]
I liked best.... Overall my experiences at DTS have been very positive. Almost all professors are thoughtful, humble and experts in their field. My educations went beyond all expectations; it was very hard but well worth the effort. I had no idea of what I did not know and now that I have an inkling of my ignorance it is humbling and daunting. I believe the languages are well worth the time. The language classes always brought me great angst but after the class was over I felt the benefits were well worth it. DTS I believe taught me to think within the confines of Scripture while appreciating our Christian historical orthodoxy and I felt this was very benefical in lieu of simply presenting a certain view point. Student services offering free student counseling is a wonderful benefit. Spring fling and Fall fest were great! Most library services are great. The media dept in the basement is very helpful. Their classes on endnotes and Turabian taught where RS101 failed. [Resp. 105 THM]
I liked best.... the faculty's passion for Christ, for their courses, and for the students. [Resp. 109 MABS]
I liked best.... The warmth of the faculty. [Resp. 114 THM]
I liked best.... the character and competency of the people. [Resp. 116 THM]
I liked best.... The professors and their love for God's Word [Resp. 118 MABS]
I liked best.... The profs [Resp. 119 THM]
I liked best.... the openness and availability of the professors [Resp. 124 MABC]
I liked best.... the solid adherence to teaching the truth, while encouraging a depth of relationship and not just a depth of knowledge. [Resp. 127 MABC]
I liked best.... Professors and their commitment to serving Jesus Christ. [Resp. 138 THM]
I liked best.... the wealth of knowledge and professors that sit at my fingertips, waiting to be discovered.
[Resp. 139 MAEM]
I liked best.... The Godly models of Christ that each of my professors displayed everyday and their willingness to meet and
discuss your concerns. [Resp. 140 MABS]
I liked best.... the excellence of the staff and their dedication to relationships with the students and creating future leaders.
Dedication to traditions of the seminary. The fundraising the seminary does to make tuition less. [Resp. 141 MABC]
The people teaching classes at the school are brilliant, and I'm so thankful that I got to learn from them. [Resp. 156 MABS]
I liked best.... the professors' hearts [Resp. 163 MABC]
I liked best.... The faculty (their persons, ministries, what they have to offer in class, their individual strengths, and their
number [impressively large]). [Resp. 174 THM]
I liked best.... The personal attention from world-class professors. I think, for me, the personal attention from gracious
professors was the greatest tool for personal growth. [Resp. 179 MABS]
I liked best.... Professors who take the time to talk to students. [Resp. 180 ThM]
I liked best.... the way that the faculty challenges the thinking of the students as it opens up their minds to God's revealed truth.
[Resp. 181 MABS]
I liked best.... the diversity of the professors and their life experiences [Resp. 188 MABC]
I liked best.... availability of professors and their authenticity and desire to share their lives with students.
[Resp. 194 MACE]
I liked best.... the faculty and the way they interacted with me throughout my seminary experience.
[Resp. 196 MACE]

Concerns

I liked least.... I never was able to connect on a personal level with any of the professors. [Resp. 39 MABS]
I liked least.... The fact that the administration puts so many requirements on the faculty that it becomes very difficult for the
faculty to get close to their students. This is not a big complaint with me because I realize that DTS is a large school
and that there are a lot of demands, but I wish that there was a way for the faculty to spend more time developing
relationships with students. I was lucky because I had an advisor that still developed a relationship with me, but I
know that there are a lot of students who regrettably get lost in the shuffle (it can also be argued the student's
responsibility as well). [Resp. 48 THM]
I liked least.... Sometimes felt I was not exposed to other viewpoints (such as covenant theology, for example). I realize we
have limited time, but I would appreciate a greater awareness of other positions. [Resp. 68 THM]
I liked least.... the lack of professor's personal involvement in my life [Resp. 98 THM]
I liked least.... Profs are too busy! Pay them more so they can spend time with us… The focus at the Seminary (some Profs.)
seemed to focus on Academics or how to access the knowledge of the Bible (which is not bad in itself). But they
seemed to fall short in the processing or applying the knowledge while at Seminary. I would have liked more
personal mentoring/discipling from the Profs. Maybe don't enroll so many students so the Professors will have time
to interact with the students. I tried my first 2 years at DTS then gave up because they were so busy. I guess the
question is do we need more students or more Professors? Is it an issue of quantity over quality? More students
might hurt the quality of education. Keep DTS small and make sure the product is producing men and women of
integrity that can interact with the Profs for true mentorship and discipleship! [Resp. 122 MACE]

Suggestions for Improvement

The seminary could improve by.... having professor office hours at night. [Resp. 96 MABC]

Excellence, Reputation

I liked best.... Standard of excellence and highly qualified, spiritually mature people associated with it.
[Resp. 12 DMIN]
I liked best.... The quality of the professors. (expertise balanced with humility) [Resp. 37 MABS]
I liked best.... The level of expertise that the professors bring into the classroom. Along with that, the perception that I have of
DTS is that in faculty, staff, etc. there is a goal of being excellence at what they do. This does not mean that it is
perfect, but that it strives to be good at what is does. This ideal shines the brightest among the faculty at DTS. I also
thought that the seminary (especially the faculty) approached the students with respect and, overall, general kindness.
[Resp. 48 THM]
I liked best.... Faculty commitment to Christ that comes across in their lives. [Resp. 69 MACE]
I think the professors need to be more involved in the students lives and less involved in just teaching classes. [Resp. 70 THM]
I liked best.... The proficiency of the teacher [Resp. 78 THM]
I liked best.... Great teaching [Resp. 79 MAMC]
I liked best.... The excellent teaching from amazing professors. [Resp. 108 THM]
I liked best.... The professors who are experts in their field, highly knowledgeable and yet accessible and humble in relating to
beginning students. [Resp. 113 MABC]
I liked best.... The high quality of instructors brought in to teach the DMIN courses. [Resp. 117 DMIN]
I liked best.... Incredible teachers, highly competent, who really care about students. [Resp. 167 MABC]
I liked best.... The quality of the professors. [Resp. 175 MACB]
I liked best.... the professors [Resp. 176 MABC]

Class planning/content and teaching style

What I Liked

I liked best.... the professors who teach out of their God centered lives and not only out of their academic knowledge. [Resp. 27 MABM]
I liked best.... the atmosphere of balancing scholarly work with reality and seriousness with fun. [Resp. 54 THM]
I liked best.... The depth and zeal of the teaching and the courageous pursuit of truth of the professors. [Resp. 56 MABS]
I liked best.... The depth of the teaching in the courses and availability of the professors. [Resp. 189 MACM]

What I didn’t Like

The way some of the theology classes were conducted was very divisive and does not display love or evidence of
the fruit of the spirit. While it is understandable that discussion of different viewpoints are necessary, but the
way they were discussed was condescending and unedifying, some even confusing. I believe it would help if the
professors model how Christians could disagree while displaying the fruit of the spirit. I must emphasize that
not all professors have this problem, but I have taken enough (3 classes) that I felt had negatively influenced me
and the other students in the classes. [Resp. 9 THM]
There needs to be a greater emphasis in the classroom about the application of what we are learning to life and
ministry. Also, when Professors constantly belittle the degree that the students are trying to achieve it makes it hard
to take seriously the importance of what one is learning. I noticed more talk from the Professors making fun of the
Th.M are the title “Masters of Theology” then I cared to hear. It made all the time, money, and sacrifices seem
insignificant and not meaningful for what the student is trying to achieve. [Resp.17 THM]
I liked least.... Information from lectures which could have been read in a commentary. [Resp. 146 MACE]
My degree program could be improved by.... 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. 149 MABC]
I liked least.... the lack of relevant conversation in class. Too much informational dumping and not enough conversation.
[Resp. 150 MABC]
My degree program could be improved by.... It needs to reflect more up to date methods. [Resp. 195 MACE]

Curriculum, assignments, theological emphasis

I liked least.... its weakness in the emphasis on the application of its courses. [Resp. 4 DMIN]
As evidenced by the TBK, there would be tremendous value for an exit class as the final class taken at seminary
for those items that the world would expect us to know. There is an enormous amount of information which we
try to absorb. An exit class would be well received for highlights on the specific theologians we should
remember, theological points most likely to be questioned on, Bible passages expected to know, etc... Think of it
as a TBK review. [Resp. 24 THM]
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. 26 MACM]
Too many of the classes were straight lecture. Particularly for a graduate program, this places to much emphasis on one
learning style. The lack of interaction prevented most opportunity for learning and development.
[Resp. 30 MAMC]
I think that the interpersonal dynamics of the program are very different for PT students. I also noticed the limited
emphasis in the program on teaming. I think that all programs should require spiritual formation and community.
Even if this requires the utilization of technology at remote sites. [Resp. 37 MABS]
Figure out some way to build more application into the curriculum (I know that's general). [Resp. 38 MABS]
Most interesting class: history of exegesis  Class more people need to take: history of philosophy  Most creative and fun elective: Lord's Supper [Resp. 18 THM]
I liked least.... The tendency to make God & the Bible a subject matter instead of a living being that desires an intimate relationship with us. [Resp. 110 MABC]
Contemporary ethics should be intertwined in most of the theological studies in order to apply to life and ministry. [Resp. 124 MABC]
The Seminary did an excellent job. Due to my own lack of knowledge before coming to DTS, as well as time restraints, the information that I did not learn while studying at the school had much more to do with my own personal circumstances rather than any deficiency in teaching. [Resp. 127 MABC]
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. 129 MABC]
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. 148 MABC]
I liked least.... Thin feedback on papers [Resp. 173 MABC]

Academic Programs

Curriculum distinctives (general)

What I Liked

I liked best.... the knowledge of the Bible I have received. [Resp. 38 MABS]
I liked best.... Organized system for producing graduates. [Resp. 43 MACM]
I liked best.... quality of instruction [Resp. 51 MABS]
I liked best.... The high quality of education and fantastic professors. [Resp. 65 THM]
I liked best.... The commitment to excellence in academic teaching. [Resp. 70 THM]
I liked best.... the flexibility in Bible based curriculum so that the course could be tailored to my ministry needs [Resp. 5 DMIN]
I liked best.... The strong biblical approach to preaching and emphasis on preaching to bring about change. [Resp. 7 CGS]
I liked best.... Some of my classes were challenging and spiritually enriching, as well as full of applications (e.g., Dr. Toussaint's classes) [Resp. 10 MABS]
I liked best.... teaching me about the correct theology about my love [Resp. 16 MACE]
I liked best.... that it provided me with the necessary theological, doctrinal, and biblical training and development of my gift and calling into the preaching ministry. [Resp. 21 THM]
I liked best.... the academic classes in the OT and NT departments. This type of rigor was expected from a Masters level program. [Resp. 47 THM]
I liked best.... Training in languages and theology [Resp. 60 MABS]
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. 62 MACE]
I liked best.... The knowledge that I was being taught to challenge my Biblical thinking [Resp. 82 MACE]
I liked best.... the in-depth study provided in the classes. [Resp. 101 MACE]
I liked best.... The skills that were provided/ [Resp. 107 MABS]
I liked best.... Language preparation. [Resp. 112 THM]
I liked best.... the adherence to the Biblical text and the teaching thereof. [Resp. 115 THM]
I liked best.... Its commitment to prepare its students for effective Christian service. [Resp. 134 THM]
I liked best.... Good academic teaching [Resp. 135 DMIN]
I liked best.... Integration of biblical knowledge with counseling theory. [Resp. 154 MABB]
I liked best.... the quality of education we receive. The professors are obviously excited about their subject matter and communicate it well. They care for students and really have a heart for our spiritual and personal growth as well as our academic achievements. [Resp. 166 MACE]
I liked best.... academic excellence [Resp. 169 CGS]
I liked best.... the quality of the education ... the interest that the professors take in the students [Resp. 182 MACM]
I liked best.... the wealth of knowledge I gained about the Bible, theology, and in my faith. I am greatly humbled by my experience of studying at DTS and the increased awareness I have gained of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Resp. 183 MABC]
I liked best.... It's focus on teaching people how to think, not what to think - in most cases. [Resp. 184 MABS]
I liked best.... The in-depth biblical and theological training that has adequately equipped me to do the work that God requires of me. [Resp. 190 MACE]
I liked best.... The upper level courses. [Resp. 191 MABS]
I liked best.... the commitment to teaching and studying the word of God. [Resp. 201 MACE]

What I didn’t Like
I liked least.... some of my classes lacked deep content, we seldom went much beyond what I already knew from my own reading; professors let us out early time and time again (how can you get out early ever class in Soteriology?). We spent too much time listening to contemporary music. [Resp. 10 MABS]
I liked least.... how almost exclusively didactic it is [Resp. 23 MABS]
I liked least.... The academia. [Resp. 38 MABS]
I liked least.... the times are changing. I don't know if we are keeping up. Differing worldviews. Generational lines, realized post-Christian population. These issues are all stickier and offer a relevancy problem for our graduates. Often I felt that my projects and work did not pass the “so what?” test that the broader world would ask about them. So what that (insert theological proposition here). [Resp. 43 MACM]
I liked least.... I could not attend classes on campus [Resp. 51 MABS]
I liked least.... The Bible Exposition department. The books are rushed through in an effort to uphold the DTS slogan – “We cover all 66 books of the Bible”; Unfortunately, some are given only a few minutes or a packet of notes to read. The BE department also appears to want students to provide “the right answers” which usually means agreeing with the profs view. The assignments are not geared to allow for much creative expression and the grading is haphazard at best. [Resp. 58 MAMC]
I liked least.... How hard it is on seminary wives. [Resp. 65 THM]
I liked least.... Spiritual formation; CE department [Resp. 69 MACE]
I liked least.... A focus on academics over and above spiritual formation. [Resp. 70 THM]
I liked least.... Overloaded degree programs with no time built in for electives [Resp. 106 MABC]
I liked least.... BE classes - they were basic and repetitive. [Resp. 111 MABS]
I liked least.... The length of the program [Resp. 114 THM]
I liked least.... Not a lot of programs of how to apply what I learn. [Resp. 131 MACM]
I liked least.... BE classes. I appreciate the goal of reading the Bible with a dispensational hermeneutic but it seemed forced to me in most classes and in many cases conflicted with how I was taught to study a passage in NT and OT classes. [Resp. 128 THM]
I liked least.... Rigidity in curriculum choices. I wish there were more flexibility in the ThM program in deciding classes to take. [Resp. 130 THM]
I liked least.... Some professors that were definitely old school in their thinking. They would make a controversial statement on a particular doctrine, support it with a few texts and then, when answering student's questions they would just restate their view without really respecting the question asked or the deeper issues. Oh and, the temperature of the library sometimes and the parking situation during construction years. [Resp. 136 Th.M]
I liked least.... the lack of true discussion of difficult issues in the classroom setting. The hurried nature of studies. It was all so quick and so shallow. Depth was sacrificed for breadth. I am graduating with a lot of random knowledge, but I feel as though my firm depth was not enhanced. Sad... Quick answers aren't always convincing. [Resp. 149 MABC]
I liked least.... the M.A.BC program is 92 hours [Resp. 163 MABC]
I liked least.... The core classes seemed like they weren't taken very seriously by some professors [Resp. 191 MABS]

What Should Be Changed
Classes: 1) need more philosophy and ethics. In fact condensing the BE classes to about 3 or 4 and adding an ethics/moral theology class would be desirable. 2) The Th.M is a hodgepodge of too much. Let people specialize more. Have fewer requirements and more electives for the different tracks. If you need 6 BE classes then bring required BE classes down to 4 [OT1, OT2, NT1, NT2] and maybe 2 BE electives. Same for systematics, a couple of classes, one required elective, and then only more if they are majoring in systematics. 3) BC101 should be removed and replaced for Th.M requirements by pastoral counseling. One gets the impression this was the result of someone thinking it was a good idea to have ThMers take “101” of everything even if it made little sense. Speaking of, the BC dept doesn't need to defend their model of integration. BC101 comes across as an apologetic for their existence. And me thinks they doth protest too much. Just say "we do integration theory here, if you don't like it go to that other seminary" 4) the 2 hour classes have to go ASAP, I know every department thinks their classes are the "important" ones. But someone needs to take a stand and tell them to get over it. 5) The disparity between the academic goals in theology between the Th.M and BC people is a problem. It is neither groups "fault" as both are here for different things. This is an issue for which the only thing I can think of is separate tracks for BC and Th.M.[Resp. 18 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... making many classes more engaging [Resp. 23 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... incorporating more prayer in the academic program. [Resp. 27 MABM]
The seminary could improve by.... focusing more on practical aspects of ministry. [Resp. 29 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... adopting a student development theory that gives opportunity to meet the needs of students. [Resp. 30 MAMC]
The seminary could improve by.... Let Th.M. be primarily academic instead of an M.Div on steroids. If I want a pastoral degree, I could have pursued M.A.CE or MABS. Or develop an M.Div at DTS, so that Th.M. does not have to take PM courses or spiritual formation. If the degree track I choose means I want to be academic, then let me be academic and not feel guilty for being less spiritual than the other majors. [Resp. 55 THM]

Make sure programs are up to date with current education. My degree was in CE, and so much that was taught and texts used were out of date. I graduated with a B.S. in 2003 and an M.Ed. in 2005. What I was taught at Dallas in 2008, was behind what I learned at a public university in 2003. [Resp. 69 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... not assuming people have theological grids when they enter. [Resp. 149 MABC]

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. 73 THM]

We do not get enough preaching experience. A few classes are not enough to make you feel comfortable about actually preaching with appropriate feedback (whether in class or thru the internship). In general PM students need more classes on practical issues and leadership in the church. In today's litigious society DTS should require CE325 Church and Legal Issues for PM American students. [Resp. 105 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... Taking out a few courses that are redundant or unnecessary all together. [Resp. 106 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... creating an academic track, which takes different classes than the other thm. students. [Resp. 125 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... splitting up theology and Bible courses based upon one's background (although I am sure there are also things I would not have learned, I had not been in classes with those with far greater knowledge) [Resp. 127 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Cutting out the BE classes and allowing THM students to take more classes in their degree path. [Resp. 128 THM]

I enjoy knowing we get a great education here, but it seems like the curriculum has not changed since the 20's when all the students were young, single guys who could spend all their time studying. Maybe there should be an MDiv alongside the Th.M for people not wanting such an academic track. [Resp. 129 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Offer more flexibility in classes which one can take for their degree program in ThM. [Resp. 130 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... not assuming people have theological grids when they enter. [Resp. 149 MABC]
The Th.M. curriculum after having been a student is one reason that I cannot recommend other students to attend DTS in the future. The curriculum is far to generalized for an advanced master's degree. If the Th.M. is genuinely a research degree, which is the standard understanding of what a Th.M. is broadly speaking, then a student's chosen field of study should be the location in which that student expends the most hours. Yet the Th.M. degree is so generalized that there is little difference between the Th.M. at DTS and an M.Div. at another seminary, less a few hours difference. Furthermore, a second reason that I will not send students to Dallas Seminary is the Bible Exposition department, both in terms of faculty competence and in terms of core curriculum. The fact that the entire department is staffed by faculty embodying a very narrow ideology, with no academic diversity in terms of educational pedigree (virtually all are DTS PhD's which should give pause) leaves little reason to be surprised that the courses consist of individuals propounding pet interpretations and attempting to push outdated and irrelevant dispensational finitudes. The fact that the BE curriculum is sold to 'teach all 66 books of the Bible'; is entirely fallacious and everyone knows it. Not one single course in BE actually taught through every single book that I took.

Thus, is there really any value in knowing a breadth of information only inch deep or would it be more productive academically for a student to expend those hours in actual exegetical courses where critical issues are engaged? In my classroom experience, I never had a BE professor who had the necessary competence to engage the critical questions that I asked. Indeed, more appalling was the ideological arrogance exhibited across the board in Bible Exposition classes. I have never encountered more self-confident fundamentalism in my entire life. To explain further: 1. The 'Bible Study Methods' class should not be considered a graduate course. This course offered less academically and in terms of hermeneutical methodology than a freshmen level biblical studies course.
2. At a seminary that teaches the biblical languages, there is NO REASON than students with language skills should be taking English Bible courses, unless they ELECT to. The fact that the BE courses are forced upon the student body as a ‘core’, curriculum is a travesty. [Resp. 153 THM]

Curriculum distinctives (in particular)

What I Liked

I liked best.... dedication and scholastic competence of the professors. Excellent language department [even if I did poorly in them], and solid theology department [particularly HT, considering the dearth of professors] [Resp. 18 THM]
I liked best.... The Systematic Theology department. The use of media, art, and culture added immensely to my training. The ST department seems to be less afraid of not having “the right answer”; They merely present the various views and describe why they hold one over the other. [Resp. 58 MAMC]
I liked best.... The professors....especially the OT profs. [Resp. 73 THM]
I liked best.... the Christian Ed department. [Resp. 76 THM]
I liked best.... The New Testament faculty [Resp. 87 THM]
I liked best.... the Theology Department and Missions courses [Resp. 111 MABS]
I liked best.... The language classes and the people I met from around the world. [Resp. 121 THM]
I liked best.... The interaction with the Bible and Theology! New Friendships! [Resp. 122 MACE]
I liked best.... NT and OT department [Resp. 125 THM]
I liked best.... The quality of scholarship in the New Testament and Old Testament departments. I came to this school to be challenged and quite frankly there are no other departments that evidenced the competency, care, engagement, and challenge as the faculty of the New and Old Testament departments. [Resp. 153 THM]
I liked best.... The commitment to the integrative counseling model. [Resp. 162 MABC]
I liked best.... Greek and Hebrew classes such as NT 103, and OT 103 [Resp. 172 STM]
I liked best.... the biblical counseling department and its students, along with Student Services and Chaplain Bill! [Resp. 192 MABC]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... the academically weak departments such as CE and especially BE. These are on par with Sunday school and/or undergraduate experiences. In the Seminary’s attempt to reach those with no Biblical background and go through all the books of the Bible, it extremely watered down the program. Now, over half of the overly pregnant 4 year Th.M. was consumed with worthless busy work. [Resp. 47 THM]
I liked least.... the little emphasis given to worship in the curriculum. [Resp. 1 DMIN]
I liked least.... some of the systematic theology classes - I felt like I had to breathe in second hand smoke from some of the unbalanced (even angry) professors. Sometimes the theological position of the seminary was even ridiculed. [Resp. 9 THM]
I liked least.... I generally felt BE classes to be a waste of time. They should include issues current in secular criticism of the bible. Walking through verses in class did little to show me scripture whereas the languages were very helpful in this area. [Resp. 60 MABS]
I was forced out of the Academic Ministries track because the seminary did not consider teaching a theology class at my church as the same as teaching a theology class in CBS. [Resp. 112 THM]
I liked least.... The 12 credit hours minimum policy for international students. [Resp. 172 STM]
I liked least.... I feel like everything is done through a grid of developing leaders in the church in the US, which I don't feel like is where I am headed. There were times when I felt like professors were directing their teaching toward future pastors of the church in America. [Resp. 202 CGS]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... Strengthening the systematic theology department. [Resp. 9 THM]
My degree program could be improved by.... 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. 36 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... Taking BE classes out of the degree program and consolidating them into classes addressing textual and critical issues. [Resp. 60 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Making things in CE up to date. [Resp. 69 MACE]
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My degree program could be improved by.... Bring the CE department up to date and have the professors teach correct learning theories. For instance, in CE103, my prof taught incorrect information regarding student-based learning versus teacher-based learning. Thankfully I already have two degrees in education and so spotted the error, but for other students who do not have a background in education the CE department needs to make sure it is teaching correct material. [Resp. 69 MACE]

The seminary could improve by.... *In the Theology courses, teach theology from the Bible...not just from the books that men have written about the Bible. *Making certain that all of their professors are on board with the doctrinal statement and are teaching in line with it. (I have had experiences with a few professors that really make me wonder what checks or balances there are on the professors.) [Resp. 71 MACE]

My degree program could be improved by.... Perhaps if I am expected to be an age level expert, I should take more courses for that specific age level to become a bit more proficient. [Resp. 104 MACE]

I would like to see the chaplaincy program reinstated (I understand it is not financially possible) That is why I came. Then they cancelled it. There was no program for me [Resp. 114 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... Improve the communication process with the Spanish side of the D. Min.office. The majority of my questions during the last 18 months were answered directly by (one person) and not by the D. Min. office. [Resp. 135 DMIN]

The seminary could improve by.... making the Biblical Counseling program more biblical. Some of the professors take a more liberal view on divorce and other issues. I also think they could be more dedicated to including how to do Biblical Counseling, not just put secular concepts through a biblical filter. [Resp. 141 MABC]

The seminary could improve by.... 1) Removing the death grip that the Bible Exposition department has in administration. There is absolutely no reason that so many BE PhD's are in administrative leadership. Is there really any reason to doubt why little changes and BE continues to exist? Originally, by design BE was for MA students. However, the encroachment has seriously damaged the Th.M. curriculum and student competency in the long run. 2) Allowing NT and OT students to expend all of their “Bible hours” in exegetical language courses with individuals of a high degree of competency earned at a diversity of institutions. [Resp. 153 THM]

The seminary could improve by.. adding more staff to the b.c. department [Resp. 163 MABC]

RS101 was a joke without internet. The worst usage of my money and time. Get real, no wireless for a online program? That was Nuts! [Resp. 164 MACB]

Specifically in terms of STM, I guess more time should be allocated for the students to grasp the subject and think over it. [Resp. 170 STM]

Suggestions for programs/courses

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... The seminary lacks a way to highlight all of the important things we learn over the duration of our training. Consequently, it is difficult to focus on the right things. While we are equipped to formulate our own beliefs, many of us need to formally work through them. This is extremely important when we interview with churches. Also, the school should focus more on leadership development. [Resp. 24 THM]

A course on apologetics, or more emphasis on such. In light of the necessity of media in modern society the single class in media that is required was too light and really no more information was gained other than what the modern student already knows. This needs improvement and expansion into the various types of media, blogging, email communications, video communication, even radio and podcasting, to become truly useful to the modern student. How to put together a presentation is good and nice but seems almost routine now to the 21 century preacher. It is also clear that there is precious little emphasis or prep for the student in how to interact on a staff, what interpersonal issues may arise in employment, how to overcome or avoid issues with the body they will be serving. Communication issues. DTS does an excellent job readying the preacher but a poor job preparing the manager of the church, and both jobs are closely coupled. I also believe there is too much singular awareness on WEC as the focal point for awareness of missional needs around the world. It is a big enterprise and well done, but it seems to be the major focus in this area. Perhaps it would be good to have more missionary interaction with the organizations throughout the year or more missionary speakers in chapel to raise awareness of the various needs. I also personally felt in my program (MACE) that I gained precious little insight into the early church, and that mostly through the basic theology class (102). I know that time is of the essence in a two year program, but it would seem it is critical to gain a perspective on the history of the church. [Resp. 53 MACE]

I liked least.... the lack of counseling courses in the evenings and/or on weekends. [Resp. 96 MABC]
What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... A refresher course should be added to synthesize important theological positions and issues. [Resp. 24 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... The communication between office and student. Is necessary to give the information more exactly in some times. [Resp. 31 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... Finding ways to apply learning within classes. [Resp. 38 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Developing some courses that would enable the graduate who goes into the field as a preacher or staff member to be better equipped on the business end of the spectrum. DTS does a great job in the preaching teaching side, but a poor job in the practical application side. CE325 Legal and Financial issues in Ministry is really the only class that addresses this aspect and its not nearly enough. I would like to see more assessments of students such as a 360 review to understand blind spots in our development so the do not become derailers in the forthcoming ministry experience. More class to understand the dynamics of working with volunteers, Church boards or elder boards, how to develop relationships within the city government structure, Money issues in the church etc. are all areas that are left wanting in the education of the pastor at DTS. [Resp. 53 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... I think the way the subject matter is distributed (i.e., the hours allotted) is a bit skewed. Under the current course system, I found myself spending lengthy periods, for example on the minor prophets as opposed to say Romans and the Psalms combined. Or, another example, the requirements for intertestamental history were weightier than OT II (containing 40% of the Bible). It's not the content, but the weight that I think needs a little reworking. [Resp. 56 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... having more classes being offered [Resp. 82 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... They would provide more seminar classes vs content classes. [Resp. 84 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... implementing more pass/fail courses where proficiency is displayed, or not. [Resp. 86 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... More application/self Bible study skills covered in BE and ST classes in regards to subject matters covered [Resp. 110 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Providing more Concentration studies like the Jesus Concentration. [Resp. 112 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... Having times for students to learn from professors in situations outside of the classroom. [Resp. 113 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... adding a Masters of divinity for those not seeking fluency in languages [Resp.114 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... Providing more incentives to Canadian students. There is no comparable program in Canada which provides the level of instructors in the DMIN program as at DTS. We need solid preaching in Canada, and the DTS DMIN is one way to equip Pastors for more effective pulpit ministry. [Resp. 117 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... More interaction during class time with discussion, instead of being lectured to. [Resp. 146 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... More attention to historical theology. [Resp. 159 THM]
The only suggestion I would make is maybe add to the B.C. department staff. There is a growing number of students and the number of professors has remained the same. That makes it difficult to get into certain classes at the right times. [Resp. 163 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Taking advantage of the teaching methods championed by the Christian Education department. We are in a serious business of training ministers for Christ. There is no room for outdated teaching methodology and ineffective use of classroom time. A class that causes students to lose interest afterwards does more harm than good. An exam that requires a massive memorization effort is probably less effective than a paper. Along the same subject, the seminary could greatly benefit by inter-departmental learning, rather than inter-departmental fighting. There is much the BE could learn from the NT, OT, PM, and CE. [Resp. 174 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... Giving a open-minded, personal, unrestricted, non-defensive feedback opportunity to students on a regular basis. Get some Chapel speakers that aren't just trying to impress their peers with a world-class sermon. More concerts instead of lectures. Bring in speakers who are not primarily Christian ministers (i.e, filmmakers, musicians, artists, politicians, maybe even people from outside the faith to share their world-view, and Bono!) [Resp. 179 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Having more weeklong, intensive classes, both in the winter, summer, and even during the school year. I feel that I learn more in these classes. [Resp. 180 ThM]
The seminary could improve by.... Being more practical in the way they teach and getting better teachers instead of professors that just know the information. [Resp. 195 MACE]

On-Line Courses

The seminary could improve by.... Abrir más centros y cursos por internet [Resp. 2 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... More online courses [Resp. 11 CGS]
The seminary could improve by.... making professors more involved with the online courses. Also, make it easier for part-time students to take classes. [Resp. 26 MACM]
The seminary could improve by.... Maybe come up with a way to have online courses in real-time with webcams connecting the students to the prof. This would allow for real-time questions and interaction. [Resp. 83 MABS]
I liked least.... They are staring to do more classes online [Resp. 93 MABS]

**Spiritual life**

**What I Liked**

I liked best.... how much I studied the Bible while I was here. I came into seminary very legalistic in many ways. My time at DTS has dramatically changed my outlook on myself, the Word, and others. I am a much better lover of others than I was when I came. Both cognitively and affectively, I have been transformed. [Resp. 41 CGS]
I liked best.... The thing I like best is the spiritual development it helped me to experience. [Resp. 64 THM]
I liked best.... I enjoyed my professors, especially my Spiritual Life class with Vic Anderson, because it was so discussion oriented. [Resp. 202 CGS]

**What I Didn’t Like**

The seminary could improve by.... Lowering tuition and doing more to reach out to wives. Swim needs reformed, as does SF. I had freedom to be myself among in classes and with professors. My wife did not feel the freedom to be herself and felt rejected for not trying to act a certain way. [Resp. 65 THM]
It seems like seminary is set up to “be life” for the 4 years that we are there. Requirements mean sacrifice and what is often sacrificed are things which would spiritually benefit the student. For instance, SF requirements can actually pull people away from community in church. I feel like seminary is great as a supplement to the church, but when it divorces people from participating in church, spiritual health suffers. [Resp. 89 THM]

**Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Formation Groups**

**What I Liked**

I liked best.... LEAD training [Resp. 13 DMIN]
I enjoyed everything about Spiritual Formation except the curriculum! [Resp. 65 THM]

**What I Didn’t Like**

I liked least.... Spiritual Formation: When I took spiritual formation it needed a lot of work [but I've heard they've constantly worked on it] The biggest problem with it is forced intimacy [note, I said intimacy, not fellowship. those are not the same, and no I will not have to be intimate friends with every person in my church. I provide their "soul care" not be best friends to 200 new people.] Also, if it takes us too much time we need to get hours for it. [Resp. 18 THM]
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. 52 THM]
I liked least.... I like the SF requirement for CE students least [Resp. 104 MACE]
My spiritual formation group was undesirable. I heard several students state how great their group was while others like myself had train wrecks. I believe more consistency is needed. Seminary is difficult enough the first two years and when one of the methods to help with seminary life actually does the opposite it is quite frustrating. esp. [105 THM]
I liked least.... Spiritual formation. [Resp. 112 THM]
I liked least.... the Spiritual Formation program. While I really enjoyed my group, the program seemed much more structured than it needed to be. [Resp. 196 MACE]
What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... being more spiritual [Resp. 4 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... Investing in the quality of leadership in Spiritual Formation that is provided routinely in the classroom. [Resp. 52 THM]
I know spiritual formation groups are getting at this, but they still are lacking. Perhaps more focus on group work in class, more stories from life experience from professors. More chances to do things 'outside' the seminary. A school-wide service project for instance. [Resp. 54 THM]
The program at dts was very difficult on my marriage. I do not think these factors are addressed sufficiently. The only thing available to my wife was SWIM. For her, it seemed like a program to make better seminary wives rather than a way to reach out to her and help her through these years. Every time she tried to be involved she was disappointed and felt like a misfit. She felt like she had to act a certain way to be accepted and could not be herself. DTS has given me a wonderful education, but honestly, if I had known how hard it would be on my wife I would not have come. And perhaps I insisted on finishing the program out of selfishness. I really think something needs to be done to help the wives who do not fit the cookie cutter mold. Also, the Program is too expensive. With how difficult the program is, it should be inexpensive enough that students cannot work and focus on studies. They told us not to neglect our families, but when I had to work and complete such difficult classes, this was almost impossible. I love DTS, but these are my complaints and I truly hope they will be taken seriously. Thank you! [Resp. 65 THM]
The website could be easier to navigate. Spiritual Formation should be re-evaluated to see if it is really meeting the goals of the seminary. I do not think this program is successful. [Resp. 69 MACE]
There is inadequate free counseling for students. There is little interaction concerning spiritual growth between the school and students throughout our time here. [Resp. 76 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... The seminary could improve by not requiring SF for extension student because most of them are probably older and probably established in community type lifestyle. I understand the scope of the questions, I just don't think of myself as being at the level of Christian growth and maturity that Christ or I am satisfied. There is much more growth and maturity to go. [Resp. 104 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... Placing a stronger emphasis on “realness”; Change the spiritual life class. I found the most realness in my counseling classes and practicum groups. [Resp. 155 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Using BC students as a part of the SF program [Resp. 173 MABC]
Looking back on my time in seminary, I cannot say that I have always been consistent in joy, patience, faithfulness and self-control. I have frequently struggled to maintain a joyful attitude, and my patience has worn thin at times. I have grown in my faith, but I am still not as faithful as I would like to be. I have found it very difficult to find balance the majority of the time I have been in school. I would not trade this experience for the world, but it was definitely three and a half of the most challenging years of my life thus far. I learned a lot, but I wish I would have been able to step back and look at the big picture more often. At times I found myself lost in the minute details of the day-to-day stresses, and I wish I would/could have been better at managing everything. I don't know exactly what the seminary could have done to help me in these areas, but since I rated this question “neutral”; I figured I'd go ahead and explain my response. [Resp. 176 MABC]
When you are piled up with homework, church ministry and a job it is sometimes hard to focus on our own character development. [Resp. 178 MACE]
Very dissatisfied with Spiritual Formation Groups: I loved my S.F. group. The problem wasn't with the people or the group leader. The problem was the forced interaction when what I really needed was simply time with friends and not another curriculum or assignment. I feel that the S.F. curriculum provided much more of a burden for my group and I then it did a blessing. I speak for myself and many others that I have talked with about this. [Resp. 179 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Examine the curriculum for Spiritual formation in the extension campuses as it presents logistical problems not necessarily found on the main campus. [Resp. 181 MABS]
My really only complaints for D.T.S. would be 1) that to require 2 page papers for Spiritual Formation (a class that we pay for and get no credit for) seems unfair and is just another added stress during the semester. Someone should make those assignments go away. [Resp. 201 MACE]

Workload, time compression

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... the work load. There were times when the work that was required took me from family so much that their sacrifice was too great. [Resp. 19 MACE]
I liked least.... Pressed under many assignments it is hard to cultivate personal spirituality and Christian service during seminary studies. [Resp. 27 MABM]
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 can unfortunately be detrimental to one's personal commitment to the Lord and family life. [Resp. 36 THM]

I liked least.... The workload that is expected of students (as seen in the extremely high requirements for financial aid eligibility). This is an overworked and stressed out campus and academic community, a fact that significantly impacts the student's ability to be deeply engaged and affected by the experience here. [Resp. 151 MABS]

I liked least.... The stress of DTS is not so much its difficulty (it is hard but what does a C grade mean in comparison to life) but DTS is so time consuming at times is maddening. I felt like I was on an out of control roller coaster and it still took me five years. Almost all classes required a large time commitment. Also I felt a strong Republican and or Dobson backlash by much of campus. I found this vexing. I had the reverse problem in my home church and actually naively expected a better balance at DTS. I was sadly disappointed; balance appears hard to find. My RS101 class was a disaster. I was too new and shy to appropriately state this on the course eval. I hope the class has improved. Most students I knew at the time thought very poorly of the class. [Resp. 105 THM]

I liked least.... DTS does not make a distinction in the amount of work that is required in courses based on the number of credit hours taken. At most institutions, a 1 hour class will be less work than a 3 hour course, etc. I did not find this to be the case at DTS. Many 1 and 2 hour courses required far too much time outside of class for the credit hours received. This is across various professors, so it does not seem to be a faculty issue! [Resp. 107 MABS]

I liked least.... The rigid of the curriculum ran contrary to the ambient values of spiritual vitality and ministry involvement. This binds produces guilt for attempting to pursue either academic excellence or spiritual formation in church, but realizing that you have to choose which you will focus on, even is the seminary won't. [Resp. 55 THM]

I liked least.... The overwhelming work load...and maybe Turabian. [Resp. 201 MACE]

I liked least.... that though some classes are very challenging, others have lots of work that doesn't really seem to be of any benefit. [Resp. 187 MABC]

I liked least.... the ridiculous amount of work required. It was difficult for me to balance school and the rest of my life (especially ministry activities) [Resp. 197 MACE]

I liked least.... The rigors of the curriculum ran contrary to the ambient values of spiritual vitality and ministry involvement. This binds produces guilt for attempting to pursue either academic excellence or spiritual formation in church, but realizing that you have to choose which you will focus on, even is the seminary won't. [Resp. 55 THM]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... understanding the difference between priority student activities (i.e, papers, tests, etc) and non-priority activities that consume a good amount of precious time. [Resp. 17 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... Really evaluating what a student has to do to get through seminary and provide some optional opportunities. Relax some of the requirements outside of getting a good biblical/theological education. [Resp. 36 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... Making less demands on student times, the program is in my opinion too long [Resp. 46 THM]

My degree program could be improved by.. It was difficult to keep up with the languages while doing other coursework. [Resp. 52 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... guiding the students more regarding how to balance work, school, family, etc. especially as this will continue to be crucial in later ministry [Resp. 68 THM]

The seminary could improve by.. Developing a consistent way to make course work more closely reflect credit hours. [Resp. 107 MABS]

It's just difficult to plow through a seminary degree while working full-time and caring for a growing family. I just don't feel at this juncture that I have figured out how to cultivate a living and growing, victorious relationship with the Lord with all of the responsibility. I feel that my relationship with the Lord was healthier when I first came to DTS. I think that I will be able to reestablish those old disciplines of a vibrant walk with the Lord with more time and energy post-graduation. [Resp. 111 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Reducing the workload across the board. Less hours required or less work required for financial aid. Less coursework that adds little value to the course, so that quality can replace quantity. Less reading, because speed reading just is not an option for some students and not a good practice for deep engagement in the material. [Resp. 151 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... lessening the load for each course. Some of the courses required so much time in order to simply stay afloat in the course that reading the Bible became too academic to me and I simply did not have an ounce of desire left within me to study the Word on my own in addition to other coursework. The 2 hour courses required (in my opinion) too much work. Additionally, most courses required too much time and work. It became difficult to maintain a balanced lifestyle because I felt overly committed to school. [Resp. 197 MACE]

The seminary could improve by.... being more reasonable with the amount of reading and written work...especially for full time students [Resp. 199 MABS]

Evening program and Summer School

I liked least.... I found it difficult to meet the requirements because I worked during the days. I could not develop relationships because DTS is closed when I am here. [Resp. 25 THM]

Extension Program
and Online Courses

What I Didn’t Like

We do not have a professional counselor, student body, security guard, marriage enrichment for DTS spouses, international student body, ministry support brown bag sharing ...Etc. as we, the Houston extension students, paid the same fee as students in Dallas. I think we should have discount not having those services [Resp. 16 MACE]

The only negative comment that I have is that, my initial desire was to do a Thesis, being a May 09 graduate. However, I found out about the deadline a day or two afterwards - as I recall April 08. As an extension student, we don’t have access to all of the information communications that is available at the main campus. I ended up taking RS102 (SP 09). Next time, please communicate such critical matters as this as frequent as possible. [Resp. 21 THM]

Right now, I’m not sure whether I will graduate because the instructions for my on-line course were misleading. Several students noted the same issue. Please try to imagine working for 7.5 years and then finding out after you submitted all your assignments that misleading instructions on the last assignment are jeopardizing your efforts. [Resp. 25 THM]

I liked least.... difficulty for the external studies student in finding answers/help from student services. [Resp. 45 CGS]

I liked least.... The amount of additional work which is involved in the online classes. It seemed disproportionate to the hours of class that the course was worth. [Resp. 126 MABC]

I liked least.... Insensitivity to the needs of Tampa Extension students working on a professional degree. [Resp. 133 MACE]

I liked least.... That the counseling program was not available in the Houston extension... so I had to commute to Dallas for 2 of the 3 years of the MA BC program. [Resp. 167 MABC]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... I would like to see a coming together of the campuses. [Resp. 14 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... have the same services provide students at Houston extension [Resp. 16 MACE]

The seminary could improve by.... providing Chapel’s, in some form, at the extension sites; developing it’s own library at the Houston Extension or beef-up the CBS library, accordingly; bring more ministry related classes to the extension sites or make them available through the video classes. Make more opportunities for the extension students to fellowship together. Students generally come to class, into their own world, keeping to themselves, and leave immediately after class ends. [Resp. 21 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... Having a night program. [Resp. 25 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... provide an web-based, online support mechanism/forum (other than email) for external study students to find answers to frequently asked questions. [Resp. 45 CGS]

Offer extension courses in North Dallas (Plano area). [Resp. 49 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... strengthen extension campus. [Resp. 51 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... 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. 62 MACE]
The seminary could improve by... engaging the extension students more with the different student services and departments. It seemed to me that we were an afterthought and not often considered when it came to things such as internships and other things that main campus students had better access to. My degree program could be improved by... There needs to be more support or help for extension campus students to find internships and places/environments to gain ministry experience. [Resp. 101 MACE]

The seminary could improve by... I know it would be very difficult to do, but it would be great if the extension campuses had a library equally as good as the Dallas library. [Resp. 120 MABS]

The seminary could improve by... Being more sensitive to the desires of Tampa extension students to work on professional degrees. [Resp. 133 MACE]

**Student Life**

**Campus atmosphere**

I liked best.... The loving community atmosphere among the students, the caring faculty and godly administration is unsurpassed. [Resp. 8 MACE]
I liked best.... The quality of the people. The students, staff, faculty and administration is excellent. [Resp. 25 THM]
I liked best.... The environment in which a spiritually high quality theological education is provided. [Resp. 52 THM]
I liked best.... The variety in the professors and students here. [Resp. 193 MACM]
I liked best.... the life-long friends I made, and the desire expressed by professors to see me grow. [Resp. 102 THM]
I liked best.... the friends I made during my time there. [Resp. 30 MAMC]
I liked best.... The community I developed in SF [Resp. 46 THM]
I liked best.... The professors and students [Resp. 49 MABS]
I liked best.... The professors and fellow students [Resp. 91 MACM]
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. 129 MABC]
I liked best.... I loved the Beloved Community of believers at the main campus. I loved the opportunity to meet Christians from around the world and to study God's word under the teachings of passionate and knowledgeable professors. [Resp. 133 MACE]
I liked best.... the friends that I made. [Resp. 137 MABC]
I liked best.... the intramural sports and the many friends I have met along the way. [Resp. 138 THM]
I liked best.... the people. [Resp. 143 MABC]
I liked best.... the people. [Resp. 150 MABC]
I liked best.... I have been blessed to be a part of the DTS family. The thing that I will most remember is the fact that I could ask any of my classmates for prayer, and someone would always immediately stop and pray. There is nothing like being surrounded by fellow believers who are struggling well alongside of you. The encouragement and accountability that I have received while attending DTS is simply amazing. [Resp. 158 MACM]
I liked best.... the Christian community that is there in the good times and the bad. [Resp. 168 MACM]
I liked best.... Community [Resp. 173 MABC]
I liked best.... the opportunity to interact both with students and professors to discuss God and the Bible on multiple levels of intensity and areas of knowledge. [Resp. 187 MABC]
I liked best.... community and the opportunity to dialogue with a diverse student body. [Resp. 200 MABS]

I liked least.... Sometimes a little too institutional. [Resp. 12 DMIN]
I liked least.... It seems kind of homogenous sometimes. [Resp. 22 MACM]
I liked least.... students who are admitted seemingly because of a need to continue to grow and stay profitable. There appear to be more than a few students who are here just for a degree or because they don't know what else to do who show little respect for the school, for their own personal integrity, or for the building up of the church worldwide. [Resp. 42 THM]
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. 62 MACE]
I liked least.... The thing I like least was that cultural I felt like I was out of my element and misunderstood at times. [Resp. 64 THM]
I liked least.... the culture of DTS is too homogeneous [Resp. 81 THM]
I liked least.... the heavy emphasis on academics and grades. [Resp. 86 THM]
I liked least.... that, in my opinion, there are many students who are not very friendly. [Resp. 115 THM]

Random comment: I was repeatedly discouraged to hear inside stories of how "unchristian" some of the staff members are treated at DTS. I frequently rode to school with someone who works in the financial office. Her stories really opened my eyes to how working in a "Christian" environment can sometimes be more difficult/discouraging/disheartening than in similar secular environments (depending on the leadership style and personal insecurities of the one's boss). I say this just to make you aware of a potential problem, but I ask that you don't make it known that a student shared this. My carpool friend desperately wants to stay working for DTS (she sees the eternal impact of her work at DTS), though my love for her wants to see her work environment improve. [Resp. 136 THM]

I liked least.... that too many people get trapped in the seminary bubble, and consequently miss out on great relationships with unbelievers while in seminary. [Resp. 147 MACM]
I liked least.... the environment. It seems to be run much like a business. The community on campus is lacking and & 'realness' is hard to come by. [Resp. 155 MABC]
I liked least.... To much like a school and not like a ministry training ground. [Resp. 159 THM]
I liked least.... Was the hypocrisy about serving Jesus and others. The Pride and arrogance that came with the Languages was a pain. The Scholarly guys were a tough crowd at times. [Resp. 164 MACB]
I liked least.... It's personnel and students sometimes take themselves way too seriously. There can be such a strong focus on academics that it can prohibit authentic learning. [Resp. 184 MABS]
I liked least.... its loss of focus on missions and outreach [Resp. 170 STM]
I liked least.... The seemingly minimal impact it has on it's surrounding neighborhood. [Resp. 189 MACM]
I liked least.... The legalist spirit that sometimes comes across. [Resp. 193 MACM]
I liked least.... The in efficiency of its operation and the culture at the school which makes us less able to reach lost people in an American culture. [Resp. 195 MACE]
I liked least.... the sometimes cynicism and negativity of students in seminary. [Resp. 200 MABS]

What Should Be Changed

The campus culture lacks a sense of the “sacred”; [numinous?], and this places what we do under a mundane context, which means if my spiritual life grows then it may, but not due directly to DTS. How to fix this? Not sure, I think it is an issue with evangelicalism as a whole, it fails to have a worldview that can see the sacred in much of anything, due to perhaps an over polemical reaction from the Reformation. 3) some of it is just too busy with class and life to be able to focus. SF doesn't help because it IS ANOTHER CLASS THAT WE GET NO CREDIT FOR. All the other issues are related to my lack of self-discipline in daily prayer, with which the next seminary I attend is known for improving, and has spiritual development as a chief strength [not to worry though, all seminaries are good at some things and poor at others. DTS has much better scholarship in scripture and theology]

Help foster/encourage activities that will allow students to reach out to one another (i.e. beyond the Thanksgiving/Christmas time frame). Enable students to get their stories out to one another of need whether financial, emotional, or spiritual so that others can give as they are able. [Resp. 58 MAMC]
The seminary could improve by.... Boosting staff morale, encourage graders to be kind and encouraging, even if they must deduct points, aid to part time students, letting the male students on campus know that women aren't their enemy! :) [Resp. 72 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... helping students to learn how to engage culture/people better. Often I found myself trying to bridge what I learned at school to the youth group I ministered to. Often times with great difficulty. [Resp. 81 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... fostering a better discipleship/mentoring relationship with faculty and students. [Resp. 98 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... doing more to encourage students to be involved in Apartment Life. [Resp. 147 MACM]
The seminary could improve by..... encouraging more friendliness and common courtesy on campus. As a single female, I have oftentimes felt uncomfortable around some of the male students. Many don't hold doors, don't say hi, and don't so much as nod when walking by. I found this quite odd when I first came to DTS, as I am use to friendly people. After a few weeks of awkward “hellos”; I simply stopped my usual routine of looking a person in the eye and saying a simple “hi”; It is not a big deal in the scheme of things, but these men are being trained for ministry, and they need to realize how behavior like this comes across to individuals like myself. It is offensive and hurtful. [Resp. 176 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... Possibly give more opportunities for students to get involved in some form of urban ministry in the surrounding neighborhood. [Resp. 189 MACM]
The seminary could improve by.... Outreaching to the younger students. I entered as a 19 year old southeast Asian student and felt so out of place, age wise and culture wise. [Resp. 191 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Growing in a heart for the world and wanting to see the global church grow. [Resp. 202 CGS]
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least…. the student restrictions that are not biblically based [Resp. 20 DMIN]
I liked least…. The lack of enforcement of the rule on dress seemed to drastically drop off in my time at seminary. If we have a rule then we need to enforce it or it becomes moot. It distresses me that today we sign that we will abide by the rules but we do not, and there seems to be no consequence and the result is an even greater effort to ‘push the envelope’ regarding dress. [Resp. 53 MACE]
I liked least…. the dress code and alcohol policy. [Resp. 57 THM]
I liked least…. Its alcohol policy. I was born and raised in the middle east. I do not agree that abstaining is the best policy. Rather, teaching the proper use of alcohol, along with food, and all of God’s gifts should be the aim of the seminary. This is how I was raised and this is how I am raising my children. I believe the seminary creates more potential problems by forbidding its use. I think part of spiritual formation should be the learning of moderation in all areas of life. [Resp. 88 MABS]
I liked least…. how disconnected DTS is from the culture. I’ll be frank: the dress code, anti-alcohol policy, and over-emphasis on inward focused community only contributes to the already widening gulf between seminarians and the rest of the city of Dallas. Graduates of DTS that don't know how to interact with someone who drinks alcohol regularly will grossly ‘miss’ many potential converts, or worse, will never meet them because they are frightened by situations where alcohol is present and/or consumed. The rest of the world interacts socially at bars and pubs... where do you think Christians are going to meet them if not where ‘they’ hang out? Further, most of ‘them’ think we are isolationistic and judgmental. I would agree with them! DTS needs to train its students how to minister to a secular culture. I can't stress this enough. You guys are REALLY missing it on this one. If you disagree, go to the first bar you see, walk in, and ask someone how they feel Christians treat them and if ‘we’ understand them and minister to them in a relevant manner! [Resp. 92 THM]
I liked least…. The arbitrary rules placed on students concerning dress code, alcohol, etc. I don't think I ever saw the dress code enforced, even though ~20-30% of students wear jeans to class. [Resp. 121 THM]
I liked least…. The formalities of the seminary that sometimes border on legalism. [Resp. 141 MABC]
I liked least…. Alcohol policy - I disagree with an institutional ban, it propagates the view that alcohol is something completely negative when it has been created by God and used responsibly. There is something almost pharisaic about not wanting to walk too close to something so volatile, yet I believe it is necessary lest we secede something God created as good entirely over to Satan. [Resp. 154 MABB]
I liked least…. The dress code. If you go to a semi-formal restaurant people wear jeans. I have jeans people who have bought me that cost more than a dress. The dress code made me stay up late or wake up early. It wasted unnecessary time when I could have just put on jeans, heal and a nice top. [Resp. 178 MACE]
I liked least…. There is a general distrust of students. The seminary is very worried about producing students who bring shame to the school, thus the tightest restriction is placed on all students (and I am not talking about the dress code or the alcohol policy, there are restrictions everywhere). Grace and mercy rarely experienced in the rules. [Resp. 174 THM]
I liked least…. I can't say enough about how culturally irrelevant much of the student codes of conduct are. No alcohol policy is ridiculous when most, if not all of my best evangelism opportunities include the consumption of alcohol. It's an example of me having to exist for the codes and not the other way around. The dress code and alcohol policy have nothing but hindered my life in Seminary, and I would say the same for many, many other students I have spoken with. I know I'm a little off beat here, but sometimes I wonder if anyone who creates, enforces, or even supports these certain student codes knows anyone outside their Christian circle. I mean real people here, not World-leaders, other well-read authors, etc. I mean atheists who hate Christianity and curse it. I mean homosexuals who long for true love from people who are like them culturally. I mean non-Protestants who think all Protestants hate them because they drink. I'm telling you, from someone who sees these people everyday that the student dress and alcohol codes are irrelevant at best and obstacles to the good news at worst. And I know the Seminary gives “special permission”; to certain people, but I don't think we should have to get “special permission” to be normal Americans. I've also heard numerous professors say they've gone to people's houses and had to reject the offer of alcohol b/c of the Seminary and they've watched people put up walls because of that. Here's the deal, the average American drinks alcohol. The average American does not even indulge in too much alcohol, but alcohol is a normal part of most American lives. It's time we get over prohibition and realize that alcohol isn't the problem, it's sin. I get so sick of seeing students AND PROFESSORS AND ADMINISTRATORS who are massively obese but there's nothing in the student code about abstaining from fatty foods. I can tell you from personal experience that all my non-Christian friends are way more turned off by fat preachers than they are Christians who drink. In fact, they're more turned off by Christians who won't drink. (Not Christians who won't get drunk, they actually respect that!) I am just perplexed that, with all the “grace” taught in our school, that our code of conduct includes the support of what has been a “new law” in the Bible belt for so long. Alcohol isn't the problem and everyone here knows that. From the Chancellor to the janitor, we all know sin is the issue. So why single out alcohol?
Why not make rules against fatty foods? Why not keep the cafeteria from serving fried chicken and pizza? It is a fact that obesity related issues kill FAR MORE people than alcohol related accidents every year. How about rules against stress and anxiety? Or rules against drinking anything but water? I just wish the school would stop singling out alcohol like we were back in the early 1900's. Either stop singling out alcohol or make rules against everything else that could possibly lead to debauchery (because of sinful hearts), like music, movies, computers, pizza, girls wearing anything but dresses to their ankles, sports, chocolate, vending machines, internet, kids on campus, co-ed dorms, swimming pools, caffeine, condoms, birth control, televisions on campus, etc, etc, etc. Anything can be used by a sinful heart for sin. Let's either rely on grace and community or we'd better start making rules for more issues than alcohol. We should start with the things that DTS seems to be ok with, like obesity, stress, and anxiety, and sleep loss. [Resp. 179 MABS]

I liked least.... the dress code [Resp. 188 MABC]
I liked least.... the business casual dress code. I do not think that a business casual dress code is necessary. We should be allowed to wear whatever we deem as modest and Christ-honoring. [Resp. 192 MABC]

What Should Be Changed

I think the seminary's requirements for dress and conduct are good, I would keep them in place. I graduated from a very large public state university, and my dress requirements there were more strict than DTS. [Resp. 69 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... allowing students to be who they are; i.e. adults who know when it is appropriate to wear jeans or when professional dress is required [Resp. 188 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... changing the dress code to the aforementioned suggestion. [Resp. 192 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... keeping up with the changing culture. i.e. evaluating policies like dress code, etc. [Resp. 201 MACE]

Diversity

What I Liked
I liked best.... the diversity of the professors. Although the basic foundational truths are upheld, the areas where the Bible is not as clear Dallas does not force a truth where there is none. I appreciate the desire of the professors to represent the Bible accurately and they do so with their best ability. Even though I may not agree with everything a professor may believe I respect their desire to represent God in the best way they can. [Resp. 84 MABS]

What I Didn’t Like
I liked least.... that although not a great issue, but over my matriculation period, I was able to sit under only one African-American prof, for Evangelism. Being an African-American student, and more than likely, I will be ministering in an African-American local congregational church. Someone with experience ministering in an African-American church would be a tremendous asset for guidance, mentoring, etc. This is not to take away anything from any prof that I sat under. Their passion, knowledge, and love is second to none. But an African-American prof can better identify with where we students are and will be ministering. [Resp. 21 THM]
I liked least.... little understanding of international students. [Resp. 35 STM]
I liked least.... not feeling like I could be Lutheran on campus without fear of questioning. [Resp. 124 MABC]

What Should be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... continuing to reach out to students of different cultures. [Resp. 19 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... having a full time woman called Dean of Women instead of Advisor for Women Students [Resp. 20 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... finding ways to make women feel like part of the campus and not an addition. [Resp. 124 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... becoming more relevant in a postmodern culture. Not only are we behind in the cultural awareness curve, but we pump out too many graduates that cannot effectively deal with people - especially hurting people. Perhaps pull the reigns back on some of the research, and focus a little more on people skills and true spiritual formation for the Thm'ers. I know this is an overgeneralization, but I have way too many memories of really bad conversations in my head to not mention it. [Resp. 150 MABC]
Student Government

I was thoroughly frustrated with the student government. I attended a student meeting to present ideas/questions and was basically asked to join student government and when I declined I was then ignored. I would have loved to participated in student government but living off campus with two children at the time made it unfeasible. My inability to participate in student government should in no way diminish my input. I had what I saw as serious questions and was looking for a method to posit them. I saw student government as the best way to address my questions since I was not necessarily familiar with campus administration and saw student government as a central means of asking my questions. But it was all to no avail. [Resp. 105 THM]

Administration

What I Liked

I liked best.... The teachers, the courses, and the financial facilities. [Resp. 31 DMIN]
I liked least.... Administration [Resp. 100 THM]

What I Didn’t Like

With the caveat that no news is good news, and it is easier to say what needs improvement then what is being done right [everything else not listed below] Institution: It felt at times as if certain departments saw themselves as a "ministry"; ie "we're doing you a favor so be thankful for what we do" as opposed to an attitude of "we're here to help the students". There was an expectation [and even heavy penalty] for being late/confused/incomplete in what DTS departments required from students, yet those departments could consistently be inefficient/late/incorrect etc. It got to the point that by graduation I felt like I had to look over the shoulder of DTS to make sure what got done needed to get done and was unable to trust anyone in the system other the professors. [Resp. 18 THM]
I liked least.... How much power the board has over decisions. [Resp. 84 MABS]
I liked least.... The attitude of some of the staff members; they just seem unhappy. [Resp. 72 THM]

Cost

I liked least.... The cost. [Resp. 7 CGS]
I liked least.... cost of tuition and the lack of availability of financial aid for students who are forced to take part time classes. No financial aid consideration is given to students with families. [Resp. 59 MACM]
I liked least.... the cost [Resp. 66 MACE]
I liked least.... The expense. I know that right now, there isn't any other way around it. However, I don't like the cost of DTS because I know that it prevents so many others from getting such a world-class education. [Resp. 71 MACE]
I liked least.... how much it cost. [Resp. 74 MACM]
I liked least.... The cost of the classes. [Resp. 78 THM]
I liked least.... the tuition. [Resp. 95 MABS]
I liked least.... the cost. [Resp. 101 MACE]
I liked least.... the amount of credits required for each degree and the cost of each credit...my husband and I are both attending (he will graduate in the spring). We have spent a huge amount money and made sacrifices that have hurt deeply and I think will hurt in long the run for our family and for our kids. It just seems crazy to me that we have cut off our arms and legs to do this. While we don't regret it at all, we wished it could have been a bit less expensive. we exercised many options--support letters, outside scholarships, DTS scholarships, and still spent over $40,000 only by living month to month without saving. [Resp. 123 MABC]
I liked least.... paying for it, but that’s inevitable. [Resp. 138 THM]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... perhaps consider some sort of follow-up with issues raised from LEAD [Resp.13 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... focusing on the individual student needs and goals. [Resp. 43 MACM]
The seminary could improve by.... Continuing to live in the tension between having institutional rules and living by grace (vague I know, but I'm thinking specifically about my comments above.) [Resp. 154 MABB]

What else needs improvement is the online standardized tests. I have a Mac and I wish it were not such a hassle to take an exam. Figure out a way to put exams on Macs or give the tests in person. Stop discriminating against the people who have seen the light and don't own PC's anymore. [Resp. 156 MABS]

The seminary could improve by... raising the admission standards. I was surprised at the immaturity and inexperience of many of my classmates. [Resp. 196 MACE]

Cost

The seminary could improve by.... lowering costs and providing more scholarships for non-minority students. [Resp. 47 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... lowering the cost of doctorate study [Resp. 66 MACE]
The seminary could improve by.... finding ways to lower the cost for students. [Resp. 126 MABC]

Graders

The seminary could improve by.... More faculty involvement with the students. Also, a way to lessen the use of student graders and have more involvement from the faculty or Ph.D. students in the grading process. I think that there will be a better result that way. [Resp. 48 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... The grading of papers by other students is frustrating. Many times I received a paper back with underlining but no comments and a grade. What does one learn from that type of feedback. I always appreciated the times my papers were actually read by the professor or Ph.D student with actual helpful feedback. Most classes simply have us read about certain historical figures and theologians but I think it would be well worth while to read some of the actual writings of these individuals. No I am not trying to add to the course work rather just an exchange of reading material. [Resp. 105 THM]

**Academic Dean’s Office**

The seminary could improve by.... Creating an M Div for those who don't want, need or can't afford an 60 credits beyond the two year program. [Resp. 37 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Not constraining professor in the classroom because of 1 student's complaint. Our society has grown to a hyper-active political correctness that 1 student complaint lands the prof in a meeting with his/her superior. Because 1 student is uncomfortable or inconvenienced (or heaven forbid they're offended) is not ample reason enough to constrict how a prof teaches. It's a waste of talented teachers and a call for the students to toughen up a bit because the world is far more loose in what it calls “good”; or “fair”; than any prof here at DTS. The seminary also needs better technology at the students disposal. Everything from computers to cameras needs to be upgraded. It's a shame that students in the Media Arts tract are working on equipment that is older than most churches are using (i.e. 4+ year old Macs, monitors that are a decade old, outdated software that is 2+ years behind the current versions, etc.). The school should stop sinking money into remodels and new buildings and start restructuring the infrastructure it already has (i.e. better campus bandwidth, new servers for IT department, new computers for student labs, etc). [Resp. 58 MAMC]
The seminary could improve by.... Giving professors less classes so they could get more involved in the lives of students. [Resp. 70 THM]
The seminary could improve by... being more uniform in the teaching of various classes taught by different professors. eg. intro 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. 137 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... By trying to build a Mdiv program for preachers and pastors like me. [Resp. MACB]
The seminary could improve by.... offering more sections of classes to allow for smaller class sizes. [Resp. 168 MACM]

**Book Center**

With the sale of student books a DTS style eBay internet site would work better than the actual used book store. Is that possible? [Resp. 105 THM]
Business Office Services

The seminary could improve by.... It seems that some of the departments, such as housing and the business office, at times lose sight of the fact that they are part of a ministry that serves students. I say this not because they were after me for money etc, but because they stop accepting visa without notice or are unwilling to answer questions until forms have been filled out etc. Some departments come across as student unfriendly. ...It is inconvenient that the business office does not accept visa and charges extra for electronic check payment. As an offsite working student, it would be nice if all but the final draft of a thesis could be submitted online. [Resp. 100 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... hiring qualified non-DTS, non-Th.M. grads for admin positions. I get aggravated when certain employees of the school are very unprofessional and bad at what they do. I makes me pray really hard, and question, why has the school chosen to represent itself so poorly? I can forgive, but it is honestly, a little bit of a black spot on the school's reputation. Unfortunately, the school hires Th. M. grads who have no administrative skill or people skills to run its day-to-day operations. Part-timers just trying to make it through school, I love and forgive. Full-timers who have already graduated and are trying badly to make a career out of doing administration bothers me greatly. [Resp. 102 THM]

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

The seminary could improve by.... Improving the format of the website so that anyone just entering DTS can navigate to the information needed. For instance, the schedule for registration is so complicated to read and very small, perhaps there is a better format for this. I have spent a lot of time trying to find information and services on our website. Often I stumble upon what I need but have a hard time remembering where or how I found it. I still need to take a leveling course prior to my D.Min. that I have never seen on the schedule and do not know how to register for it. [Resp. 8 MACE]

The seminary could improve by.... 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. 76 THM]

The seminary could improve by.... communicating more effectively with the students and between departments …I liked least.... the disorganization and lack of communication. [Resp. 148 MABC]

Center for Christian Leadership

As a student, I'm not sure what role CCL fills. As an employee of the seminary, I have a better picture. But as a student CCL does not really cater or address student(s) needs. It seems to be a non-vital component of the seminary. [Resp. 58 MAMC]

Chapel Programs

What I Liked

I also absolutely love chapel!!! It is the highlight of each day that I am on campus, to come and corporately worship the Lord under the leadership of Chaplain Bill and the ministry of the Word by choice servants in the ministry. [Resp. 8 MACE]

I love Chapel, I wished I could have attended more on the Dallas Campus. [Resp. 14 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... allowing students to handle chapel requirements completely online. [Resp. 41 CGS]

I have greatly enjoyed chapel; however, I believe it is too academic. Most chapels consist of singing one song and then a lecture/serum. That formula makes chapel little more than most classes. In view of this I would suggest a real prayer chapel facility or room appropriately and nicely decorated reflecting the seriousness of prayer.[Resp. 105 THM]
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... mandatory chapel attendance [Resp. 29 THM]
I liked least.... Chapel services that are not what was promised at initiation (most of them ended up being yet another lecture from Academia instead of restful and edifying). [Resp. 179 MABS]
I liked least.... Chapel needs work: Drop random preaching from random people. We get bible and theology in class, there is no purpose in it during chapel. Ask yourself: "why do we have chapel? What is the motivation?" Possible Solution(s): bring in speakers that can talk about unique topics or issues facing the church [maybe a bio-ethicist?] How about more Dr. Wallace and what he has found around the world? I know prayer chapels are badly attended, but more of these if done right would be good. [Speaking of, why is the chapel not open for prayer except during chapel? does or does not this communicate something about the seminary's view of the importance of prayer? Does or does not this effect the "culture" on campus?] Why not Lord's Supper more often? [We have the table in the chapel for.....] Chapel should be a time for spiritual refreshment, prayer and meditation, not more of what I could be getting in BE class.

Classroom/Facility Conditions

The media capabilities at the seminary must be improved. The lab houses computers that are 4+ years old on the Mac side. How can students learn media when the technology is behind what even the churches today are using? Money must be spent upgrading the capacity of the computer lab/recording room in Mosher (especially considering what was spent to remodel Mitchell and have it subsequently cut back on its services!). [Resp. 58 MAMC]
I would like to see Mabee lounge cleaned up. The chairs are falling apart and the carpet is very soiled. As an off campus student I spend a lot of time a Mabee and would like to see the lounge improved/renovated. The refrigerator is poorly maintained, refrigerator racks are falling apart and it is kept unclean. I would love to see the open areas in CAC converted into student lounge areas with sofas, coffee tables and plants. It would certainly add to the institutional demeanor of class rooms and the building. [Resp. 105 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... continuing to integrate technology into classes [Resp. 116 THM]
I liked least.... The seminary used some classes early in my DMIN which were deplorable. In addition, some classes were too full for meaningful interaction. However, later in my program, the renovations were complete and the classes were excellent, with good student-teacher ratios. [Resp. 117 DMIN]
The seminary could improve by.... spending less money on air conditioning in the library! [Resp. 136 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... adding a women's bathroom on the first floor of Todd. [Resp. 143 MABC]
The seminary could improve by.... adjusting the air conditioning and heating elements in the classrooms. The classrooms seemed to be very chilly year round. [Resp. 183 MABC]

D.Min Office

I am very thankful for the way DTS made it possible for me to study at a lower price for the program in Guatemala. [Resp. 4 DMIN]
A little frustrated that while I changed my email online two years ago or so, still received at times email at former email address up through Jan of this year, even though had removed the secondary email. [Resp. 13 DMIN]
I liked least.... slowness in DMin office getting email updates even though updated on my student page.; and communication from one in DMin office was not as efficient, and somewhat frustrating at times [Resp. 13 DMIN]
Going to DTS was a dream come true for me. Aside from the staff transitions within the DMIN office, which caused some confusion at times, and the campus renovations, everything was great about my experience in the DMIN program. I have already recommended one colleague look into your DMIN program. [Resp. 117 DMIN]

Financial Aid Services

The seminary could improve by.... Reconsidering how to structure scholarships with families in mind who are trying to maintain balance between ministry, family, and studies. … I have repeated this on multiple times and in multiple ways, but financial aid is not suited for families with both students attending. My wife and I both attended classes and have 3 children. We live on one income and I work full-time. It is almost impossible for either of us to take the minimum 12 credits to get financial aid, and yet together we have routinely taken 17 or 18 credits total on one income. One year, we made 30k and spent almost 15k on DTS classes but were unable to apply for financial aid. Also, when I first attended DTS, I could take more classes because I did not have to work as much, but I was unable to qualify for financial aid because I had too much money in the bank.
However, once that money was gone to DTS, I had to work full-time and was not able to apply for financial aid because I was not taking the required 12 credits. Financial aid is perfectly geared towards those whose spouse is working to offset costs, but not for students who have to work full-time. My solutions: (1) Consider a family total (a family might qualify for financial aid if taking a combined 14 hours or so credit hours). Taking 9 credits vs. taking 12 is the difference to me between sanity vs choosing family or studies. (2) Consider allowing students with families (and are primary breadwinners) to qualify for financial aid to limited degree when more money in the bank OR take into consideration this situation when they apply after the money runs out and they are working 50 hours per week to make ends meet (allow a student who has not been eligible for the first 2 years taking 15 credits to be eligible even though they are taking 9 credits). Just a thought, but as a family guy with a wife in school, it has been very difficult to be eligible for financial aid with both requirements. [Resp. 42 THM]

The seminary could improve by... getting more financial aid available to the students. Helping to increase awareness in general about seminary, especially for female students, especially for ThM female students. Most Christians are still confused when a girl says she is going to seminary, and that is a major road block for support raising and job related purposes….I continually had frustration with the financial aid office. Very limited support for poorer students trying to make it on their own. Basically nothing out there for females for scholarship. Several things on the financial aid site are not correct. For instance on: http://www.dts.edu/departments/campus/financialaid/trainingyoucanafford/ It says you can get a job at $8-12 at 20 hrs a week and that ends up being $700-$1100 per month. Which it is not. And if you subtract taxes it most definitely is not. So, 8x20 times 4 weeks is $640 less taxes would be under $600. All of their calculations seem to end up this way. And, the Stafford Loan program is apparently limited so in the future our monthly payments won't be too high, but we are asked to sign up for TMS at a monthly payment HIGHER when we are in school than they will let us have when we are out. Also, limiting scholarships to taking 12 credits seems self defeating. I have to take 12 credits to save $1000-1500 dollars, but I could just make that if I had that time to actually work over the 4-5 month period. It ends up breaking even at best. Sorry for the rant, but overall I felt everything at DTS was great and focused on helping the students and doing what is best. The financial aid office is extremely limited and pretty much leaves it at that. They seem to be concerned with their image, for instance with having a low default rate on loans than actually helping students get through. I haven't a clue how people from lower income backgrounds have any chance of getting a degree at DTS. [Resp. 54 THM]

The seminary could improve by... recognizing that many of its students aren't 21 and single and structuring its financial aid structure and class schedules accordingly [Resp. 59 MACM]

I liked least.... Lots of scholarships for male ThM students, no aid for part-time students. Also, they were rude and unpleasant to work with about 95% of the time that I went into the office [Resp. 72 THM]

The seminary could improve by... more financial aid, maybe less strict chapel requirements, updating the doctrinal statement [Resp. 74 MACM]

The seminary could improve by.... offering easier financial packages. [Resp. 95 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... offering scholarships to students who are taking less than 12 credits [Resp. 123 MABC]

If a student is a stay-at-home parent, there is no good reason they should not be eligible for financial aid. Being a parent is work and adds to the home economy by substituting for the cost of childcare. It is a sad thing that at a seminary, one could get a job in order to put one's child(ren) in day care and qualify for our financial aid, but if a parent wants to love and serve his or her child(ren) by serving as their primary daytime childcare, we disqualify them from financial aid. Also, 12 hours plus 10 hours of work is too much to ask of a married person (probably a single person too) in order for them to qualify for financial aid. 9 hours plus 10-20 hrs of work is a better level, especially for married students (and still a fairly hard semester in graduate level classes). In general, we require about 10 hours too much of work and 3 hours too much of coursework, producing a stress and anxiety level that is not conducive to the purpose of a seminary. [Resp. 151 MABS]

Food Services

I liked least.... Food and Mitchell [Resp. 91 MACM]

On a minor note I would like to see a better priced coffee for students. When I worked professionally and made a good salary I was to cheap to generally buy Starbucks so as student I definitely will not buy a higher priced coffee. The vending machine in Mabee is the other extreme (the quality is poor) better options are available [Resp. 105 THM]

Housing and Relocation Office and Residence Halls

The housing department for on-campus housing was repeatedly rude, impolite, inflexible, and unhelpful. There is little grace shown by those who work in that department. It was very unfortunate, to say the least, to experience that. I stayed in Lincoln Hall my first year at DTS. [Resp. 58 MAMC]

2009 Graduating Student Survey
I was very disappointed when DTS decided to shut down Lincoln without giving much warning. I was taking Greek 103 104 and it seemed that no consideration was given that students might actually be taking classes during the time when we were required to move. This made life very stressful. I understand that DTS needed to get rid of Lincoln, but more thought and communication could have gone into the process. It is also very difficult to gain entrance into the new student facilities which hinders fellowship within the wider body at DTS. [Resp. 70 THM]

I liked least.... the administrative nightmare of incompetence especially in housing and Mitchell services. [Resp. 102 THM]

I liked least.... the housing department. [Resp. 156 MABS]

I liked least.... that the student housing does not allow for pets. [Resp. 168 MACM]

**What Should Be Changed**

The seminary could improve by.... allowing single students to have more affordable options for housing. I had to leave Dallas my last semester because my rent would have increased over 100% if I would have moved from the Marquis to the new building. I find it hard to believe that the housing office was trying to serve me in a Christ-like manner when the decision was made to build an apartment that cost $500 a month to live in. I wanted to stay in Dallas, but I did not want to go into debt. [Resp. 156 MABS].

**Institutional Research**

My assessment would have been much different if I had completed it before the TBTK. That test left me with the impression that I don't have any competency in any area. [Resp. 25 THM]

Need to make exams available on Mac Operating Systems.... [Resp. 201 MACE]

**Ministry Placement Services and Alumni Office**

I liked least.... This whole exit thing has been very confusing and contradictory. [Resp. 5 D.Min]

I'll be honest about the departments I gave negative feedback: Field education - my internship was too heavily administrative and didn't cater to what I really want to do. [Resp. 72 THM]

Placement office did not give any direction that was helpful. Only a couple of common sense e-mail suggestions. I would have liked to have some personal counsel and direction. [Resp. 122 MACE]

Very dissatisfied with placement: I fully understand the Seminary's stance on not “placing”M.A.B.S graduates. I respect the fact that DTS wants to be putting fully trained pastors and ministers in the churches. However, the fact that I wouldn't be helped with placement was thrown in my face when I decided to change from THM to MABS. What the placement office/registrar's office didn't understand was that Greek studies were driving me into the ground and I had very recently been diagnosed with clinical depression! It was actually a doctor's suggestion that I get rid of a few things that were burdensome to me, Greek being on the top of that list. I just couldn't handle the speed of the language classes. I was made to feel very belittled and threatened with "no placement" when I sought to change my degree. And, in my opinion, I'm better suited to be a head pastor than many, many Th.M students I've met. It would seem better that the placement office consider character and love when choosing who to "place"; As it is now, any jerk with a Th.M can get placement help, when there are a lot of wonderful MABS students out there who are better suited for ministry. If I had one wish, I'd have DTS reconsider its policies with the MABS degree. [Resp. 179 MABS]

The seminary could improve by.... Assisting students in ministry placement. Relationships should be formed with local churches to assist in placement. [Resp. 190 MACE]

**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 counterparts. Professors need to be more involved with these classes. [Resp. 26 MACM]

Online classes - lots of busy work, VERY unclear syllabi, lots of extra work not on the syllabus, hard to plan my workload when I didn't know what was coming at me [Resp. 72 THM]
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2009 Graduating Student Survey

Commute/Parking/Location

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... Estu muy lejos geográficamente. (Is very far geographically) [Resp. 2 DMIN]
I liked least.... that I live now in Baton Rouge and cannot access more things it has to offer. [Resp. 11 CGS]
I liked least.... I do not live in Dallas. [Resp. 14 MABS]
I liked least.... The parking [Resp. 34 MACE]
I liked least.... Commute to downtown, traffic on 75. [Resp. 49 MABS]
I liked least.... Driving from Fort Worth to Dallas. :) [Resp. 41 CGS]
I liked least.... Parking. [Resp. 40 THM]
I liked least.... It's not in Houston. :-) [Resp. 56 MABS]
I liked least.... Parking issues [Resp. 79 MAMC]
I liked least.... Hard to come up with one, I wish I could have taken all my classes on the main campus but I have a secular career as a physician to keep up with. [Resp. 83 MABS]

Registrar’s Office Services

Upon entering seminary, I was told to focus my “ministry” on going to seminary by a man in the registrar's office. Since I wasn't serving for a while I feel that I got spiritually dry. I finally decided to plug into ministry at the church, and even though my grades slipped a bit, it was a much better balance. [Resp. 115 THM]
I tried to have a grade change and it never took place. The professors were inflexible and the dean of students never returned my phone call or email. I was so busy with school I didn't have time to get this taken care of. I wished there would have been some follow up. The grade didn't affect my graduation, but did lower my grade by a letter. [Resp. 146 MACE]

Registration Procedures/Registrar Items

I liked least.... Limited scheduling options for languages. [Resp. 37 MABS]
I liked least.... changing the ST order during my quest for a degree that made me go to Houston to get a class I needed to graduate [Resp. 75 MABS]
The seminary could improve by.... Improving the explanation of requirements for graduation should be discussed in detail at the beginning of the student's degree plan. [Resp. 78 THM]
I liked least.... not being able to take some classes the times I wanted to take them [Resp. 82 MACE]
I liked least.... On issues such as registration, thesis, etc. students are dropped through the cracks. [Resp. 67 STM]
I liked least.... the limited scheduling at times of certain BE classes. [Resp. 143 MABC]
I think you should look into how other campuses/universities handle registration. I think this process could run a lot more smoothly. I ran into a lot of problems in my last 4 semesters, upon entering “advanced” classes that required prereq's (even though I had them) [Resp. 188 MABC]

General Comments about Serving Students

What I Liked

Tech support esp. good, both assistance online and in the basement of Dallas library. [Resp. 83 MABS]
I liked best.... the people - including staff, professors, students, and maintenance people - as they are all so nice and encouraging. [Resp. 96 MABC]
Overall I really enjoyed wonderful service. DTS staffs are great service person. [Resp. 161 STM]
What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... The clerical staff in many of the departments (not Christian Ed.) seem very inefficient in the manner in which they deal with student needs. Often I made the effort to go to an office in person to request help and I was told to send the person (with whom I was talking) an e-mail with my request. This has happened in the registrar's office, the international student's office, and the spiritual formation office. It seems to be more common with the younger employees, so, perhaps a required course in office etiquette would be a simple solution. I just feel that if a student makes it a priority to talk with them in person, it seems it would be more courteous if they would take down the information at that time and not require a student to duplicate effort in order to communicate effectively. I have also found it difficult to plan ahead with departments that require appointments with staff as a part of the requirement for my degree (specifically regarding my Internship) due to unavailability of the information they need to process for the interview. [Resp. 8 MACE]

I liked least.... the lack of support from administration. For example, the only communication we got from the student affairs office would be a yearly letter enforcing dress code and alcohol policy. There was no mention of support, services, or any thought given to the development of students. [Resp. 30 MAMC]

Ministry is all about people. Hire friendly and kind people in administration who know how to do their job. It reflects poorly on the school when someone in a high position and a graduate of our school is mean and incompetent. [Resp. 102 THM]

The initial student interview was very disheartening. At first it seemed like the seminary really was concerned and interested in new students. But the meeting was little more than a check list meeting quickly completed to get to the next student. I had even checked mark a question on my form that was ignored because I felt like the meeting was just a formality. If you continue these meetings please do them right or stop wasting student’s time with them. [Resp. 105 THM]

I liked least.... having to navigate certain political issues as well as dealing with most of the official offices. There is a great deal of inflexibility that I feel is unnecessary. [Resp. 137 MABC]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... more effectively communicating with students [Resp. 134 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... At orientation, the theme seemed to be “how to survive seminary.”; I think this is the wrong tone to start one’s seminary studies. Though seminary is difficult, I think it should be thought of more positively than just surviving [Resp. 200 MABS]

Seminary

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

What I Liked

I liked best.... emphasis on the Bible [Resp. 1 DMIN]
I liked best.... Enfasis en la exegesis bivlica [Resp. 2 DMIN]
I liked best.... its commitment to teach the Word of God. [Resp. 4 DMIN]
I liked best.... it’s continued focus on ‘preaching the Word’; It’s focus on preparing Christian leaders. It's focus on the spiritual life of the student, not just the academics. The spiritual focus of every professor. The positive attitude in every classroom. The you can do it encouragement from professors. The facilities and services as a whole. Too many other things to mention. [Resp. 6 DMIN]
I liked best.... the deep respect for God's Word and the commitment/ability to help people understand God's word as relevant to contemporary life. [Resp. 9 THM]
I liked best.... the teaching. [Resp. 131 MACM]
I liked best.... a strong commitment to God's word [Resp. 15 MABS]
I liked best.... the emphasis on learning the Bible. [Resp. 17 THM]
I liked best.... it is consistent [Resp. 23 MABS]
I liked best.... its commitment to the word and sound theology. [Resp. 36 THM]
I liked best.... the commitment to teach the Bible. [Resp. 39 MABS]
I liked best.... The focus on the Bible. [Resp. 40 THM]
I liked best.... that it is unbiased towards a particular denomination. [Resp. 86 THM]
I liked best.... There commitment to teach the truth as record in the bible [Resp. 93 MABS]
I liked best.... its doctrines. [Resp. 95 MABS]
I liked best.... Commitment to the Scriptures [Resp. 106 MABC]
I liked best.... It's commitment to the truth of the Word of God. [Resp. 110 MABC]
I liked best.... The emphasis on the Bible in all courses. The willingness and ability of the professors to answer difficult and thought-provoking questions. [Resp. 120 MABS]
I liked best.... its emphasis on the effectively teaching the Word of God [Resp. 123 MABC]
I liked best.... Learning how to study the Scriptures and how to communicate them. [Resp. 128 THM]
I liked best.... The exegesis classes on specific books of the Bible! [Resp. 136 THM]
I liked best.... the commitment to mobilizing equipped ministry leaders. [Resp. 147  MACM]
I liked best.... It's foundation in God's word. [Resp. 148 MABC]
I liked best.... the commitment to God's word. [Resp. 149 MABC]
I liked best.... the commitment to preach the Word of God. [Resp. 155 MABC]
I liked best.... Theology focused on Scripture [Resp. 170 STM]
I liked best.... The commitment to the word, SF, and getting to know other students. [Resp. 195 MACE]
I liked best.... The commitment to the truth and the professor's desire to maintain integrity and humility in their teaching. [Resp. 197 MACE]

The thoroughness of the training

What I Liked

I liked best.... the complete coverage of each book of the Bible [Resp. 20 DMIN]
I liked best.... its comprehensive focus on the Word and its in-depth teaching of Scripture. [Resp. 26 MACM]
I liked best.... the commitment to conform to Scripture as evidenced by the study of all books of the Bible and a consistent submission to Scripture as the final authority for all theology and ministry. I also love Swiss Tower and the community that we have enjoyed there these last 5 years. [Resp. 42 THM]
I liked best.... DTS' commitment to teaching the Scriptures in their entirety (having a BE class on every book of the Bible). I loved that! [Resp. 92 THM]

What I Didn’t Like

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. 36 THM]
My degree program could be improved by.... 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. 73 THM]
The seminary could improve by.... working on giving students a more pointed perspective on the best theological choice on a controversial issue. [Resp. 139 MAEM]
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 reading. [Resp. 149 MABC]

The commitment to excellence and integrity

I liked best.... its priority for excellence in academic education. [Resp. 29 THM]
Holding students to a higher standard of developing interpersonal skills, i.e. being able to develop a skill to relate to their flock and the world. Require more assignments where Seminarians are using their gifts and knowledge penetrate the community, congregations, Dallas. Develop missions opportunities around the Dallas area and have a missions board... [Resp. 201 MACE]
The commitment to its heritage of conservative doctrine and interpretation

What I Liked

I liked best.... its reputation [Resp. 66 MACE]
I liked best.... It's conservative interpretation of scripture. [Resp. 199 MABS]

What Should Be Changed

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! [Resp. 149 MABC]

Philosophically, the program fails to offer genuine graduate education. Although billed as a “Th.M”; the degree academically offers little more in its core than a bachelor's degree in biblical studies. In terms of interpreting the Bible, so called “hermeneutics”; courses fundamentally fail to communicate graduate level depth in the praxis of real hermeneutics. There is a broad naivety the runs through the faculty with regard to the quality of the Th.M. degree, especially in the administrative circles. The program could be improved by offering genuine graduate education, challenging students to think through various positions and ideas, rather than merely attempting to indoctrinate an ideologically driven, agenda oriented hermeneutic. [Resp. 153 THM]

Integration of Learning

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by.... Help the students get out of the books from time to time and have actual ministry experience while at DTS. Most times the internships just don't cut it because students try to squeeze them in when they have time. Most time students do the internships out of necessity not out of a call (I observed this by watching my peers over the last 4 years). Lighten the reading load(s) so the students can actually invest in ministry. [Resp. 122 MACE]

The seminary could improve by.... Making sure what they are doing is going to train leaders for this generation. Anything that taught me to be about leadership 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 important) I begin to feel put into a box along with God. [Resp. 129 MABC]

The seminary could improve by.... having missional, evangelistic values. [Resp. 170 STM]

Preparation for Ministry

What I Didn’t Like

The seminary could improve by.... bringing a greater emphasis on worship in its training of pastors. [Resp. 1 DMIN]
My degree program could be improved by.... Could use more direction in the lifelong learning plan, samples, examples Did not address issues of missiology Did not address issues of ethnicity, etc.... [Resp. 12 DMIN]
The seminary does a great job of teaching us to “fight.” By fight I mean defend truth, make propositions and refute contrary ideas. However, it has provided little of the skills in “farming.” Growth is the true goal of most pastoral care. Setting the conditions for growth. That is more farming than fighting. If you handed me the keys to the seminary, I doubt I could do better in preparing farmers, but it is an observation of the system. We make great gunfighters. I don't know that we MAKE good farmers.[Resp. 43 MACM]

My degree program could be improved by.... Age specific goals, In my program (college teaching) it could be said that specific understanding / goals were developed, but the class offering was not especially broad in this area, really only 215 was helpful. More actual teaching time would be better. Requiring everyone in this track to actually teach (CBS) or mentor with a professor as an assistant would be helpful. Way too much emphasis on the administration aspect in this area and not enough in the actual teaching. [Resp. 53 MACE]

In my opinion, DTS has tried to institutionalize so much of the students life, that it really hinders them from doing active ministry in their church. Yes they say it is important. But I do not think DTS trust the church to do it’s job, so it fells like it must take over in institunializing spiritually. Just my opinion. [Resp. 46 THM]

My degree program could be improved by.... I felt that there was not enough time spent on practical pastoral skills and church leadership development, especially in comparison to the languages. [Resp. 105 THM]

I liked least.... the gap between seminary classroom experience and practical experience in the church [Resp. 116 THM]

My degree program could be improved by.... I was an “Academic Track” student. The curriculum failed to offer me the number of hours necessary in order to develop significant depth to compete with other master's students from other institutions for PhD placement. I spent a numerous hours completely wasted in subject matters irrelevant to my career goals or personal development needs. [Resp. 153 THM]

My degree program could be improved by.... I am still just frustrated that the African context course was not offered during my time at DTS, as this course would have been most beneficial to my ministry goals. [Resp. 168 MACM]

I found that classes centered on ministry skills (not Bible teaching, preaching or interpretation), personal spiritual growth, or church administration lacking any influence in my personal life. Spiritual formation studies were not a waste of time by any means, but the curriculum and methods “shot themselves in the foot” in terms of helpfulness; they got in their own way. [Resp. 179 MABS]

There was a disconnect between theology and practical issues. Perhaps classroom group assignments answering questions like “What are 5 effects that pretribulationalism will have on the way that you vote, as contrasted to an Amillenialist” Or “When is a missionary calling the people to scriptural truth, and when is he calling people to American interpretations of scriptural truth, when he asks people in a honor/shame based culture to not be envious” Or something. [Resp. 180 ThM]

I don't think that the atmosphere at DTS prepares us to operate well in ministry in the world outside of this school. [Resp. 195 MACE]

What Should Be Changed

Bring back a Chaplaincy program that is able to prep those going in that direction, as funding allows. [Resp. 40 THM]

Decide whether it is a pastoral training school or an academic institution. Continually attempting to be both creates a bind that I felt often. I got so much Bible that I became sick of the Bible. I spent so much time parsing verbs that I lost the spiritual point of it. That's fine to be that academically rigorous, just don't promote the simultaneous pressure to remain a spiritual giant in the process. [Resp. 55 THM]

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. 60 MABS]
I found, from personal research and conversations with students, professors, and ministers, that Church administration and ministry preparedness studies were 5-15 years behind what is actually happening in churches today as larger churches are shuffling to become smaller and more organic. Yet, in the classes I was taught, none of this was happening and every church alive today is a Denton Bible or a Northwest Bible or an Oak Cliff Fellowship. [Resp. 179 MABS]

**The commitment to Dispensationalism**

I liked least... I wish it had greater positive emphasis on classical dispensationalism. At times I felt like I was the butt of too many jokes because I believe in the literal fulfillment of the covenants with Israel, a distinction between the Church and Israel, and a commitment to a literal interpretation of the scriptures. [Resp. 17 THM]

Dispensational theology - certainly not complaining about it, but it was just not taught very much at all. I am sure if an elective is offered on dispensationalism (classical, progressive), it would be a great idea.

Interpersonal skills - I do not believe that a seminary is really equipped with teaching this. I developed some possibly through my internship (relating to students at CBS), but I did not think enough to justify a higher score (4 or 5). [Resp. 48 THM]

I have a neutral to negative view of spending time in research or debate over eschatological issues or how God governs his universe. I have yet to hear an argument that is entirely convincing for any views and I doubt one exists. Bottom line we don't know the answer and that is ok. God is in charge of administering the eschaton and the governance of His universe; our views don't make a lick of difference either way. The program is fine, these are just my views. [Resp. 154 MABB]

**General Encouragement**

May God help DTS to continue a faithful ministry that Dr. Chafer started to train ministry leaders to be faithful and true to the Lord Jesus and to God's Word. [Resp. 3 WTH]

Thank you for your desire to serve other parts of the world. [Resp. 4 DMIN]

Thank you for my second great educational experience at DTS. One in the 1980's for the Th.M, and now in the 2000's with the D.Min. My son also had a great MABS experience in the 1990's. [Resp. 6 DMIN]

I thoroughly enjoyed my study in DTS. From the various professors to the different admin staffs and the departments, I experience excellence and grace. The seminary is run in an orderly fashion with reasonable policies, yet flexible to meet the needs of a diverse student body. I feel privileged to have a degree awarded by such a fine Seminary fully devoted to God. [Resp. 9 THM]

I have really loved my time at DTS overall. It has been a place of healing and growth for me. The time spent with my professors both in class and outside of class is a tremendous gift to me. I am deeply indebted to the godly faculty and administration who have sought God's wisdom for the best curriculum to help students achieve a balance of academic excellence and proven character. I look forward to continuing on with the D.Min. I have sought to be an ambassador for the school by declaring my gratitude for this institution to everyone with whom I come in contact. I am praying daily for the preservation of DTS to continue in the tradition of excellent education in the knowledge of God and His Word. [Resp. 8 MACE]

I am profoundly thankful to God for His faithful provision for these years at DTS. I have grown spiritually through course work and life issues associated with seminary. [Resp. 10 MABS]

I love DTS and appreciate all it has done for me. [Resp. 12 DMIN]

Appreciate the training I received through the D.Min program; has definitely increased my effectiveness in ministry. [Resp. 13 DMIN]

I enjoyed my time, I look forward to enrolling again after my daughter graduates from high school in 2010. [Resp. 14 MABS]

I am so humbled and grateful that I got the opportunity to come to DTS. [Resp. 17 THM]

Overall, my experience at DTS was very positive and I believe without a doubt that I would not be all that I am today without the help of DTS. I feel that through my development and training at DTS, my commitment to the truths of Scripture, I am equipped to be the best servant I can be for the glory of God! Thanks DTS for all that you have been, are, and will be, and your work in training and equipping leaders who will in turn equip others. May God richly Bless You! [Resp. 21 THM]

Generally, I am very pleased with my experience at DTS [Resp. 27 MABM]

I feel satisfied with DTS, teachers, administration personal, directors, and I feel grateful with God and all of you. God bless you. [Resp. 31 DMIN]

Too many students seem to think that Chapel is not worth going to. It should be required for all, either at the Chapel or online. 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. 34 MACE]

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. 36 THM]
This has been the greatest experience of my life. I am so blessed to have had this opportunity, and I hope and pray that I will make good on the investment that has been made. I hope that God will be pleased with my life and service. Thank You for everything. [Resp. 37 MABS]

I hope that things work out to where I can study more at DTS. [Resp. 39 MABS]

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. 52 THM]

Overall it was an absolutely fantastic experience. [Resp. 54 THM]

May God richly bless and multiply the efforts of DTS for His glory! Amen! [Resp. 56 MABS]

I've enjoyed being part of DTS for the last two years and will enjoy being part of DTS in the future. [Resp. 66 MACE]

I have loved every day that I have spent at Dallas Seminary. Regardless of how difficult a road it has been to haul and regardless of the cost, I will cherish the knowledge and resources that have been entrusted to me by DTS. [Resp. 71 MACE]

Although not everything was perfect all the time, I have loved my time at DTS...and I have been here a LONG time. It has changed me, my heart, my mind, and my spiritual walk permanently and for that, I cannot be grateful enough. [Resp. 72 THM]

Thank you DTS for these past 5 years! [Resp. 74 MACM]

I will always cherish my time at DTS. [Resp. 83 MABS]

Thank you for a great 5.5 years of education. I will always have a special place in my heart for Dallas Theological Seminary. [Resp. 88 MABS]

I truly have enjoyed my time at DTS. I am both excited and sad to graduate and leave. I have attended many colleges/universities in my life (I've decided that school must be my hobby), and never enjoyed the experience as much at any of the rest as I have here. Keep up the good work! [Resp. 96 MABC].

Thanks for the committed Christ centered leadership and staff of DTS. [Resp. 104 MACE]

I am especially grateful for the opportunity I had to take courses at DTS because of the highly flexible circumstances that helped me. I live in Denton and took all of my classes online, at night, or during the summer. I was able to work full-time and pay for my courses without incurring too much debt. While I know that I missed out on much of DTS community involvement by being away from campus, I am grateful for the rich learning experiences that I had all the same. [Resp. 111 MABS]

I am grateful for my time here and will miss it greatly. [Resp. 113 MABC]

I thoroughly enjoyed my seminary experience. [Resp. 116 THM]

Thank You! With only a few things to improve upon (as we all need) DTS has been an amazing investment! Thank you for everything! [Resp. 122 MACE]

My overall experience at DTS was a good one. It was my prayer in coming to DTS that I not get caught up so much in gaining knowledge that my relationship with God and others suffered. God has used these last few years of my life to teach me more and more about Himself. Even if I still do not have all the knowledge and skill that many other graduates of DTS have, I do have a deeper walk with the Lord. For that I am grateful. [Resp. 127 MABC]

Thank you for the last 3 years. I will always remember it for my time of growth and interaction with profs and friends. [Resp. 129 MABC]

The opportunity to come to this school has been an incredible privilege! To those who made it possible by the grace of God I am thoroughly indebted to. [Resp. 130 THM]

Thanks for the many blessings this experience has afforded. [Resp. 133 MACE]

I thoroughly enjoyed my DTS experience! [Resp. 135 DMIN]

Yea, I'm done! [Resp. 136 THM]

I wouldn't be the person I am today had I not been at DTS for the last four years. My relationship with God is stronger, more mature. I have a community of people that I can share successes and failures--hurts and victories with. Even though the journey's been rough, Dallas Seminary has made a tremendous positive impact on my life. For this, I'm thankful to our Lord. [Resp. 139 MAEM]

I liked everything at DTS. Thank you for a truly awesome experience. [Resp. 140 MABS]

I had a great time. [Resp. 168 MACM]

Parking improved this year. [Resp. 169 CGS]

Keep up the Good work! GOD BLESS! [Resp. 171 STM]

Dallas is the best seminary of all. [Resp. 172 STM]

I am a better person for having gone to DTS. It has not been easy, but I am certain it was worth it. [Resp. 176 MABC]

Thanks to everyone at DTS.... I hope to come back soon..... I loved it all...It has been a transformational period in my life. [Resp. 181 MABS]

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at DTS and I know that I have grown so very much over the short time that I have been here. I feel privileged to have learned from so many amazing and godly professors. Their example alone is worth my coming to DTS. The only problem that I faced was with the extremely heavy course load. I found it difficult to have any extra time to be ministering in my local body because my time was consumed by studying and writing papers. [Resp. 197 MACE]
My experience at DTS was everything I hoped it would be and more. I will always remember my time in Dallas with great fondness and I know some of the relationships I have made will last a lifetime. [Resp. 196 MACE]

I praise God for the opportunity to attend, study and learn at this wonderful institution, and I pray that He would continue to stretch and grow DTS to become all that He wants it to be, and I thank God for all that He has brought it to be up to this point. [Resp. 192 MABC]

DTS is a great institution with some of the finest and most knowledgeable faculty members! I intend to come back to audit and/or pursue doctorate studies. I intend to be a lifelong student of God's Word.

Resp. 190 MACE]