# Open-Ended Responses

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Faculty

Personalness, accessibility, flexibility

Kudos

I liked best .... excellent faculty [1, CGS]
I liked best .... The excellent faculty. [2, CGS]
I liked best .... Accessibility and professionalism, with care [4, DMCE]
I liked best .... Dr Baylis [21, MABS]
I liked best .... The people. With only a few exceptions, I found the staff and faculty to be wonderful, inspiring people. As I mentioned before, I found many faculty members were willing to spend time with me, invest in my life, and mentor me. Staff were friendly and helpful. I loved the library, bookstore, and campus. [29, MACE]
I liked best .... Some of the professors I have built relationships with. The Biblical and theological education that I received. [30, MABS]
I liked best .... The wisdom that is passed on by the top notch professors. There was not a professor that didn't impact me in some positive way. [31, CGS]
I liked best .... That it has given me the opportunity to sit under what have to be the best biblical and theological teachers anywhere. [37, MABS]
I liked best .... There were a few professors who advanced my understanding because of obvious work of the Holy Spirit in their own lives - Dr. Krieder, Dr. Horrell, Dr. Bingham and outside the class - Dr. Reed and Dr. Joye Baker. [39, MACM]
I liked best .... The professors. [44, CGS]
I liked best .... The gracious commitment of the faculty to pour themselves into the students. The unswerving commitment to excellence. The spirit of grace that permeates the campus. [64, MACE]
I liked best .... Spending time interacting with the professors. [68, THM]
I liked best .... The accessibility of the professors. This was hands down one of the areas that DTS has going for itself. Not only that, but the professors genuinely care about the spiritual life of the students and their teaching reflects that. [83, THM]
I liked best .... There are so many phenom profs there that have made a mark on my life. What an honor to hang out with these people for 6 1/2 years. [84, MACE]
I liked best.... I thank God for the opportunity to study through DTS. My spiritual walk has been enriched through the teaching of Dr. Baylis, Dr. Lightner, Dr. Hanna (with Spiritual Life) and lately through Dr. Pugh. I am overwhelmed by the love of God revealed in His Word and I treasure His revelation. I am impassioned to tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ. I have experienced my husband's tremendous, sacrificial support of me through these years of study and so I am thankful for my family. I feel equipped to teach the word of God in my church and if possible in a secular setting. As I meet more and more young adults who are Biblically illiterate, I desire opportunity to teach as many as possible these Words of Life. [105, MABS]
I liked best .... A-list of awesomeness: Dr. Allman, Dr. Holsteen, Dr. McLaughlin, Dr. Allen, Dr. Fantin. Highest score possible for these guys--they represent the seminary well and make the EXPERIENCE worth every penny! [116, MACE]
I liked best .... Get more Professors like Dr. Grant. He is highly qualified but immensely compassionate and personable. He makes more of a difference than academic difference. In fact, what many of us remember most, is not how equipped we were after his class, but the way our lives were changed as a result of spending the semester with him. [211, MAMC]
I liked best .... The professors. I enjoyed talking with several of them. They sought to be extremely helpful when I needed their assistance. [87, MACE]
I liked best .... The accessibility of the profs, the depth of the teaching, and the passion to see God's word shared around the world. [98, THM]
I liked best .... The professors. I cherished every minute with them. The times that I spent with them outside of the classroom were my favorite memories of Seminary. [104, THM]
I liked best .... Humility of professors... Openness of some professors... Passionate about teaching God's Word... Passionate about World Missions... Good environment to make friends... [110, THM]
I liked best .... Warm and Caring people - Professors who make an effort to personally engage with students is important. They are authentic Christians who also share out of their own life situations. They also really know the Bible, theology and how to articulate His Word well. Commitment to Excellence in all areas - I appreciate this. [117, MACE]

I liked best .... The wealth of knowledge and understanding that I received about God and His word. Also, the professors....Toussaint, Horrell...they have changed my life. [123, MACE]

I liked best .... The ‘Professors’ [124, THM]
I liked best .... The professors. [134, MACE]
I liked best .... The professors. the professors. the professors. [137, THM]
I liked best .... The faculty. [149, MABC]
I liked best .... How the faculty take time to help the students learn both intellectually and spiritually, as well as caring enough to let the students be a part of their lives. [162, THM]

I liked best .... Having lunch with visiting professors at the Houston extension campus and discussing questions and opinions that I and other students had about course material. The administrative staff are also wonderful!!! [152, MABS]

I liked best .... The Professors. [171, DMIN]
I liked best .... The personal concern and genuine care exhibited by every professor and staff member. I was frequently surprised by the attention shown and the lengths that many would go to in offering assistance. [173, NOND]

I liked best .... The wonderful prof.s. [174, THM]
I liked best .... Specific professors that have greatly impacted my understanding of biblical theology and shaped my future in ministry. [182, MABS]

I liked best .... I really enjoyed how all of the professors seem to really care about the students. [183, MACE]
I liked best .... Faculty that cares. [187, THM]
I liked best .... The professors were approachable [198, MABC]
I liked best .... Availability of professors and their authenticity and desire to share their lives with students. [204, MACE]

I liked best .... The Profs! Their experience and hearts for the Lord are compelling and challenging to me as a future minister. [208, THM]

I liked best .... The professors...they are the best! [217, MAMC]
I liked best .... Compassion of the professors and their desire to help their students. [221, CGS]
I liked best .... The faculty's love for the Lord and for the students [218, MABC]
I liked best .... Practicalness of most of the professors. [224, MACE]
I liked best .... The profs [226, THM]
I liked best .... The professors, especially Dr. Krieder. [227, MABS]
I liked best .... The teachers. They are servants who love God and love others. They exhibit excellence and passion for Christ. [229, THM]

I liked best .... The love of the profs for Jesus Christ and his mission around the world,and for the word of God and in proclaiming it well. [230, MACM]

**Concerns**

I liked least.... The inability to easily communicate with professors. [52, THM]
I liked least.... The availability of the professors. [90, THM]
I liked least... Some professors seem to approach students more academically, less pastorally. [97, MACM]
I liked least.... I had a few classes where the professor did not cover enough material to make me feel that we adequately addressed the important subject matter of the class. [99, THM]
I liked least.... The BE department (save Allman who is amazing!) [113, THM]
Suggestions for Improvement

Professors need not assume students have the same understanding of how to do their syllabus requirements. For example: One may not have been taught how to do a Hebrew exegetical paper or concisely create a theological statement. Therefore, their needs to be both examples and how to steps to create these things. Not just thrown into the fire. Students come from all over. But also DON’T dumb it down in never teaching us the knowledge. We need that! [120, THM]
The seminary could improve by…Could you provide more office hours of professor for the students? [225, STM]

Excellence, Reputation

I liked best…. The lectures and meeting with professors outside of seminary. Overall I enjoyed my experience at DTS and I learned a lot. [15, CGS]
I liked best…. listening to the professors. They are very good. [24, MABS]
I liked best…. The quality of the education I received [38, THM]
I liked best …. Quality of professors. [48, MACE]
I liked best…. The genuine care expressed by everyone for developing godly servant leaders. [56, THM]
I liked best…. The Faculty [57, DMIN]
I liked best…. The generally high quality of teaching and scholarship in the department of my major, New Testament Studies. [59, PHD]
I liked best…. Some of the professors. [61, THM]
I liked best…. Quality teachers [65, THM]
I liked best…. Knowledgeable and gracious faculty. [71, MABS]
I liked best…. Most of my professors were elite scholars and kind leaders whose lives modeled Christ-likeness for me. [72, THM]
I liked best…. Faculty: I enjoyed every class. [73, MACE]
I liked best…. Professors. They are honest men who have a heart to impact the world for Christ. They have chosen or been led to do this through the art of teaching. I am grateful to each of them for their influence in my life. [74, MABS]
I liked best…. It's reputation and commitment to excellence on a wide range of fields in theology and Bible exposition. [81, MACE]
I liked best…. It's reputation. It was humbling to be educated there and people think so highly of the institution and what goes on there. It is really the first institution that I have been a part of that is so well respected and it makes me proud to to know I was a part of it and God allowed me the chance to journey through there. [84, MACE]
I liked best…. It's commitmment to silently training godly servants with humility and passion [86, THM]
I liked best…. The quality of the education [90, THM]
I liked best…. Commitment to academic excellence [118, THM]
I liked best…. The most excellent teaching and heart of the professors. [119, MABS]
I liked best…. Observing godly professors [159, MACE]
I liked best…. The quality of the professors. They both know the Bible and they care about your learning. [168, MACE]
I liked best…. The faculty and staff are all excellent and seem to truly care about the students. [128, THM]
I liked best…. The quality of the instruction [170, THM]
I liked best …. The quality and humility of the professors. [190, THM]
I liked best …. The high level of education and the wisdom of the professors [189, NOND]
I liked best …. The faculty are committed to the Lord and to developing students in preparation for effective ministry. I really felt supported and well-prepared. Also, I loved the community of fellow believers that I found here. [192, MACM]
I liked best …. The diversity, faith, integrity, examples, and academic standards of the professors. [200, MABL]
I liked best …. The quality of teaching provided by competent, well-trained, experienced faculty. [216, MACM]
I liked best .... The quality of the education and the love of the professors. I love the Atlanta-extension location also!!! [235, CGS]

I liked best .... The faculty who are exceptionally competent, devoted to the Lord, and caring about the students both for receiving an education and personally. [238, MABS]

Class planning/Content and teaching style

What I Liked

I liked best.... Variety of views presented by professor even though they may extend beyond their personal beliefs. This challenges the student in “how to think” and not specifically “what to think” [14, MABS]

I liked best.... Wonderful, humble faculties Well organized curriculum [18, MACE]

I liked best.... I think the Seminary does a great job. I have enjoyed all of my professors. They all have a different style and personality which is good. [47, MABS]

I liked best.... The passion of the professors for their subject matter [54, MABS]

I liked best.... Their passion to holding fast to the truth of God's word and the proclamation of Christ. [58, MABS]

I liked best.... The professors. They were some of the most gracious, demanding, and challenging people I have ever met. I have yet to find a professor I dislike. [89, THM]

I liked best.... Teaching Environment; passionate professors [107, MACE]

I liked best.... The knowledge, passion of the professors. The exhortations to apply Biblical truth to my practical life and to the ministry areas are participate in. Ken Hanna! Glenn Kreider! [111, MABS]

I liked best.... The Content. [114, MACE]

I liked best.... Simple faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord inspiring a work to love God, love people through teaching and example. My professors were the best testimony to this effect. [120, THM]

I liked best.... The professors care and concern for us as students developing a deeper love relationship with the Lord Jesus. [157, THM]

I liked best.... Without a doubt, the Christlike character of the professors. Each one has had a significant impact on my life. I have also enjoyed the relationships I have developed with other students who are devoting themselves to the Lord's work. [160, CGS]

I liked best.... The dedication, kindness, and skill of the professors. [163, THM]

I liked best.... The professors that are passionate about their subject matter. [172, MACE]

I liked best.... Caring faculty and continuing encouragement to put family first while glorifying God throughout our studies. Exposed to excellence in all areas. [179, MACE]

I liked best .... With the exception of only a few professors, I was impressed with the humble attitude they brought to the classroom. [195, MABC]

What I didn’t Like

I liked least .... Narrow minded teaching that doesn't address other Biblical views, Professors lack of concern for students mental health [207, MABC]

I liked least .... An Open theist is a Prof at Dallas. Send a very confusing message. [203, CGS]

Curriculum, assignments, grading, theological emphasis

As far as modern media is concerned, I was never taught anything in my classes in how to use any new forms of media. I don't know that I would expect that from a class on the Bible, though. I also didn't take any media classes, so that probably has much to do with it. [52, THM]

I liked least .... The program is very fragmented. When I entered, I was instructed to just take the courses that I needed to fulfil my degree. There were not always a connection between pre-requisits. There are some clear ones, but I think attention needs to be given to making sure there is a way that even part-time students can maintain a continuity in their program by having courses organized and available to make that possible. [87, THM]
I liked least …. Isolation/ lack of coordination/ randomness of professors schedules and standards (ie-finals--wow, talk about random!) [116, MACE]

I liked least … DTS today is not the DTS of 30 years ago when it comes to classroom instruction. I was shocked to learn how much DTS has deviated from what it used to teach on most secondary (not primary) issues, such as dispensationalism, eschatology, inerrancy, women in ministry, and biblical interpretation. In essence, DTS is much more liberal now than it used to be. I say this in regard to the OT and NT departments. I have been very disappointed, as have many of my classmates. [136, STM]

I liked least…. The lack of feedback on papers written. And the opportunity to get a good grade and yet have the freedom to push yourself on projects. If you understand how to get an A on a paper without rocking the system, this can become your norm for writing a paper. I think it is better to give the opportunity to do a paper (so that in my case, I could try different styles, etc) and if it does not pass the criteria, be able to submit another paper. This would require that the graders be knowledgeable and able to handle creativity and perhaps see some new approaches which do communicate well. Differences sometimes produce amazing results. In the real world, I changed the status quo to much more effective presentations, but what I got evaluated on was effectiveness not routine style. [238, MABS]

I liked least... My thesis experience. [101, THM]

While I am very satisfied with the education I received, I would make the comment that canonical theology is not emphasized enough. It is essential to preaching, yet it doesn't seem to be emphasized in the Bible exposition courses. [137, THM]

### Academic Programs

#### Curriculum distinctives (general)

**What I Liked**

I liked best…. Conservative, evangelical theology and faculty [7, DMIN]

I liked best…. Her love for the inimitable Word of God. [10, DMCE]

I liked best…. The emphasis on the Bible. [11, THM]

I liked best…. Solid biblical education [13, DMIN]

I liked best…. Its strong emphasis on the Word and its concern to teach it in the contemporary context. [16, THM]

I liked best…. Protracted time to grow and ponder and test, the formation of relationships, and their commitment to truth. [32, THM]

I liked best…. The many classes available. [35, THM]

I liked best…. The focus on God's Word. [40, THM]

I liked best…. The strong biblical and theological education. [43, THM]

I liked best…. What the seminary stands for, and its doctrinal statement. [62, THM]

I liked best…. The education I received. [69, MACE]

I liked best…. It's commitment to accurate interpretation of Scripture. [70, THM]

I liked best…. Ministry focus and academic rigor of the faculty and staff [75, THM]

I liked best…. The soundness of the doctrine, the quality of the professors, and the reputation of the institution. [88, CGS]

I liked best…. It is conservative in theology but open to a variety of minor theological viewpoints. It is refreshing to see professors graciously disagree with one another. As a result, I have developed a more gracious attitude toward those within the Body of Christ who differ with me theologically. [94, THM]

I liked best…. The thorough biblical education that I received. [95, THM]

I liked best…. The emphasis on writing and the strong doctrine. [96, MAMB]

I liked best…. The resolute focus on learning God's truth and the equipping of the students to serve God. [100, MACE]

I liked best…. Its commitment to Scripture [109, THM]

I liked best…. Their strong focus on the Word of God. [115, THM]

I liked best…. The focus on God's Word. [117, MACE]

I liked best…. DTS is committed to the Word in every way. [121, CGS]

I liked best…. That this Seminary seeks to establish firm grasp on God's Word. [122, CGS]

I liked best…. Their determined commitment to truth in a way that reflects God's grace. [127, MACE]
I liked best.... The people I met, and the commitment to the Word of God. [133, MACE]
I liked best.... The intergration of knowledge and with life, that is the importance emphasized on not just knowing truth, but living it. [130, THM]
I liked best.... The academic challenge and preparation for advanced research/study. [136, STM]
I liked best.... Focus on biblical truth. [140, THM]
I liked best.... Its commitment to its core beliefs and the faculty and staff, who have demonstrated authentic love and leadership to me in many ways. [141, THM]
I liked best.... Incredible institution for learning the cognitive aspect of the exegesis and exposition of the scriptures! [142, THM]
I liked best.... Some of the people who really love Jesus are great to be around. High regard for the Scriptures. [143, THM]
I liked best.... The seminary's commitment to the mission of equipping servant leaders for the Kingdom's work [149, MABC]
I liked best.... The fact that you are at a place that is committed to teaching and sharing the Word of our Lord. The peace I feel there despite the circumstance. [151, MABS]
I liked best.... Its commitment to truth and orthodoxy and the Bible. [154, MACM]
I liked best.... The openness and respect that the professors have toward their students and their fellow theologians. DTS and everyone there is clearly committed to both grace and truth. [158, MAMC]
I liked best.... Faithful and unwavering dedication to teaching of The Word. It is why I came to DTS, and it is what I received. Expectations met! [161, MACE]
I liked best.... The academic programs and instructors. [164, THM]
I liked best.... The theological education. [175, MABC]
I liked best.... It's serious commitment to the Lord and training godly servant leaders. [181, MACE]
I liked best.... The Godly training offered by the preaching and bible Exposition departments. [193, THM]
I liked best.... The faithfulness and commitment from the professors to interpret the Bible in a literal and historical manner. [201, MABC]
I liked best.... Commitment to systematic theology and literal interpretation of the Bible. [202, MABS]
I liked best.... Studying the word and incorporating it into a secular occupation. [205, MABC]
I liked best.... The strong commitment to the Word of God in it's literal sense and full authority, the strong reputation for a well founded Biblical school, and the students who attend the school. [207, MABC]
I liked best.... It has the right balance of theory and practice, engaging students to put what they learn into practice in real ministry. [210, MACM]
I liked best.... The training, knowledge, and education. [211, MAMB]
I liked best....Strict discipline applied to biblical interpretation [212, MABS]
I liked best.... The depth of courses and instructors [214, CGS]
I liked best.... The dedication to Biblical truth. [215, MABC]
I liked best.... Commitment to God's Word, and [218, MABC]
I liked best.... Strong theology, walking through Bible, relationships with other students, the strong name it carries across the country [219, MACE]
I liked best.... The emphasis given to the quality of education and research. [220, MABS]
I liked best.... The degree of biblical and theological understanding of the professors, that teach at the Houston campus as well as their willingness to interact with the students and to make themselves available. [222, MACE]
I liked best.... In-depth education and academics [223, MAMC]
I liked best.... It's strong evangelical worldview. [228, MABC]
I liked best.... The diversity and strong/unwavering Biblical position. [233, MACM]
I liked best.... The strong Biblical base. [234, CGS]
I liked best.... The equipping education [240, MACE]
Curriculum distinctives (in particular)

What I Liked

I liked best.... That it is dispensational, with the view that God will still redeem his people Israel as a nation and has a purpose for that nation. To that end I like the emphasis on a biblical hermeneutic with its literary, historical and grammatical method of interpretation based on a strong foundation in the original languages. [41, THM]

I liked best.... The teaching and the learning. I enjoyed the Theology classes but the Bible Exposition classes were my favorite. I love going through the Bible as we did in class and finding those nuggets of wisdom. It was a lot of fun. [47, MABS]

I liked best.... The scope of the ThM program. [42, THM]

I liked best.... The theological and biblical education. [52, THM]

I liked best.... The Preaching courses. [66, THM]

I liked best.... The BE, ST, HT, Preaching classes. [79, MACE]

I liked best.... ST 103 Dr.'s Svigel, Horrell, Pocock, R. Allen, Lawson, E. Johnson [97, MACM]

I liked best.... The Bible exposition courses. [105, MABS]

I liked best ....The faculty and HT courses. [113, THM]

I liked best.... Dynamic interaction concerning theological and biblical issues with leaders in ministry. [116, MACE]

I liked best.... Language and exegetical classes. [129, THM]

I liked best.... The HT, ST, OT and NT Departments. [144, THM]

I liked best.... Appreciation for the historic Christianity  Strong stance about the Bible [145, THM]

I liked best.... The Bible exposition and Christian education courses. [178, MACE]

I liked best.... The classes in Church History. [180, THM]

I liked best.... Theology classes [184, MABS]

I liked best.... ST/HT, OT, and NT departments [194, THM]

I liked best.... Also, the amount of self-exploration that is provided within the Biblical Counseling Degree. I feel like I am leaving a more matured believer due to the classes and opportunities for spiritual and personal growth. [201, MABC]

I liked best.... Preaching Classes-theses classes are helpful to reach the preaching idea. [225, STM]

I liked best.... The thorough training received in Bible exposition. [239, MACE]

What I Didn’t Like

It is NOT a Biblical Counseling Degree - it is a SECULAR one!!! change the degree to read Double Major - BIBLE AND SECULAR COUNSELING [12, DMIN]

I liked least.... Divisive comments between departments. We are all dispensationalists. The NT department is not against the BE department, etc. It is uncomfortable to hear interdepartmental bashing, as mild as it may be. We are all committed to interpreting God's truth correctly. At times I think we are more harsh toward each other (within our own campus) than we are toward those outside of DTS. There simply is not enough difference between progressive and revised dispensationalism to merit comment in the classroom. I am not sure if this paragraph has made any sense. [104, THM]

I liked least.... It's very very conservative in terms of media arts. Also, think Dallas knows that one mold doesn't fit everyone... but I think subconsciously this is the pattern for doing things. [148, MAMC]

I liked least.... Is the shortness of the Hebrew block. [35, THM]

I liked least.... Podcast class [107, MACE]
Suggestions for programs/courses (general)

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least.... Some courses were repeated often during my time there, while others that I would have really liked to take were never offered. For example, Dr. Hendricks’ course on “Contemporary Culture” was offered 3-4 times and it seems that “Preaching Contemporary Culture” was offered at least 3 times in the 6 years I was at DTS. It seems that in the last couple years that the D. Min program is focusing more and more on cohorts groups (large church cohorts and women’s ministry cohorts) and as a result the many other interesting topics in the catalogue are decreasing in availability. [9, DMIN]

I liked least.... The struggle to identify itself as either a fully non-denominational institution, or as a Bible church/Baptist school. We have much broader roots than we now reflect. I know we have student from Plymouth Brethern, Presbyterian, Lutheran and other denominations. Many of these brothers and sisters can and do agree with our full doctrinal statement, yet we seem to be in practice making distinctions that our founding fathers (of DTS) did not. Why is this? I would prefer us be more broad, as I think this is our mission, but if we are going to be more narrow, then lets cowboy up and say so in the catalog. [56, THM]

I would like to comment on preaching classes. I found them quite discouraging. They seem designed to help those who entered seminary with prior preaching experience. If you were deficient in such skills, the courses tended to scare you away from preaching, even though I am convinced that first thing that people I will minister to will expect from me is to deliver a quality sermon. I am disappointed in DTS's training in this regard. All of us will/should preach. It takes little skill for an educator to improve upon the skills of a student that is already gifted in an arena of study. Shine by taking the average and below average students to a level of excellence in preaching. [104, THM]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by...I see that the seminary is giving a lot of importance to community. If the same is incorporated in the various classes, it will encourage inter-personal relationships and thus more opportunities for community and spiritual growth. There were some classes which required to work in groups and this gave a different dynamic as well opportunity for relationship. [16, THM]

The seminary could improve by.... There really needs to be an MDiv for Pastoral Track only. [43, THM]

The seminary could improve by... Continue in a like fashion - pushing church involvement from faculty. My only suggestion would be to potentially have assignments which require church interaction. [80, MABS]

The seminary could improve by...I felt like the emphasis on the BE stuff was just getting through all 66 books so that we could say that we did it rather than actually learning the material. granted, it's a lot of stuff, but that forced things to be extremely shallow and really no deeper than reading the chapter headings or going to a sunday school class. With a couple exceptions, I felt like I only got in-depth instruction in the Word through my Greek/Hebrew classes when we were studyign specific books. I feel very frustrated graduating and feeling like I still have no clue about what's going on in the OT half the time because it wasn't ever really taught, and I am planning on re-studying it all for myself following graduation, which makes me feel like the money I spent on the classes that I took over certain areas that were required could have been used better elsewhere. Action Points: 1) BE classes need to be more focused and in-depth. 2) Perhaps have a survey class or two that tie everything together and give the big picture. I didn't feel like I got a good feel for the overall big picture stuff. 3) Perhaps have a Bible Ex track for those who know the languages and a track for those who do not? [83, THM]

The seminary could improve by... I think an increased emphasis in the HT classes in the degree audit would be good. [182, MABS]

The seminary could improve by... In my prophets class, we had to put together a chart on each prophet listing basics like historical and theological background, brief biography of author, a brief outline, theme and message, and other unique characteristics of the book. I wish we did this in every BE course because it was both a great learning experience and will be a great tool for years to come. My other suggestions for improvement are not specific to this program but are specific to extension campuses. I'll save them for later in the expectation that there will be a spot for those later in the survey. [37, MABS]

The seminary could improve by...much more emphasis needs to be placed on practical ministry outside the
The seminary could improve by…There needs to be a better distinction as to what are the moral and ethical problems in culture; cultural renewal and church planting need to become a target discipline at DTS; Christian Education did not help in any of my ministry opportunities and I'm a youth pastor. There needs to be a greater sense of ecclesiastical developments going on abroad and not just in "evangelical, free church, dispensational" churches. Better chapel speakers would increase attendance and excitement over chapel. There needs to be more time and curriculum spent engaging the "giants" of the Christian faith in the systematic classes (i.e., Augustine, Calvin, Luther, Edwards, Wesley, Niebuhr, Barth instead of Ryrie, Walvoord, and Chafer [I understand this is a dispensational school, but one hardly engages with these men on a broader level, outside of the DTS box]). Bible Exposition classes need to be less about personal stories of the profs and more about engaging the text, and the profs being honest enough when the "DTS" answer may not hold water...Dr. Allman is great BE prof that some should take notice of. An MAR or MDiv program should be instituted at DTS, ThM is for the scholars, the MAR and MDiv is for pastors. There needs to be better integration from the Language depts on creating preaching opportunities from the exegetical, perhaps even giving that as part of the exegetical process; "you've done the exegetical work, now preach it to us." There needs to be more encounters with the theological schools outside the DTS bubble, whether that is the liberal, neo-liberal, neo-orthodox, etc. [132, THM]

The seminary could improve by…The ThM needs to incorporate more classes on leadership and practical ministry skills. How can a class on suffering, grief, and dying not be required. Thier needs to be more counseling integrated into the ThM. Does my congregation really care that I can parse a greek and hebrew word if i can't help them when thier in real need? [103, THM]

The seminary could improve by…There needs to be more HT electives! [132, THM]
The seminary could improve by…Further development of ministry to disabled. [140, THM]
The seminary could improve by…improved skills in preaching and in interpretation of the word of God [153, THM]

Could you open official writing class for the international students such as SMU, SWBTS, or Wheaton College? [225, STM]

Suggestions for Programs/Courses (by degree)

What Should Be Changed

**THM.**

The Greek language classes could be reworked to reduce the work load. [16, THM]

More Hebrew exegesis courses! I don't understand why more Greek is required than Hebrew if the Old Testament is so much larger than the New. [36, THM]

Increase the flexibility in course scheduling to accommodate evening students. [38, THM]

More Hebrew and Greek electives offered more often at extensions; Do not reduce the amount of Greek and Hebrew required for ThM. Advanced Hermeneutics BE220 should be a required course. [41, THM]

It has improved my ministry effectiveness as senior pastor [46, THM]

I would say consider changing the B.E. classes somehow for THM students. Some tend to be too entry-level for people who are learning how to do biblical exegesis in the original languages. Perhaps, separate classes for THM students. I don't think the answer is to assign more work for those students. This is more of an issue with the classroom experience and not with the work assignments. [52, THM]

Separate the academic tracks to make them more academic. Have classes that go deeper in theology, use original languages in BE classes and so forth. Some of this is already in progress with ST106 having a separate assignment for ThM students. Those going into academic ministry will need deeper preparation in their chosen field to increase the ability to get into other PhD programs without having to do a leveling MA somewhere else. [56, THM]

I believe that the BE classes, aside from 101, could be replaced with a OT survey and an NT survey, and would be just as or more profitable. Although I enjoyed my professors for these classes, I felt that they were the least profitable and worthwhile classes for my education. I understand this is what DTS prides itself in,
and won't change these from being core curriculum, but I felt like I could study all of these books on my own or with a small group at home (for free;) very briefly, and come away with the same information. More helpful would have been some classes on interpersonal communication, leadership, more missions classes, more Church History classes etc. [61, THM]

The school is great at the languages, but not how to run an elder meeting or how to tell funny illustrations, or how to do a hospital visit! For PM grads, help them learn how to become pastors!!! [62, THM]

Allow ThM students to substitute NT or OT exegesis courses in place of BE courses. [65, THM]

Give more substantive and regular advice in helping students craft and shape their education experience. [75, THM]

Some of the tracks in the THM. are a little awkward. I am graduating with a THM. in Women's Ministry but took the majority of my electives in NT and OT studies. The Interdisciplinary track is useful but it has some components that are cumbersome as well. It might be helpful to review the track requirements. I ran into at least one class that had been changed/no longer offered. And I needed to substitute a different course for the one listed as required in order to graduate on schedule. [76, THM]

I felt like the emphasis on the BE stuff was just getting through all 66 books so that we could say that we did it rather than actually learning the material. granted, it's a lot of stuff, but that forced things to be extremely shallow and really no deeper than reading the chapter headings or going to a sunday school class. With a couple exceptions, I felt like I only got in-depth instruction in the Word through my Greek/Hebrew classes when we were studyign specific books. I feel very frustrated graduating and feeling like I still have no clue about what's going on in the OT half the time because it wasn't ever really taught, and I am planning on re-studying it all for myself following graduation, which makes me feel like the money I spent on the classes that I took over certain areas that were required could have been used better elsewhere. Action Points: 1) BE classes need to be more focused and in-depth. 2) Perhaps have a survey class or two that tie everything together and give the big picture. I didn't feel like I got a good feel for the overall big picture stuff. 3)Perhaps have a Bible Ex track for those who know the languages and a track for those who do not? [83, THM]

More electives in the languages [89, THM]

Focus more on articulating a biblical theology of the OT. A wholistic understanding of the OT was lacking in the Hebrew courses, in my opinion. [94, THM]

I think the interdisciplinary track was well designed! [98, THM]

More exegetical courses for THM students, specifically in different genres. Many BE courses cover so much material that it's hard to retain much. It seems that it would be more beneficial to give broad overviews and then specific exegetical courses in Gospels, Prophecy, wisdom, apocalyptic, etc so that the student is then better equipped to do the work themselves. Also, for PM, there is little to nothing offered on Spiritual Direction or Counseling. I would like to see Pastoral Theology classes have more focus on the rich historical tradition of pastoral ministry and the theology behind pastoral ministry then business and management techniques. [102, THM]

Better address the need for all students to preach well. [104, THM]

Offer more classes in moral philosophy and ethics [115, THM]

Cut the BE classes for academic track students; require for exegetical/theological electives based on concentration. [129, THM]

The program is very academic, but there is not much focus on personal, spiritual growth and spiritual disciplines. We read the Bible because we are studying for class. We pray so that we can do well on tests. We only share the gospel if we do not have homework. I realize that this is a tough balance, but the institution where I did my MDIV struck a good balance. The prized classes at DTS are the academic ones, but at my last institution, the prized classes also included those concerning spiritual disciplines and practical ministry. [136, STM]

Theres needs to be a stronger emphasis on canonical theology, this is strongly emphasized in the PM department, but isn't really emphasized anywhere else. I'd like to see the Bible exposition department teach the theology of each book more. Also, something should be done about the alcohol policy, because from my observation it is not respected. (which is very unfortunate.) [137, THM]

My ministry track was more based on the limitations of doing an internship in the same area. I want to do pastoral ministry, but I was also least intrigued by many of the courses offered in this track. I would have loved to do more of an academic track with an internship in practical ministry, without having to take more courses. [141, THM]

Seek to structure all of the degree program courses with a common thread that links them all together in the Missio Dei. At present, class are only taught in their separate disciplines and they are all learned isolated
from each other. We, as students, struggle desperately to work out how they all fit together holistically and organically in the praxis of life and ministry. [142, THM]

More emphasis on Hebrew in OT104 than OTI. I feel somewhat deficient in Hebrew Exegesis. [167, THM]

Remove CE requirements. [180, THM]

Change its underlying linguistic philosophical assumptions [194, THM]

Actually have a reputable youth ministry program. Jay does a great job with what he has been given but the program needs to be expanded. It is a shame that DTS as a whole does not take youth ministry as a serious ministry, as apparent by the lack professors who think it is a worth while ministry. 2 classes are not enough to adequately teach anyone an effective approach to youth ministry. There should be at least, at the very least 2 more classes added that are specific to youth ministry. [209, THM]

In my opinion, DTS does not focuses on the text but context. So, could you offer classes to understand the world? [225, STM]

There needs to be more flexibility with the student designing his or her degree. From a student perspective it is more motivating to be in charge of your degree and the class options. Some classes are irrelevant for some but necessary for others. Create more freedom in the required classes and allow more room for choices. [229, THM]

**MABC**

I think the new changes to the program that went into effect this year will be very helpful. Allowing a student to tailor a program a little bit more to their interests and ministry calling would be helpful. For example, having access to play therapy/child therapy classes or a specialty in addictions would be helpful. [169, MABC]

Perhaps offer a more specific approach to M.A. BC students only wanting to serve in the church (non-licensed) that is not the THM with Counseling track (Not as relevant to counseling). [175, MABC]

Incorporate more opportunities to observe and then discuss actual counseling sessions and techniques in the classroom. [195, MABC]

Perhaps, saving on-site practicum experiences until the end. Practicum sites are a lot to juggle with a full load of class and outside work. Also, elective courses that aid towards working with children in counseling. [201, MABC]

An on-campus counseling center where students could be monitored and mentored first hand by the staff before being thrust out into the world would go a long way to making BC students feel more secure before practicing out in the field. [206, MABC]

On campus counseling opportunities and guest speakers to address specific crucial issues facing counseling clients. [207, MABC]

Make sure entering students fully understand what goes into getting a license, and how it is different in other states. [215, MABC]

Make the practicum classes LAST so that students would be better equipped as counseling interns. Also, a pre-practicum course should be added testing students on the requirements for the LPC. Also, integrating more practical experience with the theories through more LPC professors or outside speakers. Finally, a better orientation in the beginning to help students understand better what the program is designed to accomplish would have been nice. [228, MABC]

**MABL**

The final course in Hebrew, OT104, focuses greatly on issues in the public square and the pulpit, which are not as relevant for students in the MABEL program anticipating translation. It would have been helpful to have a little more focus on exegesis and on the language. Also, more focus on advanced hermeneutical principles would have been beneficial. Also, the theology of world missions class was the only missions' exposure, meaning I did not develop a strategy for cross-cultural ministry. [200, MABL]
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2010 Graduating Student Survey

**MACE**

I was pretty disappointed with the CE portion of my degree track. I felt the professors, as a whole, were out of touch with the needs and trends of the current church. Many of the professors either had little experience in successful church ministry, or they had very fixed ideas of how things should be done (namely, the way they did it.) [79, MACE]

For most of the online program, I think professor and grader should also go through the video sections. My experience was that grader didn't know what had been covered in the section in details and was not able to correctly grade the paper. Also, professors didn't even know what was actually recorded especially when there are lot of changes been made. Online classes are good but need more coordination. [108, MACE]

Make it more practical, hands on. Some of the courses don't need to be an entire semester. They certainly don't need to be a whole semester of sitting in the classroom. There should be an offer for media communications/christian education combination degree. They could easily be merged together. worship/youth ministry is a normal combo in the church. [123, MACE]

More actual teaching opportunities, like in Dr. Lawson's class where we got to actually teach a lesson. Doing that more frequently and receiving teacher feedback was EXTREMEely helpful to me. Maybe I'm biased, I like Dr. Lawson, maybe have him teach more teaching classes :) But in all seriousness, I was actually able to take what I learned from that experience and IMMEDIATELY incorporate it into my classroom, and have frequently referred back to what I learned. It has honestly been invaluable to me, and I'm very thankful. [133, MACE]

Greater practical (field) experience [159, MACE]

I wish there was a way to add NT 113 and both church histories. I plan on auditing those later though. [240, MACE]

**MACM**

The best and most beneficial class I took for missions was Dr. Horrell's class in Church Planting. He had missionaries from many different fields with a variety of applications come and present to the class. He then challenged us to pick a field and develop a strategy for effective penetration. [39, MACM]

Nothing leaps to mind. I was very pleased with the degree program. [97, MACM]

I think this department needs to be up-dated. It needs to include more classes covering a wide-range of mission issues and opportunities such as urban/city mission work, rural/country mission work and possibly give students a wider/broader look at missions. While focus on cross-cultural ministry is certainly good, I think offering a side of missions that may not be cross-cultural but still missions, would be good. A good example of this is the mission program at Fuller Seminary. This type of mission work is modeled by ministries such as XXX church and To Write Love on Her Arms. [154, MACM]

Add preaching course (PM103)and history courses (HT101, 102)as required courses for students. Part of cross cultural communication is simply having the ability to communicate and that from Scripture - therefore essential for students to know the basics of this. History I believe is important for all degrees, not simply ThM and MABS. Proper history of the church allows missionaries and cross-cultural missionaries to understand where the 'Church' has been in order to propose effective strategies to how we should proceed in the future. I believe all MA programs offered by the seminary are critically lacking without a proper understanding and skill of basic communication and history. [216, MACM]

Have the professors who have been involved in missions or who are internationally born around the different departments sit down with groups of students or make visits to the missions classes to discuss their experiences. There are professors who have dinner nights at their houses occasionally but I think that limits what can be ascertained by a broader range of students on campus. [233, MACM]

**MAMC**

I would love to see the MA Media and Communications more aggressively advancing toward a MFA. I feel like the department is a good but not great! There is a lot of work that needs to be done here. Though I am a MAMC student I wish there was more for me here.... i.e. more courses, more equipment (video cameras, mics), mentorship and etc. Dr. Grant, Dr. Pettit and Wayne Walker are doing the best with what's on his
plate. However, overall I am very satisfied with my education/training. If it had not been for the core courses I would have left the program. I believe that it is a new wave of training/teaching that needs to be birthed because the need is definitely obvious. [148, MAMC]

I think making this program more recognizable is the wave of the future! Explore the opportunity before you. It's monumental! Seize the opportunity! The ThM is necessary and the most recognized program at DTS. However, I wouldn't be surprised if there is an influx of Media Arts students in the next 5 to 10 years... prepare and beef it up! Have uncanny ability to see what's before you. That's all. [148, MAMC]

Opportunities to actually lead worship should be afforded more often to students with a worship specialization. [158, MAMC]

I would've liked more elective classes. We were pretty tied in to what we could and couldn't take. I think a lot of the elective classes offered in the Christian Ed program would also be very applicable and helpful to the MAMC studies program. [217, MAMC]

Get even MORE specific if possible as far as classes go--not only introduction to these things, but really in-depth theory behind these things so I can be specialized in something rather than just had experience in something. also, more web elements please. [223, MAMC]

Without my internship, I don't think I could have answered these as strongly. And, I do not think many people have that experience. Honestly, this degree track has great potential but it has a lot of room for growth--especially on the media side. More classes with multiple levels of advancement need to be added and students need to have more opportunities on campus to use their skills. [236, MAMC]

**D.Min**

The doctor of ministry program provided me with excellent opportunity to learn about ministry. I feel that the following can help enhance the program: 1. The program should constantly consider what the needs of the church are, and be reformed accordingly. Pastoral consultations could be held at DTS to assess such need. For instance, at present, I feel that there is a great need for training bi-vocational ministers who are able to manage secular work, their families and ministry simultaneously. 2. Extension education can be very useful in the DMin program. I feel that creative structuring of extension programs that spans every major city in the US is not too lofty a goal for DTS. 3. Greater integration of technological advances in the DMin program will provide greater reach and impact. Online classes, webcasts, etc. can be useful not only in the US but in other countries as well. 4. Cooporative programs with other like-minded seminaries and other para-church institutions will foster both wider reach and Christian unity. 5. Links to churches outside the Dallas area can be very useful in maintaining the vital link to the body of Christ. Keep up the good work! [10, DMCE]

Have Dr John Townsend chair the dept and change the way Biblical Counseling is taught at DTS - ie - actually TEACH BIBLICAL COUNSELING!!!!!!! I did do the above - but not directly as a result of my experience at DTS - maybe in spite of... [12, DMIN]

**Ph.D.**

Put more emphasis on German. Make library books more accessible to students by shortening the time in which faculty may keep books. Allow more flexibility on the length of dissertations--or else advise students to select very narrow topics. In the NT Backgrounds course make 100% of the required reading be from primary sources. Require more reading of the works of figures such as Bultmann who have been influential shaping the discipline of NT studies. Make NTTC a required course, since it is one of the comp. exams. Staff I especially appreciate are Sarah Jo Eversole and Debbie Hunn. [59, PHD]

**What I Liked**

I liked best .... DTS is great for studying and growing spiritually. [33, MABS]
I liked best .... I grew significantly spiritually. I really appreciated the theology classes I took under Dr. Krieder. I was challenged to think outside my box theologically and have come to a greater understanding of God. [53, MABC]
I liked best .... The spiritual environment - the emphasis on your personal walk with God - along with discerning subject matters of strong convictions compared to subject matters of opinions so as to maintain unity rather than create disunity. [80, MABS]
I liked best… The experience was spiritually challenging, growing, and rewarding. [99, THM]

**What I Didn’t Like**

As far as Christ - likeness I think I'm just not a good judge of that myself. [52, THM]
I believe Spiritual Maturity is something the Spirit must bring about in a person's life, not something that can be offered by the Seminary. My growth or lack thereof is tied to my walking by the Spirit, and the Seminary cannot be held accountable, good or bad, for that. [61, THM]
I liked least… Not too much time devoted to corporate payer among students. The new prayer chapel is a great idea. [179, MACE]

**What Should Be Changed**

The seminary could improve by...I agree with the above statements but I could agree more strongly if there was greater integration of prayer, ministry, and academics. I think there an unhealthy overemphasis on academics. [118, THM]

The seminary could improve by...I felt as if my expression of love for others waned from the time I entered seminary to the time I left. I think this was largely as a result of busyness. I think that many classes could be more gospel and grace focused in their teaching. Some teachers do a great job of relating subject material to the Lord, the One we love, the Reason why we are studying. Perhaps 'Spiritual Formation' should not be relegated to a separate experience but more emphasized in the classroom with Student to Student and Student to Professor relations. Again, students and staff are so busy with tasks that many opportunities to grow in godliness are passed by. [143, THM]

The seminary could improve by...It might help to re-word the statements/questions. Maturation is complex, and thus it was unfortunate to only have the simple "agree/disagree" options. Do you mean ALL aspects of "spiritual life and Christlike character"? Then I'd have to disagree. Are you referring to just some aspects? If so, which ones? I might be able to agree if the statements/questions were worded differently. [150, THM]

**Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Formation Groups**

**What I Liked**

Spiritual formation group [26, MABS]

**What I Didn’t Like**

I liked least…. The structure of the Spiritual Formation program. When I entered DTS, I thought it was going to be more prayer and accountability focused. Instead, it seemed to be completely curriculum driven. Even when we ran into a family emergency and I had to spend some time away from campus, my group was completely on board and ready to keep up through email prayer requests and phone calls. But the response of the SF office was only did you complete the curriculum? and did you fulfill your attendance requirements? I felt that the SF office did not reflect the attitude they claimed the program was meant to foster in the students. [183, MACE]
What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... The spiritual formation needs to have interaction with the professors so that they can assist in the spiritual formation of the student. I have been at the DTS campus for 4 years and never has my advisor met with me. The advisor, in my opinion, should spiritually lead his/her students much like a pastor does the members of his congregation. While my intellectual knowledge grew during my time at DTS, my love relationship with God suffered greatly. I can name only a few professors who made it evident to the student that they were more (or equally) concerned about the student’s spiritual growth as they were about transmitting educational fact. [95, THM]

The seminary could improve by... I think one possible solution is to put better resources into the spiritual formation program. By that I mean, use the professors as spiritual formation leaders. If spiritual formation is so important to DTS, don’t have peers leading other peers in this endeavor. This is not to say that students cannot learn from other students. They can. However, I believe that one of the main reasons that students choose to come to DTS is the quality of the professors. Put them in charge of a spiritual formation group where they can develop deep relationships with the students and mentor them. They have vast amounts of ministry experience and wisdom that they cannot share during class due to time and curriculum, and they have only a limited number of office hours. Have the professors take a group of students under their wing for four semesters and observe the results. [190, THM]

The seminary could improve by... I would like to see consideration given for ministry experience within the Spiritual Formation group and internship requirements. With 15 to 20 years of experience and ministry, the programs could be tailored to fit the individual rather than make a blanket requirement that does not consider quality of time already invested in lives, education, and ministry. [48, MACE]

Workload, time compression

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least .... The difficulty of balancing my life, work, family, and studies. [15, CGS]
I liked least .... Hectic schedule that does not give any time for reflection and ministry [16, THM]
I liked least .... My lack of involvement in the church (outside of regular church attendance and helping in the nursery) was a result of things going on in my own life (a mom with cancer and a struggling marriage) and should not reflect on DTS. [44, CGS]
I liked least .... The workload. The vast amount of good projects we do in class kept me from enjoying the process as much as I could have. I had a hard time knowing what was important; many times, I wasn’t sure if they professors even knew. [67, MACB]
I liked least.... Like most things in life - there is so much information that I feel like the soaking in of information lacks. Not sure how to rectify this as it pertains to the academic world. [80, MABS]
I liked least.... The amount of work. the number of classes for the languages was necessary because it took a long time to master it...ok. I didn't master it, but learned how to work with at a competent level. Again, I felt that some classes required more work than was necessary to get the point across, World Missions especially. [89, THM]
I liked least.... The overemphasis on analysis which results in so much busywork. to be honest, a great deal of the information i was expected to compile required no depth of research and was readily available on wikipedia, as a grad school, the constant charting and formula diagramming seemed to be a step backward and was counterproductive--rather than come to our own conclusions and take ownership of the text, busywork tends to inspire one to copy and paste and miss the importance. [96, MAMB]
I liked least.... I assessed my growth in participation in local ministry during my seminary years as neutral. I had been serving in several areas prior to starting seminary studies, and as a part-time student, having a full-time secular job, and significant volunteer efforts in my local church, I was not able to participate more than I had. [111, MABS]
I liked least.... The break neck pace of life during these four years and the feeling that I could have gained more out of the program if I has stretched it out more. [130, THM]
I liked least.... ...that it took me six years to finish a two year degree. [97, MACM]
I liked least.... Busy, hectic workloads...Why all the professors wants their assignments before breaks?
I liked least.... The amount of required BE courses.
I liked least.... Information overload in some classes [167, THM]
I liked least.... The plethora of books required, though I imagine that is inescapable and am the better for having read them. [173, MABC]
I liked least.... The volume of work in some of the classes (ie., 2 exegeticals in the same course) [174, THM]
I liked least.... The work load and not teaching us how to balance it all. If we don't have people modeling balance, how are we to implement this in ministry in a healthy manner so as to have a healthy family life not marked by unhealthy devotion to job? [186, MABC]
I liked least.... The pressure - but I don't know that there's anything that can be done about that. Class demands seemed almost overwhelming at some points, but then you get through it and you move on. [192, MACM]
I liked least.... The amount of reading and work for each class is difficult to complete while being an active minister in one's community. [201, MABC]
I liked least.... The amount of work required for each class. [215, MABC]
I liked least.... The stress of grades [218, MABC]
I liked least.... Required papers that did not allow for flexibility to tweak for my degree program. such as inability to turn a research paper into a research presentation instead. Some teachers allowed this--others, no. All the required research would be there--but I would be able to get the most out of MY degree. [223, MABC]
I liked least.... TOO MUCH READING - all of it wasn't necessary. [228, MACB]
I liked least.... The amount of school work is cumbersome. It is very hard to work full-time or even part-time, be married, and go to school. I do not see how married families with kids can possibly survive. DTS is a very academic place and sometimes i feel very inadequate because I cannot spend as much time as i would like doing schoolwork. [229, THM]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by…Seminary is a place of stress. Students felt called to serve the Lord by coming to seminary. So they want to do the best they can. The fact is that not all of us learn the same way. CE101 teaches learning styles. Traditional classes use lecture. Only analytical learning-style students appreciate the lecture. Other students with different learning styles can not learn as effective as analytical. To reduce their stress and to increase effectiveness in learning, teachers can explore more creative teaching methods in classes. [11, THM]
The seminary could improve by… Interpersonal skills, I don't think, can be developed in an academic setting. Most people are introverted to the extreme in this setting, and those that aren't become this way in order to be able to study for classes and do the work required. The only way to improve this would be to either lighten the coarse load or have a ton more social outings. I don't think either would be particularly helpful. [52, THM]
The seminary could improve by… streamlining the activities in the classroom. The professors could spend a few minutes at the beginning of the semester stating (1) the most important thing that a student should get out of the class and (2) the best way to invest limited time in the course. The program could also improve by emphasizing the acquisition of learning by the student (much like Dr. Edwards' CE103 course--awesome!) rather than the sharing of information by the professor (like giving a bunch of notes from a random book that we haven't read). I really valued the times in class when we wrestled with and were held accountable for understanding issues from the world, the text, or class discussion. I would have liked to grow more in the area of learning how to think rather than just reading a bunch of stuff. [67, MACB]
The seminary could improve by…I don't think the seminary program could be improved to help me grow in maturity in Christ. I think that part of the seminary experience is learning how to grow and mature in spite of the strong pressures of deadlines and commitments. Sometimes this is more of a struggle than others but the process of having to learn this balance while going through seminary is very helpful. I don't think the seminary should try to do anything to change the level of pressure that students face because this pressure will be present in ministry as well. It may be helpful to be more open about the reality of this pressure and the pitfalls that we can easily fall into as we try to complete our courses with integrity and excellence while still growing in Christlikeness. We only have time to do so much and so
learning to give up an A in exchange for more time in personal reflection or study is part of seminary. It's the learning that happens outside the classroom, but it is a very important part of the curriculum. [76, ThM]

The seminary could improve by…The program failed in developing interpersonal skills for students, though other opportunities that I have through ministry and church utilized this. The seminary needs to consider ways to lighten the load of reading as opposed to discussion...less books and more depth of discussion with the books assigned. For media, there are resources, but in general, there wasn't the emphasis placed on proper presentation skills and it would have been helpful to have a greater emphasis on this. [141, THM]

The seminary could improve by…Less papers assigned and more practical ministry assignments. People learn more by doing than writing. I can write about loving others or i can go out and do it, reflect on it, then write about it. I understand the need for papers, but they have done little to enhance personal intimacy with Christ and reveal the love of Christ to others. [229, THM]

Evening program and Summer School

I liked best.... The flexibility of schedule. [114, MACE]

Extension Program
and Online Courses

What I Liked
I liked best.... I was thrilled with the help I received when I began my online class, and in postponing enrollment for a term. [6, CGS]
I liked best.... Great online courses. Good communication. [71, MABS]
I liked best… the iTunes University! [119, MABS]
I liked best.... It’s Online [203, CGS]

What I Didn’t Like
I liked least.... how disconnected extension students are from DTS and the lack of community for and communication with extension students. I realize this may be unique to the smaller extension campuses because when I've taken classes in Houston, they seem to have a much stronger community. [37, MABS]
I liked least.... The treating the extensions like step children is very myopic; they are your future. [41, THM]
For half my seminary experience I was on the main Dallas campus as a full time student, and the other half as an extension campus student in Tampa. I also traveled to Dallas for a winter-term class, and took numerous online courses. This is my second Masters degree, my first being in Library and Information Science. Little e-mail communication was directed specifically at extension campus students, and information for extension campus-specific items and requirements was very difficult to find on the website or in any paperwork. As a Dallas campus student, I was very impressed with the professors and their range of personal teaching styles and viewpoints. As an extension campus student, I discovered that the rest of my entire seminary experience would be taught through the lenses of fewer than five professors if I wanted face-to-face classes. In a comparison of the courses taught at the Dallas campus, online, and at the Tampa extension campus, by far the deepest and most high-level learning experience was on the Dallas campus. The Tampa extension classes were more like the first and second year undergraduate Bible college courses I took at Taylor University, with lower expectations of the extension students than those expected from students at DTS main campus. This said, is the education received at a DTS extension campus really the same as that received at the main campus? I would say no. If it is not of the same quality, than should the same degrees be given for study at the extension campus? And if so, are you not both deceiving the extension student and putting the reputation of the school at risk? The extension student does not view himself as an “extension student”; of Dallas. He views himself as a “soon to be graduate”; of Dallas, and will express that view to others. If the quality of the extension student's education is not of the same depth, then the organizations which hire these people are being deceived.
The reputation of the school will suffer accordingly. When I think about the difference between the extension experience and the DTS campus experience, there are some things that just can't be reproduced at the extension campus. These include being in chapel with 600 others singing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."; it includes walking into Mosher Library, doing research into a topic I thought was somewhat small, but when I see rows of books written by people researching this topic, I am overwhelmed by the vastness of this topic. On campus, I have the privilege to see 40 different professors, each different, yet all passionate in their love for Christ. On Dallas campus I find myself humbled in the midst of others struggling and learning the languages, being affected by the humility of realizing that this message that God has given is much deeper than my mere English reading ability. I realize I stand indebted to others who have searched out, identified the meanings of these words, and wrestled with the possible interpretations, each one being viewed through grammar and syntax. Unfortunately, in the extension experience the student isn't given the privilege of seeing and appreciating that depth. They are not given the privilege to realize that questions are much deeper than they are led to believe. They are given answers too easily formed, and possibly merely suggested, by a professor, rather than having to personally struggle through and wrestle with the languages and realize, even then, there are good men who differ on their understandings. Both students at the main campus and the extension campus are introduced to the same topics, but are not given the benefit of the same process, struggle, and humble consequence through those two different paths. I would posit that, while the extension experience is better than none, and better than many, it is NOT the equivalent of an education from the DTS main campus, and should be described and viewed as such. This is the only honest way to protect the reputation of the school. I do not desire this to be an anonymous response. Therefore: My name is Alicia McConnell and if you would like to discuss any of these things my telephone number is (727)501-6761. My father, a DTS graduate in the THM program (1978), and D.Min (Biola U., 1985) audited all face-to-face Tampa classes with me and would be happy to discuss his observations as well. If you would like to contact him, his number is (727)319-5690. I desire the best for Dallas Theological Seminary and am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the school and learn from its professors and staff. [49, MABS]

I liked least.... Losing weekend classes in Tampa. Friday/Saturday is a hard run, even professors lose steam around 2 on Saturday. Every weekend class had someone sleeping at some point. [105, MABS]

I liked least.... On-line courses are important and necessary, especially for part-time students in extension classes. However, I missed the engagement of professors and classmates in these classes. In addition, with respect to the on-line classes, many students post late and/or with responses that lack substance. [111, MABS]

I thought class interaction in online courses counted for an unreasonably high and unfair percentage of our grade. Although I recognize it's important, we never interacted near that much in regular class and it just didn't seem to be reasonable to be such a weighty portion of the online grade. [133, MACE]

I liked least.... On-line class communication (on the class side, not technical side) was sporadic with the GTA's. Some questions were answered quickly, others never were answered. Communication with professors, however, was exceptional throughout my time here. They were quick to respond, thorough, and attentive to needs. [157, THM]

I liked least.... The interaction part of online courses is not helpful. [169, MABC]

I liked least.... Need significant improvements in the skill sets of the videographer and audio engineers for online classes. It is a simple matter of training that a 101 class in video and audio would benefit. [203, CGS]

I liked least.... Fewer degree programs online [214, CGS]

I can only go so far on-line. [234, CGS]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... I truly enjoyed my time at DTS. It was without a doubt a time God used to train and prepare me for ministry. The only issue I would suggest is that you make the online classes more realistic. Instead of 2-3 weekly assignments that results in busy work (or "jump through the hoop" work), give them the exact same assignments as the normal class. Thanks for everything. Grace and Peace. [193, THM]

Allow online completion of THM [203, CGS]

Provide more online courses [214, CGS]
Offer some more practical skills courses at the extension campuses. [227, MABS]

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**Student Life**

**Campus atmosphere**

**What I Liked**

I liked best… Atmosphere - Being on campus feels like a little bit of heaven - the teachers, chapel, staff, and especially students all seem closer to HIM here - and they reflect that daily. Wow! [17, CGS]

I liked best… Faculty and the other students. [33, MABS]

I liked best… The people I have met here and the media classes I took. [63, MAMC]

I liked best… Relationships built in community [77, MABC]

I liked best… Academic environment was inspiring...loved being among such incredible professors, students and administrators. [78, MABS]

I liked best… Feeling a part of history [97, MACM]

I liked best… The Staff and peers. [114, MACE]

I liked best… The interaction with other D. Min. students and the professors [125, DMIN]

I liked best… The community of students is by and large very supportive and close-knit as well. [128, THM]

I liked best… The professors and students [146, MABS]

I liked best… Its community [147, THM]

I liked best… I think there is a lot of grace. Which is why I don't understand the no drinking policy, it seems very legalistic and not in line with the rest of the pulse of the school. [169, MABC]

I liked best… The gracious and loving environment--seen in staff, faculty, and students. [236, MAMC]

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**What I Didn’t Like**

I liked least…. Her somewhat insular nature. [10, DMCE]

I understand it and realize there is probably no changing it. Dr. Reed is the one who helped me understand, but still, some of the discomfort I felt from some of the men (old and young) made me feel rejected and as if something was wrong with me. I understand now that they were simply guarding their boundaries, but often it is done with such vehemence that it feels like hostility. [39, MACM]

I liked least…. Lack of campus life at Dallas Seminary. [43, THM]

I liked least…. Lack of student life for those living off campus. [70, THM]

I liked least…. It is an institution, which implies that it can be influenced by money and prestige. [94, THM]

I liked least…. That they are more concerned and focused on knowledge rather than the student's spiritual formation. [95, THM]

I liked least…. The complaining from the students [86, THM]

I liked least…. The pride and smugness we often demonstrate in our attitudes toward other members of the body who differ with us theologically, it's quite nauseating. I think we could be more loving and less critical. [133, MACE]

I liked least…. The environment created mainly by the students...the feel of the seminary tends to be elitist in nature and the questions by many students are asked in a rude or condescending way, unlike other settings for ministry. This is more of a student problem than seminary one, however. [141, THM]

I liked least…. That I didn't have a chance to make better friends. I lived off campus and didn't take advantage of many on campus get-togethers. [134, MACE]

I liked least…. The environment created mainly by the students...the feel of the seminary tends to be elitist in nature and the questions by many students are asked in a rude or condescending way, unlike other settings for ministry. This is more of a student problem than seminary one, however. [141, THM]

I liked least…. Not too much time devoted to corporate payer among students. The new prayer chapel is a great idea. [179, MACE]
I liked least.... A continued, quiet undertone of preference of married, male students. I understand that they are the vast majority and the history of the Seminary, but if the Seminary is willing to admit females, they need more of a voice. [182, MABS]

I liked least.... The emphasis on pastoral ministry to the exclusion of others at times. [200, MABL]

I liked least.... The general atmosphere present that persons in higher degree plans such as the ThM are more significant and credible than those in an MA or CGS simply because of their credentials. Too little emphasis and appreciation of those who are in practice ministry. [202, MABS]

I liked least.... Insular focus on like-minded believers, over-emphasis on accommodating professors, not enough on meeting needs of students. Change seems VERY slow at DTS. [212, MABS]

Tends towards an ivory tower [159, MACE]

The feeling that all other degrees other than the THM are unimportant. [224, MACE]

**Rules and Policies**

**What I Didn’t Like**

I liked least.... The rumblings I hear about how it is leaving some of it biblical foundations. I've not seen this in any of the courses I took but I’ve heard of it (when the old generation at DTS dies watch out. I would give little credence to this thinking except for the fact that the seminary allows women to teach men in some courses and in chapel. While none of the courses I had at DTS were taught by women, I know that there is at least one female professor who teaches both men and women. I have also seen more than once that our chapel speaker is a woman. This is disturbing to me that a school that stands strongly on the Bible would have what seems to be such an obvious blind-spot, going directly against what the Scriptures teach in 1 Timothy 2:12 and 1 Cor 14:34-35. I understand that DTS’ response to this issue is that they are not a church, and therefore these verses do not apply. By the same logic, I don’t see what would keep DTS from potentially saying that other teachings in the Pastoral Epistles, such as the qualifications required of church leaders in 1 Tim 3:1-7, are not applicable to their staff since they are not a church. Who is to say a parachurch leader has to be a “one woman man” or “above reproach” since those qualifications are given directly to the church and they are not the church? Frankly I find this rejection of clear biblical teaching for Christians in parachurch settings as potentially dangerous. It seems to me that this way of thinking (which is being taught and modeled to the students) could lead DTS graduates in parachurch ministries to jettison Scriptural teachings which are inconvenient to follow because “we’re not the church.” And what would DTS be able to say to them? “We didn’t mean for you to apply the ‘we’re not the church’ thinking to that area.” But why not? Once employed and modeled in the seminary, what is to stop them from continuing on? I’m at a loss to explain how a school so strongly founded on the Bible can give such a weak answer to a clear biblical teaching. Since DTS agrees that 1 Timothy 2:12 prohibits women from teaching and having authority over men in the church it should apply this to their own setting, especially in chapels that mimic the worship and practice of the church. We naturally apply the Bible in parachurch settings because even though we are not the church, we recognize that we are part of Christ’s body and His commands to us apply wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. To disobey the command of 1 Timothy 2:12 and to model it to pastors who are then supposed to remember not to do what they saw in chapel… doesn’t make sense. Do we really expect them to do differently than what we’ve modeled for them? [9, DMIN]

I liked least.... The weakened stance on the role of women in the church [40, THM]

I liked least.... Some of the policies--they are not really enforced so why have them, like dress code for example. [63, MAMC]

I liked least.... The rigid rules for students that seem to be based on fundamentalist donors and not a reflection of people who work here or go here. if people can’t come here and be responsible, then maybe they shouldn't be here in the first place. [123, MACE]

I liked least.... The doctrinal rigidity (police state) on the seven points -- I think it inhibits learning. [129, THM]

I liked least.... The dress code is outdated. [144, THM]

I liked least.... Alcohol policy [147, THM]

I liked least.... The immaturity of the student body: total disregard and abuse of the dress code; disrespect toward professors in classrooms by not paying attention, playing games on computers, texting, coming in late,
leaving early; eating during class and leaving wrappers, bottles, spills, and crumbs I expected graduate school to be a place where the level of maturity was far greater than it was - some days I felt I was in kindergarten [149, MABC]  
I liked least…. Unbiblical policies. . The various rules and policies i.e. dress code, drinking policy, etc. are not helpful for the student. Rather than freeing a student to live out the gospel they simply impose unbiblical rules on students for no legitimate reason. These rules just set up the student to fail and can easily promote legalism and self-righteousness. They are completely out of place at a seminary where the Gospel of Christ is the core message and foundation. I do realize doing away with these rules is easier said than done as monetary funds and other means of support may be withdrawn from the seminary were these policies retracted. Still this must be said. [154, MACM]  
I liked least…. I think there is a lot of grace. Which is why I don't understand the no drinking policy, it seems very legalistic and not in line with the rest of the pulse of the school. I am a responsible adult, capable of Biblically and Theologically evaluating my stance on alcohol. Its very legalistic. [169, MABC]  
I liked least…. I don't love the dress code. Haha. [182, MABS]  
I liked least…. The legalistic nature of some of the rules. It seems like they baby us and don't let us learn to make choices in the grey areas. [208, THM]  
I liked least…. A few legalistic things like the dress code and drinking policy that do not accurately represent the culture in which we are engaging, its insistence upon revised dispensationalism and not branching out a little more theologically. [230, MACM]  
I liked least…. The almost legalistic approach that DTS takes on issues, that does limit the ministry of some students. [231, MACE]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by…The seminary needs to be speaking in terms of the modern-day methodologies (i.e., emerging churches, postmodernism, etc.) Most profs are not aware of the current trends in evangelicalism; most students I know are not dispensational; most profs don't seem to be very dispensational; This school seems to institutionalized and not relevant enough. People see their jobs as JOBS, instead of ministries. Ministry is not 8-5, yet that is how this school is run. It is not run on grace, it is run on legalism. 4:30 the doors shut!!! I'm glad those people aren't in ministry. You can't shut the doors in ministry.

Diversity

What I Liked
I liked best… The interaction with students and faculty from all cultures. [151, MABS]

Student Government

ALso with Student Government- i served on it, but was unhappy with the way electing and voting was gone about. Also i feel there needs to be more emphasis on younger families (on campus as well as housing) (couples w/o children), sometimes b/c of all the family activities (to be blunt- corny events) younger married couples are neglected. (that of course is just personal experience) [189, MABC]
Administration

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least... Seeming shuffle of staff in administration. Does not seem to have consistency and certainty. Does anyone know what the other guy knows? [4, DMCE]

In my 4 years here, I have never met Dr. Bailey [62, THM]

I liked least.... What is required for accreditation. [119, MABS]

Cost

I liked least... The cost [2, CGS]
I liked least... The expensive classes [34, MACE]
I liked least... I did not like paying for Baylor Fitness facilities which I never used because I live in Denton. [64, MACE]
I liked least... Advising, and cost [75, THM]
I liked least... Th price tag....but I got what I paid for. [84, MACE]
I liked least... Cost. [120, THM]
I liked least... The cost of tuition. [128, THM]
I liked least.... I'm disappointed with the tuition rate. The money is worth it, but in my ideal world DTS would be more affordable. [158, MAMC]
I liked least... Cost! However, I also recognize that there is not much that could be done in this respect. [161, MACE]
I liked least... The price of tuition. [163, THM]
I liked least.... While I understand that scholarship money is limited, I felt I was caught in an in between -- I needed to work full-time in order to pay for classes. But since I was taking only enough classes for part-time status, I paid more per-hour and was ineligible for an scholarship. I'd love for the Seminary to reconsider that decision. [182, MABS]
I liked least... Tuition on the other hand... a little pricy [193, THM]
I liked least.... The cost, the way it feels a little muddled together right now. [219, MACE]
I liked least.... The price--I honestly could have learned so much more if I did not have to work so much to put myself through. [236, MAMC]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by... I'm afraid that the future plan of having no tuition cost is a bad move. I think that a lot of the amenities will disappear and this will become a sterile environment that not even SF can save. Perhaps cutting tuition in half would be better. [43, THM]

Graders

I liked least .... While I enjoyed the homiletics course by Haddon Robinson, a problem in the course was that it was graded by another person who had slightly different standards and emphases than the professor. This disconnect between the lecture and evaluation was a weakness. Also, no clear grading criteria were given to the students, so one was left trying to hit a somewhat unclear target. • “Writing for Publication” was 95% about being published and only about 5% on how to write. There needs to be more balance between these two aspects, or the name and description of the course needs to be changed. I came in expecting to be taught how to write but instead learned almost exclusively about the publication process. Another weakness is that none of the pre-session homework was graded. I put a lot of work into these writing assignments hoping to get some pointers on how to improve and was very disappointed when I found out
from the professor that none of them would be graded. I flew across the country to audit this class because I wanted to become a better writer for the Lord. As a part of that I expected to have my work graded. At a minimum I hoped that the students would critique and evaluate one another’s writing or that we would do this with our pre-seminar writing projects as a class during class. While I enjoyed the course and the professor and learned many interesting things about publishing, I learned very little about the skill of writing. [9, DMIN]

My largest frustrations was the inconsistancy with Graders. This surfaced often over grading what Turabian means. I do not think that there are two graders who agree on what its format is suppose to be. Many of the Graders wether Ph. D students or TH. M students doing their internship lacked good quality feedback and were not well enough studied to be authorities on topics they had to grade. I always found the comments and encouragement written by the professors as much more helpful than the graders. [23, MACB]

I liked least... In the online courses, the graders graded very differently. [89, THM]

I liked least .... Graders who focus on Kate Turabien rather than the content of a paper. I can imitate Kate, I would have liked more input on writing than on margins. Examples of writing by students from DTS might have been helpful. [105, MABS]

I liked least .... GTAs and the major disconnect between profs and GTAs. It is like they aren't communicating. The prof expects one thing and even approves something, but the real person grading it is someone you don't even know. I have had experiences with some good GTAs and some very bad GTAs. Some are in tune with the prof. Others are like upper classmen in a fraternity that are looking to haze the freshmen. It is as though there attitude is: 'Now it's my turn to sticking to someone!' This is very apparent in online classes. I think DTS needs to be more discriminative in who they allow to be GTAs. Definately doctors that aren't profs, and doctoral students should not be GTAs at all. They have a tendency to place their doctoral standard on masters students. This is especially apparent in personal reflection assignments. Please don't ask for my personal opinion and then ding me for not being scholarly...It is also as if the GTAs aren't reading the syllabus description of some of the assignments. [240, MACE]

### Admissions

The adequate answers, competent knowledge, humble attitude and lack of demeaning other seminaries from Bleeker in the admissions help win me over to DTS. Keep it up! and that was over 5 years ago. [120, THM]

Some students should not be here. Screening process in admissions need to be reevaluated. [187, THM]

### Book Center

I learned to not order books from the book center... out of probably 15 orders of books about 13 of them had an error. [75, THM]

### Campus Communications

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

Unfortunately I don't remember his name but a guy in the “tape/media department”; really went out of his way to get me chapel messages before they were online. He also sent me a tape catalog. I was blessed by these messages and his desire to help me even though it wasn't his job. [9, DMIN]

More information about online services and computer access on campus will be helpful. I felt that student services didn't provide any services to those of us who lived off-campus. I'm glad to see that alumni services are improving. Overall, although I feel DTS has areas that need improving, the staff and faculty are outstanding in their service to us and their love for the Lord. [10, DMCE]

As for written campus communications ... the Kerygma is a great idea. The only problem is that the person in charge of that now makes way too many mistakes. Links don't work, announcements are left out, etc. As for Jot and Tittle, unless the editorial position becomes more permanent I don't see it improving much. I
think the editorial position should be a paid position within the Student Services Department or Communications Department. I was at DTS three years and there were three different editors, only one of which did anything. [29, MACE]

I liked least… Lack of communication. I thought communication overall was poor. When the seminary was struggling financially, there was never, to my knowledge, any official communication from the admin. I heard lots of rumors (faculty were going to be laid off, students who worked on campus were getting laid off) and had a couple of professors pray before class about vague financial struggles. [157, THM]

The seminary could improve by…

Campus Police

What Should Be Changed

Campus police need to spend more time on campus security and less time give out parking tickets. [57, DMIN]

I feel I was given a parking ticket unfairly. I submitted an explanation and was denied and had no way to contest it in person. Regardless of this, I always had good interactions with police [84, MACE].

The seminary could improve by… in response to the campus police- I don’t mean to discredit their work, my point is due to the growing of campus and the continuing crime (myself included twice ) I feel there need to be further measures taken to prevent this. For example a police station at the corner of swiss and St. Joseph (b/w swiss and Washington. [189, MABC]

Center for Christian Leadership

In my 4 years here, I have never been offered by the (CCL) Leadership department to help me realize my skill sets or gifting, (by the way, what in the heck does the center for christian leadership even DO? Does it benefit the students in any way, shape or form? Most students are growing bitter about the seemingly lack of concern for graduates). [ 62, THM]

Leadership Department is not effective. Who are they? What do they do? I don't sense from them any urgency to create real leaders. I don't really know what they want to accomplish, except make you take ineffective SF classes and perform and intership. If this place really wants to create servant leaders and not simply scholars, we need to do a much better job of integrating the Leadership Center with the everyday life of students. At least those at Washington and Swiss. There is no reason this could not be done more effectively. [103, THM]

Chapel Programs

What I Liked

I liked best… Chapel time [156, THM]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least…. mandatory chapel attendance [26, MABS]

I liked least…. I have been disappointed in the direction that I feel the chapel services are headed in the past four years. I guess I might have the wrong expectations or have misunderstood what role chapel is supposed to serve. I need to hear Christ preached each day and to have my gaze lifted from the drudgery of the task at hand to fix my eyes on the glory of God. That's what I want in a chapel, give me the good news of the grace of the gospel. [143, THM]

I liked least… Concerning Chapel: I did not always find chapel particularly engaging or relevant to issues students are facing upon graduation. I think more dynamic and younger speakers would greatly aid the student's experience and take-away in chapel. [154, MACM]
I liked least... Chapel messages that address only a man's role in a marriage (spring 09), a vastly homogeneous faculty, etc continue to subtly perpetuate the idea that only men are fit for ministry. I appreciate the great strides that the Seminary has made to include women in preparation for ministry, but I feel that there continue to be areas to improve. [182, MABS]

Regarding Chapel, you should seriously consider having more panel discussions (1 every week or two weeks) with different professors discussing 1) their ministry/mission experiences 2) prevalent theological debates and topics in and outside the DTS arena. [233, MACM]

**Classroom/Facility Conditions**

I liked least... The campus is beautiful and well kept. I felt safe and enjoyed walking on campus at all times of days and evenings. [29, MACE]

I liked least... crowded desks in Todd 114/5, and some classes were just way too large. [32, THM]

I liked least... Classrooms/desks in Todd third floor are not set up well for learning. [84, MACE]

I liked least... The fact that even though I am part-time, I am included as a part of the school Hanging out in Mitchell to eat and being able to get a coffee for class The beautiful landscape that reminds me of the loveliness of all God created. Wonderful chapel speakers Chaplain Bill's humor The fact that I am a different person since I have been at DTS. I love God in a deeper richer way. I look forward to coming to know Him beyond DTS. [117, MACE]

I liked least... Great facilities also. [179, MACE]

I liked least... The chairs in TODD consistently caused lower back pains when sat in longer than 3 hours and I am a very active person. [207, MABC]

**D.Min Office**

I liked least... The staffing and administration. I am not criticizing and I realize there is no quick and easy fix but the change of personnel in the office and the direction of some of the course work, especially the dissertation could have been more helpful. The seeming shuffle of staff in administration. Does not seem to have consistency and certainty. Does anyone know what the other guy knows? I sometimes felt that I was lost in details and cared for but not well instructed. [4, DMCE]

That it afforded me the opportunity to gain a doctoral level degree without having to move from my ministry in Huntsville, AL. [191, DMIN]

**Financial Aid Services**

I liked least... it doesn't seem to make sense that financial aid is only available for full-time folks (12+ hours) who work. This just made life way too strained. [32, THM]

I liked least... financial Aid for extension students should not carry a 3 hour minimum, and should be available for every semester including summer. Many extension students are working professionals who take more summer classes and night classes, and two hour classes in any given term. Those are times when we need the most financial aid. [48, MACE]

I liked least... As far as financial aid goes, that was my only unsatisfied issue. I feel that if you are a good steward of your money and “save”; while attending seminary and working 20 hours a week, you almost get penalized for this. Maybe that's the system though. [77, MABC]

I liked least... Its lack of financial support for part-time students and the rigidity they adhere to regarding what degree program they strongly suggest students with certain focuses to partake of. [81, MACE]

I liked least... The lack of financial aid for accelerated semesters like Summer and Winter. [88, MACE]

I liked least... Is the requirements for scholarships. Though I was not as effected, taking 12 credits and working part time while having a family is too much to ask and it leads to poor students, poor workers, and poor husbands and fathers. [162, THM]
Food Services

I liked least.... The food is a little expensive in Mitchel. [233, MACM]

Housing and Relocation Office and Residence Halls

I liked least.... My experiences at Stearns (poor living conditions) were prior to the new building being constructed. This might no longer be applicable. [30, MABS]
The elevators are always broken in Swiss. Otherwise Swiss is awesome. Stearns was falling apart and was not cared for when I lived there. [43, THM]
I liked least.... Being forced to move out of Swiss Tower before I had finished my program because of restrictions on PhD students. [59, PHD]
I liked least.... Having to move out of Swiss Tower in the middle of finals week. [128, THM]
I liked least.... The Housing Office in general was very disastisfying and the way that housing arrangments were organized and taken care of for single students upon entering till the time I got married was extremely inconvenient and unprofessional. [141, THM]
I liked least.... Housing Office: This department caused the most problems in the lives of my fellow students than any other department on campus during my time at DTS. The policies are way too rigid. The department is NOT set up to serve students but, rather, the bottom line. The policies need to be changed to reflect the needs of the students, since this is student housing. Specifically, leases of different lengths need to be made available to fit the needs of the students. Only having a 12 month lease is very unhelpful. Also, students should immediately be freed from a lease if they are getting married. [154, MACM]
I liked least.... Housing and dining have never been anything short of abysmal. While the declining dorm conditions could not reasonably be improved, the condescending treatment from the housing office (by whom we were told not to report construction violations to Dallas Police, they gave us incorrect contracts believing “we didn't think you'd actually read them”; and, ultimately, built an apartment building that is virtually unaffordable. Much better care could be taken of on-campus residents. [164, THM]
I liked least.... Housing department. I have never dealt with some many incompetent people in one organization before. [180, THM]
I liked least.... And lastly for my response to swiss Towers- i am thankful for the houseing and overall have really enjoyed my time there, but have been unhappy with some of the building problems- leaking windows leading to wet carpet, wall, and furniture. [189, MABC]
I liked least... The expensiveness of the new housing facility. [205, MABC]
I liked least.... The treatment received by the housing department. Could be more understanding and situational flexibility with housing departments. [207, MABC]

Institutional Research

You need room on explanation of why we answered the way we did for each item [12, MABC]
Because this survey is not truly anonymous, I cannot without concern of consequence provide any critical data that this survey claims will be helpful for improvement. I suggest that either this type of survey be in a written format to help ensure pure anonymity or disclose the nature of exposure of this survey and make it optional to those who want to discuss these issues openly. [165, THM]

Library

What I Liked
I liked best... Our library is fantastic but in desperate need of new furniture. The chairs are nearly painful. I check out books there and then take them to SMU to study because the chairs are much more comfortable. [104, THM]
What I Didn’t Like
I liked least... The library smells kind of bad. [195, MABC]

Mail Services

Mail services not open at times I can get to campus or in an accessible location. [84, MACE]
The closing of the mail services in the student center was very disappointing. mailing and receiving packages became very inconvenient. [162, THM]

Ministry Placement Services and Alumni Office

I liked least... The Placement Office needs help. I suspect they need to be more proactive in getting churches, higher education organizations, and para-church organizations to send notices to DTS with openings. Women need more opportunities. I found the help with my resume to be of very poor quality. After giving my resume to the Placement Office and receiving a “great”; from them, I circulated it to faculty and those working in ministry and received much more constructive criticism. Personally, I find it insulting to have a woman who is supposed to be the adviser to women alum ... I just want the person who really knows their stuff when it comes to finding ministry positions. In one year, the Placement Office sent my name in for three positions, two of which were already filled. Many of the listings on the job board are over a year old. [29, MACE]
I liked least... The placement office is NOT trying (at least it doesn't look this way) to find modern, relevant churches... it seems they just wait for old, dying, rural, churches to post job postings, and then they leaf through their stack of resumes and send some out. (By the way, the VAST MAJORITY of job postings on the DTS website are for experienced, veteran pastors, not recent graduates); I think that the placement office should be all about the graduating students (let the alumni dept. find the alumni jobs!) and that they should hear what students are looking for, and actively try to find matches! Like headhunters, almost. Graduates are lost, trying to find their way into ministry, and yet the school doesn't seem to care. That's what it seems like to me. [62, THM]
I liked least.... Advising [75, THM]
I liked least.... The Placement Office needs to add personel. It is rediculous that one person try to help all student with resume, communication, and placement. He needs help and more tools to network better. [103, THM]

Commute/Parking/Location

What I Liked
I liked best.... it is close to my home [34, MACE]
I liked best.... The new parking lot is beautiful, but crossing Live Oak can be dangerous. [64, MACE]

What I Didn’t Like
I liked least.... Its so far from my home - N. Garland [17, CGS]
I liked least.... Parking across Live Oak (I guess) [32, THM]
I liked least.... The parking for staff only in the main area. [33, MABS]
I liked least.... Probably the communting to class. I have to travel to Tampa alot and also I had to travel to Dallas a few times. [47, MABS]
I liked least.... The difficulty of parking. [57, DMIN]
I liked least.... Living so far away. [61, THM]
I liked least.... Location [65, THM]
I liked least... No extension in Oklahoma...WOW! [78, MABS]
I liked least... the commute from Denton [97, MACM]
I liked least... I have to drive from Plano to get there every Wednesday and Friday. [98, THM]
I liked least... Its location [109, THM]
I liked least... It is in Dallas. [120, THM]
I liked least... Campus location [156, THM]
I liked least... The difficulty of parking. [57, DMIN]
I liked least... Location. I live in Wisconsin and would like to be closer. [171, DMIN]
I liked least...Driving to campus in the Metroplex rush hour. [181, MACE]
I liked least....The distance i have to drive (1hour)... -- Can't be helped. [193, THM]

What Should Be Changed

Notice this year: why not allow parking in the main area, but reserve it only for staff? [33, MABS]

Registrar's Office Services

I liked least .... I found the registrar assistants to be rude at times and not very understanding, especially around graduation time and during summer school. There were two instances that I found the assistant defensive and accusatory rather than trying to solve the problem. [68, THM]
I liked least .... Some of the registrar staff are sometimes difficult to work with as they aren't necessarily the nicest [205, MABC]
I liked least.... Dealing with the registrar's office. [217, MAMC]

Registration Procedures/Registrar Items

I liked least.... Try and keep offering courses that haven’t been taught before (or in a long time) as this will benefit present students and allow an opportunity for continuing education for D. Min graduates.
I liked least.... I wish they had had the CGS program sooner! Due to health issues, I was forced to leave the seminary before completing my program. [6, CGS]
I liked least.... The initial (10 yrs ago) limitation of course availability for part-time students who could not take daytime courses [38, THM]
I liked least.... DTS was not creative or flexible in looking at transfer hours. More consideration and flexibility should be given to transfer hours. Instead of a response of “;we can't do that - it doesn't fit”;, I would like to see an attitude of “;what can we do to make this work”; and “;what can we do to get you into the best possible position to work at your degree and finish”;, taking into consideration serious studies and courses already completed at other institutions. [48, MACE]
I liked least.... There are not very many evening classed for students who have fulltime jobs. [50, MACE]
I liked least.... If the seminary is going to drop a course on the campus or on extensions, they should notify students before a course is dropped. If a student's graduation depends on a course (whether RS102 or other courses) and the course is dropped, the seminary should offer the course as an independent study.
    The seminary needs to try harder to help the students graduate in a timely manner. [66, THM]
I liked least.... I think the pregraduation meetings were largely unnecessary. They were sometimes billed as “;mandatory”;, but everything that was presented could have been covered via e-mail. [64, MACE]
I liked least.... The lack of course availability of Urban ministry classes. [178, MACE]
I liked least.... There were not many 'options' when planning my degree program. [210, MACM]
I liked least.... I really do wish the electives would be improved in the MAMC program. [217, MAMC]
I liked least.... Having to wait for classes to become available, in order to complete the required degree curriculum. On line courses are limited as to the ability of student teacher interaction within a class room setting. [222, MABS]
Student Services

Student Services has some really amazing people and does a great job planning activities for students. The library is awesome! Wish I could have taken it with me. My one complaint there is that student workers were generally indifferent and unenthusiastic about helping, especially in the evening when staff were gone.

[29, MACE]

I do not know what or where the Student Information Services are [43, THM].

The Counseling center for DTS really needs to be improved. Students have real needs and need face-to-face time with a counselor. This should not be the privilege of the counseling student. THM student's should be allowed 10 free sessions with a real Christian counselor. If you are going to demand so much out of students academically it would be wise to provide some counseling to cope with the pressures of DTS.

[103, THM]

General Comments about Serving Students

What I Liked

In the time that I have been at DTS, the services have greatly improved for part-time students who work full-time during the day. [38, THM]

I liked best…The professors. [39, MACM]

I liked best…The friendliness and support of the staff, both teaching, administrative, and services. [106, MABS]

I liked best…All services I received at DTS were done with excellence [117, MACE]

I liked best…The people on staff helping and making sure the students can get all that they need. Specifically on the financial/registrar side of it, incredibly helpful [186, MABC]

I have had a pleasant experience with every department that I have interacted with. DTS employees are very knowledgeable and helpful. [190, THM]

I liked best…The willingness of the staff to interact with and work with the students, and the depth of the teachings. [231, MACE]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least…In my 4 years here, I have never been offered counseling [62, THM].

I liked least…Overall support is good, however, there is not always a focus on supporting the needs of students. There were several times over the years that it felt like school was about the professor and not about the student. Perhaps, my expectations are off, but I think there is more of a consumer (student) focus on secular campuses, i.e. ease of registration, how soon classes are available and communicated, response times on grade submission, online/self-serve options, etc. than I experienced at DTS. When things were confusing or no policy written or just problematic, there were not always helpful solutions available to the student. It was more of an oh well, better luck next time kind of an attitude, or “there's nothing we can do about it, we ask our professors to submit it by certain due dates...they just don't”, etc. Or worse, “that's not my responsibility”...and no guidance given on who's responsibility it is. Or the person who does that is out for a 1.5 weeks, can you come back. This is just poor organization, low process, little accountability. I expect more from a school with DTS's academic excellence. [212, MABS]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by… Focus more on student needs and make adjustments accordingly. [212, MABS]
Seminary

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

What I Liked

I liked best… That DTS challenged me to think Biblical. [148, MAMC]

The thoroughness of the training

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least… superfluous classes in which we don't necessarily learn that much because they are very surface-level. [83, THM]
I liked least…. The curriculum so focused on academics and not on contemporary application and praxis. [216, MACM]

The commitment to its heritage of conservative doctrine and interpretation

What I Liked

I liked best…. The commitment of the faculty and staff to maintaining Biblical, dispensational theology and having a walk that equals the talk in preparing men to preach and teach the Word of God with accuracy. [8, CGS]

Integration of Learning

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least…. The lack of integration among the departments, with certain outstanding exceptions. [41, THM]
I liked least…. The sometimes conflicting information you get between the language departments and the theology departments. [137, THM]
I liked least…. There is very little integration of the cognitive concepts taught in each language, exegesis, and preaching class...melded with the praxis of actually applying them in ministry. Likewise, there is no unifying theme (Missio Dei) throughout all of the different disciplines that we study and therefore we struggle to integrate the disparate individual pieces into an organic whole for ministry and life. [142, THM]

Preparation for Ministry

I liked best… The humility that it cultivated in me in approaching the text. I interpret texts with more caution than I used to. [67, MACB]
I liked best… At DTS I received best teaching and good friendship [153, THM]
I liked best… The education received and ability to use the Bible more appropriately [167, THM]

What I Didn’t Like

I liked least… It's so academic that this aspect snuffs out the ability to foster spiritual life, application, and an influenced/changed life. I would like to have said, Wow, I can't believe how much God has grown me and used DTS to dramatically mark my life for Christ through my few years there! But I can't to this regard. I do not wish for DTS to compromise it's academic aim and lose that trademark, but to creatively enhance the program and sacrifice some sacred cows that are unnecessary in order to prove a campus that highly influences and changes the lives of its students. [211,]

I liked least… The impersonal aspect of reading and studying God's word. [239, MACE]

What Should Be Changed

The seminary could improve by… The counseling and Leadership offices should do more for the students. Free counseling and free leader testing should be done for especially the PM students, those going into ministry. [62, THM]

The commitment to Dispensationalism

The seminary could improve by… As far as acquiring a basic knowledge of premillennial dispensational theology is concerned, I heard it explicitly taught by Dr. Bailey in one class session of BE101 my first semester. Other than that, some of my profs referred to it in passing here and there, but there was never anything more explicit than that. [36, THM]

The seminary could improve by… Better explanation of Dispensationalism. [199, CGS]
General Encouragement

The seminary provided me a very good on-line course experience! [1, CGS]
I loved everything about the experience and am grateful for my time there and all the knowledge, wisdom and resources I gained. [6, CGS]
Nothing (I ‘liked least’). [7, DMIN]
I attended DTS in 1991 - 1992 on campus and I believe a summer in 1996 and enjoyed my stay at DTS. [8, CGS]
Very little that I didn't like enough to mention. [30, MABS]
Bottom Line: I would highly encourage any perspective seminary student to check out DTS. [30, MABS]
I hope that DTS will be around for along time and continue doing what it is doing, but I am afraid that there are some student policies that need to change and there is a need to reinvent the image of the seminary in order to keep it going. [43, THM]
Overall, the six years I have spent at Dallas Seminary have been a blessing and given me a great foundation for ministry. [81, MACE]
I am glad that I am finished! :) [95, THM]
I liked everything about DTS. [101, THM]
I am grateful for the opportunity the seminary gave me over the last 5 years. [111, MABS]
What a blessing to attend DTS. I am so appreciative and thankful to the Lord for the opportunity. I pray that God will allow me to pour into others' lives what I have learned here. Hard to think of something I ‘liked least’ at all. [117, MACE]
We will be used to help mobilize connectedness for spreading Gospel in developing nations with the spheres of influence we have been put in [122, CGS]
DTS is great! And I am an advocate. [148, MAMC]
I love Dallas Theological Seminary. [151, MABS]
Overall, it has been a great school and a blessing in my life. Far from perfect yet I am happy I came to DTS. [154, MACM]
I will always have fond memories of the academic services offered at DTS. [164, THM]
Thanks for hearing me out! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and would do it again in a heartbeat. Thanks! [189, MABC]
While I may have spoken harshly in response to some of the questions in this survey, as a whole, I love DTS. I may have certain opinions and preferences, but overall, DTS is wonderful. There is not anything I like least about DTS. I have very fond memories of my time here. [190, THM]
I pray DTS will not bend to the will of contemporary culture on issues such as egalitarianism, etc. in future years. [202, MABS]
My time at DTS has been a very positive experience for which I am most grateful and humbled [218, MABC]
I can't imagine what it takes to run a seminary ... DTS is an extremely well-oiled machine!! [232, MACE]
Can't think of anything... loved my the time that I spent at DTS. [235, CGS]