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STUDENT HANDBOOK
BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
(Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Divisions)

PURPOSE

The purpose of Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is to provide accredited graduate theological education for equipping individuals for Christian service and leadership roles; to support the educational needs of the churches and agencies of the Baptist Missionary Association of America (BMAA) and other groups who share a like commitment to the authority of Scripture; and to serve as a resource center for critical thought and research in a context that nurtures the historical, doctrinal character of the churches of the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application: Anyone desiring admission to the seminary must file application at least four weeks prior to registration. (Also students who have not attended in two years must reapply.) Credentials to be presented include: (1) A completed application. (2) Three letters giving character recommendation. (3) Transcripts of work completed in other schools. (4) Statement of church approval. (5) Admission Questionnaire. Note: No. 5 may be completed during the process of the first enrollment.

Research and Writing Proficiency. All students must demonstrate proficiency in writing and research. Prior academic work, entrance testing and/or previous research papers will be used in evaluating a student's ability. Students with deficiencies in English and grammar will be required to take RE 314 Composition Skills for the Seminary Student, English 0300 - English Fundamentals at Central Baptist College, or a similar developmental English course at a local college. Students with deficiencies in research and writing will be required to take RE 314 Composition Skills for the Seminary Student, English 1300 - Composition 1 at Central Baptist College, or a similar composition course at a local college. These developmental courses may count as elective credit toward an undergraduate degree, but may not be applied to any graduate degrees.

TUITION AND FEES

Expenses at the Seminary are kept at a minimum. It shall be the aim of the Seminary to offer training to any worthy man or woman (note, masculine pronouns hereafter are used generically without reference to the gender of the students), but there are necessary items of expense. All fees, including audit fees, are non-refundable.

Tuition................................................................. $160.00 semester hour
Matriculation/Registration Fee.......................... $30.00 per semester
Library Fee .......................................................... $45.00 per semester
Audit Fee ............................................................ $160.00 per course
Distance Learning Fee (in addition to tuition) ........ $100.00 per course
Campus Use Fee (BMATS Arkansas only) .................................................. $40.00 per semester
Enrichment and Technology Fee (BMATS Arkansas only) .... $23.00 per course
Laboratory Fee (in addition to tuition) .................................................... $35.00 per course
Directed Studies Fee (in addition to tuition) ....................... $160.00 per course
Internship/Supervised Ministry Fee (in addition to tuition) .. $160.00 per course
Application Fee ................................................................................. $35.00
Late Registration Fee ................................................................. $30.00
Add/Drop Fee .............................................................................. $10.00 per transaction
Incomplete Fee ............................................................................... $160.00 per course
Advanced Standing Fee ................................................................. $160.00 per course
Graduation Fee—graduating students are only charged the seminary’s cost for items required for graduation. As these costs vary from year to year, the graduation fee cannot be calculated until the semester of graduation. The cost in previous years has averaged around $70.

Students are to pay their tuition and fees in full upon registration. However, when severe financial difficulties exist, the student may make other arrangements with the Business Manager. When installments are allowed, the following guidelines shall apply.

For a student who has enrolled in a regular semester of studies;
  100% of fees and books due at registration
  25% of tuition due at registration
  25% of tuition due on the 15th of the next three months following registration

Motion Sessions; when taking one course only;
  100% of tuition, books and fees upon registration

When taking more than one Motion course during a summer or winter session;
  60% of tuition for all sessions plus registration fee due at registration (a single registration fee is charged for all sessions)
  40% due by start of second Motion course
  100% of books due at registration upon purchase

Failure to pay tuition payments when they are due will result in dismissal from the Seminary. Students will not be allowed to attend classes until matters are settled with the seminary business office. Great effort will be made to avoid legal actions for collection of funds owed to the seminary. Students are expected to meet their financial obligations to the seminary in a timely and Christian manner.

A student is not officially enrolled in any class until he or she has either paid tuition and fees or signed a tuition contract that has been approved by the Business Manager. In every case, however, the fee for each semester must be paid in full by the end of the semester. Semester grades will not be released and students will not be permitted to re-enroll until tuition fees and library fines have been paid—unless special approval is granted by the Business Manager and/or Librarian. Disregard of credit payments to the school or any business in the city is sinful and damaging to the student and to the school.
Discontinuance of class attendance does not relieve a student’s responsibility to pay his or her tuition and fees. Note “Refund Policy” on page 4. **Official withdrawal must be granted by the seminary Dean.** A student who officially withdraws during either of the regular sessions will receive a refund* on tuition for the semester according to the following schedule:

During the first week .......... 80%
During the second week ... 60%
During the third week....... 40%
During the fourth week..... 20%
During the fifth week ....... None

*Applied after a drop fee is charged.

A student who officially withdraws during a Motion Session will receive a refund* on tuition for the session according to the following schedule:

Seven days prior to the first day of class 100%
During the first day of class ............. 50%
After the first day of class .............. None

*Applied after a drop fee is charged.

The student may pay tuition and fees by cash, personal check, money order, or most major credit cards, **but there will be a charge for any check that is returned.** Receipts will be given to all students for tuition and fees paid. **It will be wise for the student to file all school receipts.** No student will be granted a degree until all debts (tuition, books, rent, library fees, etc.) owed to the Seminary have been satisfied.

**ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT**

Application for advanced standing credit will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Permission to apply will be granted to students seeking a master’s degree at BMATS who have completed their undergraduate studies at an accredited Christian college or seminary or a regionally recognized school where equivalent courses were taught. Students must submit a completed Application for Advanced Standing Credit form to the Dean’s Office to initiate the approval process.

Qualifying students may be approved for up to six semester hours of credit toward the Master of Arts in Church Ministries or up to nine semester hours toward the Master of Divinity.

In order to qualify for advanced standing credit, a student must be approved on an individual basis and meet the following criteria:

1. Only third and fourth year-level courses from appropriate undergraduate institutions may be considered for possible application to level II courses.
2. The student must have a “B” or above in each course considered for advanced standing credit.
3. Application for such credit will be permitted after the student has completed at least one semester’s work (i.e., 12 semester hours of master’s studies) at BMATS.
4. Credit will be allowed only in a field where the student under consideration makes a "B" or above during the first semester of studies at BMATS.
5. Credit will be applied to the master’s transcript only after all other degree requirements have been satisfied (i.e., credit may not be applied prior to the last semester of master’s studies at BMATS). A fee equal to one hour of tuition will be charged per course to the student at the time the credit is placed on the transcript.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

The regular school year (fall and spring) is divided into two semesters of fifteen weeks each. Concentrated studies are scheduled during the summer months and in January. Classes normally are held three days per week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday) with each class meeting three hours per week. Nine semester hours is considered a full-time load for graduate students, twelve semester hours of studies is considered a full-time load for undergraduate students. The development of good habits that confirm Christian character is considered a basic student responsibility. Therefore, students are expected to attend all class sessions of courses for which they are registered, participate in class discussions, attend chapel regularly, and avail themselves of other opportunities for academic and spiritual enrichment while they are on campus.

Tardies or absences from class may result in a reduction of the final grade a student may receive in a particular course. A student who misses more than one-fourth of the classes for any course, without extenuating circumstances as determined by the professor, will receive an automatic “F” for the course or may be administratively withdrawn. In online classes simply logging in does not constitute participation or attendance. Non-attendance occurs when a student fails to participate in any course assignment, activity, or lesson.

CHAPEL AND LECTURE ATTENDANCE

Chapel services are normally held twice a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) on the main campus during regular semesters to provide opportunity for and encourage spiritual growth of students, faculty, and administrative personnel. Special lecture series (Paschal, Brand, Darby-Beal) are also scheduled each semester to promote both devotional and academic life. Pressures to perform academically should not cause neglect of a student’s personal devotional and spiritual growth. Chapel and special lecture series are intended to assist the seminary family in such growth.

Chapel services are normally held in conjunction with Tuesday and Thursday morning classes. Students enrolled in classes held in conjunction with chapel/lecture services are required to attend. A student who misses chapel services, without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the dean, will be placed on conduct probation. Students living on campus and in the local area are also expected to attend chapel/lecture services whenever they are being held. Students having received financial assistance/scholarships from the seminary are required to attend chapel/lecture services or risk forfeiting future financial assistance.

Commuting students who attend classes one or two days a week are required to attend chapel services during their day(s) on campus and are encouraged to make arrangements to attend lecture series. Families are also welcome to attend chapel/lecture services.
BOOKS

Students are responsible for securing textbooks. A limited number of books are only available from the seminary business office/bookstore. All books and supplies in the seminary bookstore are sold for cash. **No books will be sold on credit** without first being charged to a major credit card! Students are responsible for securing textbooks (and syllabi) in time for classes.

STUDENT CONSUMER INFORMATION GUIDE

The purpose of student financial aid at Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is to assist students to attend school so that they might acquire a seminary education. This economic assistance may come directly from the Seminary or from some other source and may be in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, or a combination of any of these programs. SACS accreditation is used by the Seminary to determine institutional eligibility for Federal Student Aid. It is assumed that a student enrolls with the intention of attending and completing courses. If a student withdraws, eligibility for financial assistance and amounts awarded may require adjustment. Students who withdraw after beginning attendance may be required to return unearned funds or may be eligible to receive a post-withdrawal disbursement.

Expected Family Contribution

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary believes that the primary responsibility for providing educational expenses rests with the student and his or her family. The Seminary also believes that it is part of her Christian ministry to provide financial assistance, when possible, to those students who have need.

The amount of financial aid awarded through a Federal agency will be determined by a Needs Analysis and the Financial Aid Officer, i.e., the dean, according to Federal guidelines. Expected family contribution (EFC) is determined by considering factors such as household size, number of family members in college, family income, assets and indebtedness.

Scholarships

Any student who qualifies for enrollment in Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary is eligible to apply for an academic or work scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of individual student need and the availability of funds.

Students who wish to apply for a work-scholarship should consult with the Business Manager. Due to the size of our school, only a limited number of these scholarships are available.

A student who wishes to apply for an academic-scholarship should contact the Dean’s Office for a Scholarship Application. This form should be completed and submitted to the Dean’s Office at least one week prior to registration dates published in the academic calendar. Scholarship funds will be granted or denied, based upon the need of the individual student as revealed by the application, and the availability of funds, as determined by the Scholarship Committee.
Either the spouse or child of a student, who is working toward a degree, or the spouse or child of a full-time employee, may be eligible for a one-half tuition scholarship to take select courses for personal enrichment. This scholarship may be granted upon request.

Any student who receives a scholarship is expected to attend regular chapel services and lecture series.

**Pell Grants**

Undergraduate students (BAR and ADiv) who have need of assistance in order to continue their education may make application for a Pell Grant. Students who can show "need" may qualify for from $575 to $5,550 per year (based on 2012-13 year). Funds received through this source must be used for educational expenses.

Applications for financial aid must be processed and returned to the school prior to enrollment in order to avoid personal payment of tuition, etc. Students who wish to apply for a Pell Grant should make formal request through the Dean’s Office. After an interview with the Financial Aid Officer, the student will be instructed to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application may be made over the Internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. If a grant is awarded, the funds will be disbursed by the Business Office. Award amounts for Pell Grants are also based upon the number of courses in which the student enrolls and attends.

**Student Loans**

Both undergraduate and graduate students who have need of assistance to continue their education may make application for a student loan at www.fafsa.ed.gov and at www.studentloans.gov. Students are required to receive entrance and exit counseling and sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN). BMA Seminary seeks to keep tuition and fees at low costs for students and encourages students to borrow at minimal levels.

**Method and Frequency of Financial Assistance Payments**

All financial aid, with the exception of work scholarships, is disbursed at the beginning (usually the fourth week) of each enrollment period, one-half at the beginning of the fall semester and one-half at the beginning of the spring semester. Seminary policy requires that all aid be used first to pay tuition, fees, housing costs, or other institutional expenses. Student loan recipients are also required to undergo entrance and exit counseling with the Dean concerning loans.

**Satisfactory Progress**

Students must maintain the minimum grade point average required by the Seminary (2.00 for undergraduates and 2.50 for graduates) in order to qualify for financial assistance. A student who fails to meet the minimum cumulative grade point average during any semester will not be eligible for aid for the following semester. Students must also be enrolled at least half-time. Undergraduate students receiving federal student aid must complete all degree program requirements within five (5) years of their initial enrollment in a particular program of studies.

A student who has been dismissed for academic reasons is ineligible to apply for financial aid for at least one semester after reinstatement to the school.
Refund Policy

A student receiving financial aid who withdraws from school during the normal refund period will not receive a refund. Money that is refunded will go back into the account of the program from which the student received funds. When a student who has already received full payment of financial aid awards from Federal sources drops courses or withdraws from the seminary, repayment of unused funds may be necessary. Any student who owes a refund on a grant, or is in default on a Federal student loan, is ineligible to receive additional financial aid from Federal sources. Official withdrawal from the seminary must be approved by the Dean.

Veterans Benefits

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has approved programs for students who receive educational assistance allowances from the Veterans Administration. For details, contact the Dean’s Office or contact the VA at 888-442-4551.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary does not discriminate against any qualified person on grounds of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, or physical handicap. This policy applies to all admissions and academic policies and other school administered programs. The Seminary, however, does not provide special facilities for disabled students. Information regarding compliance with Title IX is available through the Dean’s office. Students with physical or learning disabilities should consult with the Dean’s office prior to enrollment or as early as possible after the disability is diagnosed. Procedures for assisting students may require a physician’s written verification of the disability, a student’s specific written requests for assistance from the seminary and the informing of the seminary faculty.

Academic Regulations

Any academic problem should be taken to the Dean (by Texas or online students) or the Extension Site Administrator (by Arkansas students). The student is obligated to avoid passing along unconfirmed talk (gossip) that spreads discord among the students. Consultation with the Dean or Extension Site Administrator will avoid many unnecessary problems.

Students are urged to recognize that attendance in the Seminary is a privilege and that a complaining or critical spirit is to be avoided at all times. The administration of the Seminary will be glad to receive any constructive criticism but will not appreciate any sowing of discord among the students or the pitting of one faculty member against another by the student.

Every student, upon registration in any course, is expected to be regular and prompt in class attendance in order to attain the highest success in the pursuit of the work outlined in the curriculum. Unnecessary absences and tardiness should be avoided. Every student is also expected to attend chapel services regularly.
Each student is responsible for paying attention in class at all times and encouraging classmates by not creating distractions or dominating discussions. Students will not be called out of class to answer the telephone except in cases of emergency. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class and chapel periods.

Electronic devices used during class should only be used for matters relating to the class. Professors may restrict the use of electronic devices in class as they deem necessary. Normally, electronic devices are not to be used during testing. Professors must approve potential exceptions in advance.

Students are expected to retain copies (electronic and paper) of assignments prior to submitting them to each professor.

Students are limited to a 15 semester hour load during a regular semester or motion session.

Students should be aware that appropriate school officials with a legitimate educational interest (including the faculty) may address individual student’s disciplinary or educational matters if deemed necessary.

Plagiarism

Although any writing assignment calls for the student’s own thinking on a particular subject, a research paper, by definition, must also be related to the work of individuals other than the writer of the paper. Inherent is such a requirement is the risk of committing a serious error in writing known generally as plagiarism—an error so serious as to constitute “outright fraud” in many cases (Allan A. Metcalf, Research to the Point, San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1991).

To say that plagiarism is failure to give credit where credit is due is to oversimplify the issue. Not only must the writer cite the source of any quoted or paraphrased material, he or she must also give credit (at the very least, in the works-cited section of the paper) to any source that influenced the writer’s thinking on and approach to the topic. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Furthermore, proper form is essential for adequate documentation of sources consulted or utilized. For example, the student must designate exact quotations by quotation marks (or, for longer quotes, indented single-spaced lines). Normally, exact page numbers should be listed for sources quoted—either as footnotes or within parentheses (at the end of each paragraph or section).

The writer should avoid excessive use of quotations. Borrowing the exact wording of another writer should be saved for the particularly eloquent expressions or for technical explanations or tedious explanations difficult for the student to summarize. Usually the student should summarize in his or her own words the content of sources consulted on a particular topic. This demonstrates that the student understands and has begun to assimilate the material utilized. However, unless this usage of sources is documented by footnotes or other means (providing the specific page numbers), the result is plagiarism. The use of writings from the Internet, when falsely presented as a student’s own work, is considered grounds for suspension from the seminary.

Paraphrasing and summarizing another writer may become plagiarism if the sentence structure or phrases of the original are used. Changing a few words with synonyms or reversing the order of words or clauses in a sentence without giving credit is plagiarism. “When you paraphrase, you must state in your own words what another writer believes or argues” (Lyn Paulos & Rosemaria Menager-Beeley, Understanding Plagiarism: A Student Guide to Writing Your Own Work, Boston:
Summarizing involves more than omitting some sentences, words, or clauses from the original writer. Any work you submit with your name on it is assumed to be original writing, unless you indicate you are using another’s work. The rule of thumb is: “When in doubt, cite!”

A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (latest edition) by Kate L. Turabian is the official style manual of the BMA Seminary.

Policy on Intellectual Property

All decisions concerning the operation of the seminary, including those involving intellectual property, shall be made in line with the purpose of the BMATS.

BMATS supports and defends principles of traditional academic rights: In keeping with academic traditions, the creator shall retain ownership to the following types of Intellectual Property: books (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, textbooks etc.), articles, poems, pictures, graphic works, video recordings, and sound recordings. Subject to the following guidelines:

1. BMATS shall own Intellectual Property created by seminary employees and students who were assigned or employed specifically to produce (work-for-hire) a particular piece of Intellectual Property.
2. When a student creates Intellectual Property independently, using only resources available in common to all students, such Intellectual Property is owned by the student.
3. Any Intellectual Property created by a seminary employee that is not part of its creator’s employment responsibilities and that is developed on his/her own time, using only resources common to all faculty, without inordinate expense to the seminary, shall be owned by the creator.

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Students anticipating graduation are required to complete an “Intent to Graduate” form (Dean’s Office) by the October 1 deadline during the semester preceding the anticipated graduation in May. Each student must meet requirements for graduation as detailed in the seminary catalog. This includes meeting deadlines for the completion of requirements as determined by the appropriate faculty, administration, and final exam schedule. All financial obligations to the seminary must be met, etc. Graduating students are expected to participate in the commencement exercises. Participation is intended to encourage the student, classmates, and supporters of the student’s educational pursuits at the seminary.
LIBRARY REGULATIONS

The use of Kellar Library on the Jacksonville, Texas campus and Story Library on the campus of Central Baptist College is a privilege for the seminary student. Arkansas students should follow all rules and regulations of Story Library when accessing materials. Keller Library also maintains subscriptions to numerous electronic resources and databases that may be accessed through the seminary’s website. These resources may require a User ID or Password, which can be obtained by contacting the library staff for this information.

Books may be checked out of the Keller Library for a period of 28 days. Slides, audio and video recordings may be checked out for a period of seven days. A fine of ten cents ($.10) per day will be charged for overdue books and audio-visual materials. There is no limit on fines. When it becomes necessary for the library to write a student regarding overdue materials, a charge of fifty cents ($.50) for labor and postage will be made. There is a book return station in front of the library for returning books when the library is closed. All library fines must be paid before students can access semester grades, graduate, or receive an academic transcript.

WARNING: Library materials are very expensive and valuable. Many such materials cannot be replaced. Therefore, a student who loses library books or other materials stands in danger of forfeiting library privileges. In the event that library privileges are forfeited, after compensation has been made to the library for the lost materials, the student may appeal to the Library Committee in writing for restoration of library privileges. The decision of the Library Committee in such cases is final. If a book is lost, the borrower will be charged the retail costs for replacing the book, a $5.00 processing fee per book, and any fines accrued against the book.

When special permission is granted for a reference book to be removed from Keller Library for overnight use, it will be returned before the end of the first period on the following school day. A fine of twenty-five cents ($.25) per day will be assessed on late reference works and audio-visual equipment.

Exams taken in the Kellar Library, as directed by professor of a particular course, are to be taken under supervision of library staff. Exams must be taken immediately and in the library once received by the student. Completed exams must then be returned to library staff. Library staff will sign the cover sheet and return the finished exam to the dean’s office or professor. Students are normally required to take exams without the benefit of notes, textbook(s), human or electronic assistance.

SECULAR WORK

In some cases it will be necessary for the student to be engaged in secular work in order to supplement his income received in pastoral or other Christian work. The student is urged to give his or her schoolwork first place, however, and not permit his or her secular work to interfere with his schoolwork. Employed students are urged to reduce their schedule of classes according to their secular workload. If the student must work more than 20 hours a week, his or her schoolwork should be no more than twelve semester hours. If the student works more than thirty hours a week, his or her schoolwork should be reduced to nine semester hours.

Any student dropping below standard may be required to reduce his or her academic load. Academic work may not be taken concurrently at another institution without advance written permission.
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Seminary prepares students for a variety of ministries in church and church-related institutions. To encourage such professionalism and demonstrate Christian character in all areas of life, every student is expected to adhere to certain standards. The emphasis is on the importance of being obedient to the commands and principles of the Word of God, the Bible. Almost all of our standards of conduct are based on scriptural commands or principles. The remaining standards are based upon generally accepted traditions for this area of the nation.

Behaviors that are unacceptable include, but are not limited to, the consumption of alcohol, substance abuse, sexual harassment, inappropriate dating, homosexuality, use of pornography, premarital sex, marital infidelity, violence, hazing, hate or bias-related violence, suicidal behavior, vandalism, cheating, rudeness, and argumentativeness. Students should faithfully and diligently apply themselves to their seminary studies, promptly meet all financial and other obligations, attend chapel and lecture services regularly, and immediately inform seminary administration in writing of changes in address, phone, church membership, marital/family status, citizenship or immigration status, employment, or if criminal or civil charges are filed against a student or a member of his or her immediate family.

Proper Dress - Every student is expected to dress modestly and to keep a neat appearance. In the classroom modest attire is required. Casual clothing is not acceptable in the classroom (i.e. shorts, t-shirts, etc.). Casual clothing (except for children under 12 years of age) is not acceptable by seminary students or their families in the classroom, library, or administration buildings of the Texas campus or Arkansas campus. Neatness in dress and well-groomed hair should prevail at all times. Preferred dress for men is a dress shirt with tie or a collared shirt and slacks. Denim and open shoes are discouraged. Preferred dress for ladies is a dress, skirt, or dress slacks/pant suits. Denim is also discouraged.

DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Discipline

Students in a theological seminary ought to maintain Christian standards and high academic achievement. The Dean has jurisdiction over disciplinary actions. The Extension Campus Administrator executes disciplinary actions on the extension campus. Any disciplinary action taken against a student will be entered on the student's discipline file in the Dean's Office.

Conduct

Students admitted to BMA Seminary are expected to order their lives by Christian standards of character and conduct and to respect regulations adopted by the trustees, the administration, and the faculty. Alcohol, substance abuse, sexual harassment, inappropriate dating, homosexuality, use of pornography, premarital sex, marital infidelity, violence, hazing, hate or bias-related violence, suicidal behavior, vandalism, cheating, rude and argumentative are among behaviors that are unacceptable.
Students should faithfully and diligently apply themselves to their seminary studies, promptly meet all financial and other obligations, attend chapel and lecture services regularly, and immediately inform seminary administration in writing of changes in address, phone, church membership, marital/family status, citizenship or immigration status, employment, or if criminal or civil charges are filed against a student or a member of his or her immediate family.

**Sexual Harassment Policy**

BMA Seminary is committed to maintaining an atmosphere where students, faculty, staff, administration, and visitors to the campus can interact free from any form of sexual harassment, intimidation, or exploitation. BMA seminary will take whatever action may be needed to prevent, correct, and discipline behavior which violates this policy.

**Definitions of Sexual Harassment**

1. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when
   a. Submission of rejection may have an effect on a student’s academic evaluations.
   b. Submission or rejection is a condition of employment of a person or the basis of employment decisions regarding such person; or
   c. Such conduct has the effect of interfering with a person’s work or school performance; or
   d. The conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or study environment.
2. Both men and women may be victims of sexual harassment.
3. Totality of the circumstances, including context, will be considered when determining whether sexual harassment has occurred.

**Reporting Procedures for Sexual Harassment**

1. Students should report alleged sexual harassment to the Academic Dean or the President if the Dean is involved. Grievance procedure as stated in the Student Handbook will be followed.
2. Employees, faculty, and staff will follow grievance procedures as stated in the General Employees Manual and Faculty Handbook.

**Consequences of Sexual Harassment**

Upon completion of the investigation, if it is determined that sexual harassment did occur, corrective and disciplinary action will be promptly put into effect, including the possibility of dismissal or removal of the offending person.

**Conduct Probation**

Students who violate Christian standards of character and conduct and participate in behavior inimical to the best interest of the community or Seminary may be placed on conduct probation. A specified period of time (normally six months) in which a student may be required to take certain actions to amend negative conduct. Actions required may include (but are not limited to) restitutions, counseling, removal from seminary housing, communication with offended parties, community service and
attempts at reconciliation. Should additional problematic conduct occur during conduct probation, suspension from the seminary will be automatic.

**Academic Probation**

Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below the minimum required (2.0 for undergraduates and 2.5 for graduates) will be placed on academic probation for the next semester in which he is enrolled. The student will be allowed to enroll for a maximum of twelve hours, or less if so advised by the dean.

If a student who has been placed on academic probation fails to attain the minimum grade point average for the probationary semester, he or she will be suspended immediately. This will result in immediate ineligibility for students receiving Title IV funds.

In compliance with Title IV (Pell, loans) regulations the seminary will review transcripts at the end each spring semester to insure satisfactory academic progress (SAP). Determining SAP includes both attempted and completed hours. A student's lack of SAP will result in his or her being placed on academic probation.

**Suspension and/or Expulsion**

Conduct that is contrary to the norms of Christian behavior or inimical to the best interest of the Seminary may lead to suspension or expulsion. A student who is suspended due to misconduct will not be eligible for readmission for at least one academic year. A student who is expelled due to misconduct will not be eligible for readmission. All student rights and privileges will be terminated during the same period(s). In addition, use of campus facilities is prohibited. Suspended students seeking readmission must do so through the academic dean’s office.

If a student who has been placed on academic probation fails to attain the minimum grade point average for the probationary semester, he or she will be suspended immediately.

**Readmission**

A student who has been suspended due to misconduct may apply for re-enrollment no earlier than one academic year following the suspension. Request for reinstatement must be submitted in writing to the Admissions Committee at least thirty days prior to enrollment.

A student who has been placed on academic suspension is eligible for re-enrollment no earlier than one fifteen-week semester following the suspension. Request for reinstatement must be submitted in writing to the Admissions Committee at least thirty days prior to enrollment. Failure to maintain the cumulative minimum grade point average required by the seminary in any semester following suspension and readmission will result in immediate and permanent suspension. A student who has been dismissed for academic reasons is ineligible to apply for financial aid for at least one semester after reinstatement to the school.

A student returning after an absence of two years or more must update his or her admission’s application. The application fee is applicable.

**Student Appeals**

A student who has received a suspension or expulsion notice due to a charge of misconduct may call for a review of the charge by an appeals committee. The request for review must be submitted in writing to the Dean's Office not later than ten days
following notification of suspension. The committee shall be composed of the Dean, the Director of Student Services, and a senior student. The suspension or expulsion may be overturned by a majority vote of the committee. The decision of the committee will be final.

A student who has received a **failing grade** in a particular course may call for a reevaluation of that grade by an appeals Committee. The request for evaluation must be submitted in writing to the Dean’s Office not less than ten days following the receipt of the grade. The committee shall be composed of the Dean, a professor in the field concerned, and a senior student. If extenuating circumstances are found, the committee may, by a majority vote, grant the student the option of (a) taking a comprehensive examination, by which the disputed grade might be raised to the lowest passing grade, "D," or (b) taking an "I" in the course, with the understanding that the course must be retaken and acceptably completed within one year, and the final grade be reduced by one letter grade.

A student who has been deemed ineligible for participation in Title IV (Pell, loans) programs due to **unsatisfactory academic progress** may call for a review by an appeals committee. The committee shall be composed of the Dean the Director of Student Services, and a member of the Benevolence Committee. The request for review must be submitted in writing to the dean’s office not later than ten days following the notification of ineligibility. If extenuating circumstances are found, an extension of the probation period may be granted.

**Student Complaint Process**

Any student who has a complaint with respect to regulations, educational programs, support services, nondiscriminatory policies, or the faculty, and the complaint cannot be resolved informally, may file an official letter of complaint with the Seminary Dean. Complaints must be in written form and signed by the offended person(s). The letter of complaint will be filed in the confidential “Student Complaints” file. Any complaints filed will be investigated, if possible, within 90 days. When a final determination is made, it will be communicated to the student.

If the dean is directly involved in the alleged problem, the complaint may be filed with the Seminary President. If the dean and president are both involved, the student may file the complaint with the secretary of the Board of Trustees.

No adverse action shall be taken against any person filing a complaint, as long as such complaints are filed in good faith, and with reasonable assurance of the accuracy of the facts.

Should a student have a complaint with respect to the Seminary’s accreditation with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the complaint should be sent to the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097). Complaints with respect to the Seminary’s accreditation status with The Association of Theological Schools should be sent to The Association of Theological Schools (10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1103).
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Objectives

The student should cooperate with and help the faculty and administration in realizing the objectives of the student development program, which are as follows: (a) to help prepare and equip the well rounded and total minister or Christian worker so that he or she may be an effective leader in every area of church activity which he or she chooses to pursue; (b) to bring him or her to maturity that he may develop self-reliant and responsible behavior; (c) to help him or her to adapt to a changing world and to fit into society as a social being, loving his fellow man as he serves the Lord; and (d) to help him or her to become a dedicated Christian leader.

Advising and Counseling

The Academic Dean of the Seminary is in charge of matters pertaining to the student’s academic work and program (i.e. advising). The student may be referred to a faculty advisor from time to time, but in all matters pertaining to academic work, the student reports to the Academic Dean.

Most of the faculty members have sufficient experience to assist students with problems that demand personal counseling. The President, Dean, and faculty are approachable and ready to help. However, Dr. Ronnie Johnson is available to students as the seminary’s primary counseling professor. Discussions on the best insights, methods and resources for helping students are conducted in faculty workshops and regular meetings.

Referral—Texas

Limited first aid supplies are available to seminary students in the Business Office. Medical problems that cannot be solved in this manner will be referred to a local hospital or doctor.

Emergency Numbers
Jacksonville Fire Dept. 903-586-7131
Jacksonville Police Dept. 903-586-2546
Texas Highway Patrol 903-586-6826
Family First Clinic Urgent Care (open late and weekends) 903-284-6105
Trinity Mother Frances Hospital 903-541-4500
East Texas Medical Center 903-541-5000
Trinity Mother Francis Telecare Plus (healthcare information) 1-800-535-9799
ETMC Health First (healthcare information) 1-800-648-8141
Poison Control Center 1-800-482-8948
ACCESS Center (24 hour mental health assistance) 1-800-621-1693
Crisis Center (domestic violence, sexual assault or child abuse) 1-800-232-8519
Referral—Arkansas

Limited first aid is available to all CBC students in the residence halls and the Student Center. Medical problems that cannot be solved in this manner will be referred to the Conway Regional Medical Center, located six blocks from the CBC campus or to a local Conway doctor.

Emergency Numbers
Administrative Office (CBC) 501-329-6872
(Switchboard open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., M-F)
Conway Fire Dept. 501-450-6147
Conway Police Dept. 501-450-6120
Arkansas State Police 501-354-9616
Conway Regional Hospital 501-329-3831
Conway Emergency Response Team 501-513-2004
Prime Care Medical clinic (open until 8 pm and weekends) 501-327-7100
Poison Control Center 1-800-482-8948
Private Phone Counseling 1-800-527-5454
Counseling Associates (24-hour mental health assistance) 1-800-844-2066

Preventive Health Education and Care

Besides referrals to medical sources in the area, physicians and psychologists are brought to the campus or engaged for programs involving all the students so that professional instruction may be given on preventive health education and care. Students should be alert to these and other opportunities for such learning. Administrative and faculty personnel will be glad to discuss with students any health problems that exist on the campus.

Student Records

In keeping with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which was designed to protect the privacy of educational records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review the educational records, and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate or misleading data through informal and formal hearings, BMA Seminary students are accorded all rights and privileges provided under the Act.

Student records are securely kept in the Seminary’s fireproof cabinets and vault. Student transcripts, master grade sheets and instructors’ individual grade sheets are kept indefinitely. Nonessential material, such as correspondence and other contacts with the student, may be disposed of after a period of ten years.

All student records are considered confidential and may be available only to the student (upon written request), the seminary Admissions Committee, and on occasion, to governmental and accrediting agency personnel.

Transcripts are released only upon the written request of the student. Students may view their educational records only upon written request and in the presence of an appropriate administrative official. Letters of recommendation are not considered a part of the student’s educational record and may not be viewed by the student.

Students (and former students) must also be “current” with all their financial obligations to the seminary before transcript(s) will be released. There is a fee for both official and unofficial transcripts.
Placement Service

Students are helped in religious vocational employment and service through the office of the Director of Student Services (Dr. Ronnie Johnson). Consequently, many of the seminary students serve as pastors and in other staff positions in churches, sometimes to distances exceeding 100 miles from the Seminary. At the same time the student is receiving academic training in the classroom, he can also be putting this training into practice. Assistance is also available to seminary graduates for help in religious vocational employment opportunities through the Director of Student Services.

Communication

All students are assigned a student email account through the business office. Student email should be checked regularly for communication from the administration and faculty. **Students are responsible for communication sent to their student email account.**

All students who enroll for credit in on-campus classes will be assigned a mailbox in the Gregson Center. Correspondence from both the administration and faculty may be placed in that box. Boxes should be checked at least once each week.

An Announcement Sheet is distributed at chapel services each week for the purpose of informing the Seminary community of upcoming events or providing pertinent information. Students who wish an item included on the Announcement Sheet should inform the Dean's Office in writing no later than 3:00 p.m. on Monday of the week they wish it included.

At the beginning of the year, a special packet of material (usually online) will be distributed to all new seminary students, to aid them in seminary orientation, to acquaint them with the Baptist Missionary Association of America, and to inform them of opportunities for worship and ministry.

Orientation

The purpose of Seminary orientation is to assist new students and to provide important information regarding the basics of campus, school history, student services, chapel, academic matters, business matters, communication procedures, safety, and library services.

New Student Orientation occurs online through the Seminary’s distance education software. New students receive a user name and password from the Business Office when they first enroll. Using their Moodle name and password, students should go to the Moodle website (currently www.bmats.net/moodle24) and login to the system. The ‘New Student Orientation’ class allows one to ‘self-enroll’ into the class, view the presentation, and complete the quiz.

Students may schedule additional orientation if desired. Computer orientation and Library orientation, including use of bibliographic and other learning resources, may be scheduled directly with library staff. Safety orientation may be scheduled with the business manager.

International students will be required to complete an additional New Student Orientation for Foreign Students to assist them in areas of culture, civility, finance, domestics, and academia.
Student Council

The purpose of the Student Council is to promote unity of interest among the students in matters relating to the well-being of the student body and to create at all times a spirit of cooperation in the promotion of the best interests of the Seminary. Election of officers is normally held early during the fall semester. Information regarding election criteria (including good standing in all matters of the seminary such as the dean’s office, business office, library, etc), procedures, constitution and bylaws are available through the council’s secretary-treasurer or the Director of Student Services (Dr. Ronnie Johnson). The student body is represented on many of the Seminary’s committees via the Student Council.

CAMPUS SECURITY

Due to the Christian character of BMA Seminary students and the size of the campus and the student body, the Seminary does not employ a security officer. Criminal activity on campus is virtually nonexistent. However, in the event that criminal activity is observed by a student or employee, proper authorities should be notified immediately.

Procedures for Reporting Criminal Actions

Students or employees who observe criminal activity anywhere on the main seminary campus should immediately notify the Jacksonville Police Department (Phone: 903-586-2546 or 911 in emergency). After the police have been notified, please contact the Business Office of BMA Seminary and report the activity to one of the administrators (Phone: 903-586-2501). Reports should provide as many details of the activity as possible.

Students or employees who observe criminal activity anywhere on the extension campus should immediately notify the Conway Police department (Phone: 911 in an emergency or 501-450-6120). After the police have been notified, please contact the Administrative Office of Central Baptist College and the Seminary Extension Administration Office and report the activity to one of the administrators (Phone: 501-679-6791). Reports should provide as many details of the activity as possible.

The Institution’s Response to Criminal Action Reports

The administrative officials at BMA Seminary will fill out a detailed record of reported criminal activity and will cooperate fully with the investigative efforts of the police. BMATS officials will also participate in any cooperative endeavor to deter such activity in the future.

Security and Access to Campus Buildings and Student Housing

During the regular school year, except for holidays, Jacksonville campus buildings (administrative, classroom, chapel, and library) are open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Normally, the library is open on Saturday during the fall and spring semesters. At other times the buildings are locked and inaccessible.

Access to the Extension Campus in the Cooper Complex at CBC is available most days and evenings. A schedule of the hours the Cooper Complex is open is provided at
the beginning of each semester. Normally the Cooper Complex is open from 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday; and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Campus buildings are closed for the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and usually the last two weeks of December and on through the first of January. Without authorization from proper administrative officials, neither students nor employees should attempt to access buildings when they are locked.

Student housing is kept locked when not occupied. Access to student housing may be obtained by contacting the Business Office. Employees or students who observe anyone attempting to break into a seminary building should notify the Jacksonville Police Department immediately (Phone: 903-586-2546).

**Campus Law Enforcement**

Due to the accessibility of the local police department, the size of the campus, and the relatively crime-free environment of the school, BMA Theological Seminary does not employ a campus police officer. Central Baptist College employs on-campus security personnel at the Extension Campus. They are authorized to stop and question any person or persons necessary. Students are advised not to interfere with the security enforcement on campus.

Any criminal activity observed should be reported promptly and accurately to the Jacksonville Police Department (903-586-2546 or 911 in emergencies) or the Conway Police Department (501-450-6120 or 911 in emergencies). After the activity has been reported to the police, either the Business Office of BMA Seminary (903-586-2501) or the Business Office of Central Baptist College (501-329-6872) and the extension office of BMA Seminary (501-328-5776) should be notified as soon as possible.

**Practices and Procedures Designed to Promote Responsibility**

Each semester during the faculty and staff meeting employees are encouraged to look out for unusual or suspicious activity and report any such activity to their department heads immediately.

Each semester on-campus students are encouraged to be responsible for their own security and the security of others by means of written reminders from the Dean’s Office, anti drug literature, and biannual visits by law enforcement officers. Students are encouraged to be alert to any suspicious or abnormal behavior and report such behavior to the Business Office.

**Crime Prevention Programs**

In addition to the procedures mentioned above, BMA Seminary conducts at least one assembly annually to inform students and employees about the prevention of crimes. Those present are informed concerning crimes that are common to the area, what types of activities to watch for, what actions are being utilized in crime prevention, and what steps they should take in order to prevent crimes on campus, or in the event that criminal activities are observed.
Statistics Concerning Crime

Statistical data is gathered and maintained on an annual basis concerning all criminal activity that occurs on BMATS campus in the following categories:

1. Murder  
2. Rape  
3. Robbery  
4. Aggravated Assault  
5. Burglary  
6. Motor Vehicle Theft  
7. Liquor Law Violations  
8. Drug Abuse Violations  
9. Weapons Violations  
10. Hate Crimes  
11. Arson

These statistics and other reports, including graduation, completion, and transfer-out rates, are available to interested persons through the Dean’s office. Additional information pertaining to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) are available from the U.S. Department of Education at www.ed.gov or at www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/coo1

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In case of a fire alarm or drill, three short bells will sound to alert all seminary personnel to exit the building immediately and proceed to the “grassy” area between the front parking lot and Pine Street.

In case of a tornado alarm or drill, one lengthy bell will sound the alert for all seminary personnel to proceed immediately to designated areas located inside the main building (near the restrooms) and near the copy machine area in Kellar Library.

Revisions
September 2, 2004, PA
August 24, 2005 PA
August 17, 2006 PA
September 4, 2007 PA
August 22, 2008 PA
March 24, 2010 PA
January 30, 2013 DE
June 25, 2014 DE
Orientation

Student Orientation will occur in conjunction with registration at the beginning of each semester. A “Kick Off Rally” will be scheduled the week before classes begin each fall semester. **All students** of the extension campus are required to attend this session which includes a time of worship and student orientation. The specific date and time for the rally will be announced with the fall schedule. The purpose of Seminary orientation is to assist new students and to provide important information regarding the basics of campus, school history, student services, chapel, academic matters, business matters, communication procedures, safety, and library services. Students are also provided opportunity to ask questions. Students who do not attend the fall kickoff rally will be given an absence in each class in which they are registered for that semester. Students who cannot attend must complete an exemption form and receive approval from the extension campus administrator. Families and guests are encouraged to attend the annual worship service.

Students may schedule additional orientation if desired. Computer orientation may be scheduled through the Director of Information Technology for Central Baptist College. Library orientation, including use of bibliographic and other learning resources, may be scheduled directly with Story Library staff.

Degree Programs

The BMA Seminary Arkansas Extension Site is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools to award the Master of Divinity and courses leading to Master of Arts in Church Ministries and the Master of Arts (Religion). The Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary has received a Certificate of Exemption from Certification from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education under the rules and regulations implementing Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301 to offer the above degrees because the predominant purpose of the programs offered is to prepare students to assume leadership positions in churches and/or religious organizations. The details about the degree programs are available in the seminary catalog.

Chapel

For certain unavoidable reasons, chapel services are not currently held on the extension campus by the seminary. The college has chapel every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. The seminary students are welcome to attend the college chapel services. Special lectures or spiritual enrichment seminars will be announced.
Standards of Conduct

The standards of dress for the seminary will follow those set by Central Baptist College. Those standards, from the Student Life Handbook of the college, include the following:

CBC students are to appear in public modestly dressed and neatly groomed, and will avoid wearing clothing that is provocative, or calls undue attention to themselves. All messages and logos on clothing must be in good taste. In their dress, as in their behavior, CBC students are expected to reflect the marks of educated, cultured, and mature Christians.

Specific guidelines include: midriffs and backs should be covered at all times; undergarments should never be seen; shoes and shirts. Along with other articles of clothing necessary for modesty, are required to be worn in all public buildings and areas, no head coverings should be worn in chapel.

Faculty and staff will determine what attire is appropriate for their classes or specific events, and students are expected to comply.

Public Displays of Affection (PDA) – Students are discouraged from excessive or inappropriate displays of affection. All provocative or sensual, sexual misconduct, or sexual harassment behaviors are prohibited. Behavior by couples should be such that they always appear approachable. When any student, faculty, or staff member feels uncomfortable in the presence of a couple, the couple’s behavior is wrong.

Alcohol/Tobacco/Drugs - Central Baptist College is an alcohol-free, drug-free, and tobacco-free campus. Use, possession (including empty cans), and distribution of alcoholic beverages or public intoxication are not acceptable behaviors, whether on or off campus. Non-alcoholic beverages that have the appearance of alcoholic beverages are also not allowed and will be considered to be an alcoholic beverage. Smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are prohibited on campus and at College sponsored functions. Non-nicotine/herbal products that have the appearance of being a tobacco product are also not allowed and will be considered to be a tobacco product. Under no circumstances are students to use illegal drugs, misuse over-the-counter or prescription drugs, inhalants, or anything that causes a hallucination or “high” whether on or off campus. Consumption, possession, or transportation of illegal drugs will not be tolerated.

Gambling - Gambling in any form, at any level is not allowed. Gambling is defined as the exchange of money or property based on a certain outcome. Raffles are also not allowed.

Cursing/Profanity/Vulgarity - Obscene and abusive language considered offensive to public taste and campus moral standards, and language that is not characteristic of a follower of Christ is prohibited.

Weapons - Under no circumstances shall there be any type of weapon allowed on campus, including in any College-owned facility or College-owned property. Weapons may not be kept in a vehicle parked in a CBC parking lot. The term “weapons” includes but is not limited to rifles, shotguns, pistols, bows, crossbows, arrows, explosives (including fireworks and other incendiaries), shell-loading equipment, razor blades, whips, pellet guns, air guns, martial arts training equipment, or any other item that can be used as a weapon to threaten or harm another person.

Pornography – Pornography through any medium is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, obscene and or pornographic books, literature, posters, music, movies, and forms of obscene and/or pornographic communication via computer.