

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Evangel University

2015 Program Review  
For the  
Th.M. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology (Th.M. BTH)

I. Program Mission

The Th.M. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology (Th.M. BTH) is designed for the student to advance his or her knowledge of a major field of theological research, particularly through the acquisition of, and practice in, the methods and tools of theological research. The student will advance his or her preparation for pastoral ministry, teaching ministry, or for more advanced graduate study. The following four concentrations are offered: New Testament Interpretation and Biblical Theology, Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Theology, or Biblical Exegesis and Systematic Theology.

The Th.M. BTH is emphasizes on the reciprocal influence and integration of hermeneutics, exegesis, and theology reflects the central role that theology plays in the life of the church. The development of well-grounded biblical theologians in today’s church is all the more pivotal as the church interacts with a rapidly changing, vastly challenging global culture.

While the program includes examination of hermeneutics and theology within the Pentecostal tradition, it also is designed to explore biblical scholarship within a broader, evangelical framework, thus preparing individual for service to the church and academy in diverse contexts.

II. Program Learning Outcomes and Goals/Objectives

Evangel University AGTS Assessment System Master of Theology (ThM)					
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Learning Outcome (What is evaluated)</i>	<i>When administered</i>	<i>Analysis of fairness, consistency and accuracy</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Schedule for Review</i>
<b>Core Seminar Research Papers</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages	In each of the five core courses in the program	Use of research rubric. Faculty trained in use of rubric. Multiple faculty members review research to maintain consistency.	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.
<b>Elective Course Research Papers</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages	In each of the five electives courses in the program	Use of research rubric. Faculty trained in use of rubric. Multiple faculty members review research to maintain consistency.	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.
<b>NT and OT Readings Courses: Exams and</b>	1. Knowledge base	In each of the two readings courses in the program	The professor of record grades these exams. Where there is a question concerning the quality of the examination, other faculty	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.

<b>Interaction with Readings</b>			members review the student's examination and provide feedback to the professor of record.		
<b>Thesis Proposal</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages 4. Research in the literature of a modern language	Subsequent to successfully completing all other coursework	Juried by the faculty members of the Ph.D. committee.	Performance at the "Accepted with minor revisions" level or above	As completed and scheduled by student and Ph.D. committee. Throughout academic year.
<b>Thesis and Oral Defense</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages 4. Research in the literature of a modern language	Upon submission of thesis to the academic team	Juried by the faculty members of the Ph.D. committee.	Approval of the Ph.D. committee	As completed and scheduled by student and Ph.D. committee. Throughout academic year.

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to demonstrate

1. A knowledge base of the scholarly issues inherent in biblical interpretation and theological studies
2. Original scholarly research
3. Exegesis in the original languages
4. Research in the literature of a modern language

III. Program Capacity and Description

A. Faculty

1. Benny C. Aker, B.A., M.A.R., Ph. D.
2. Robert A. Berg, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
3. Stanley Burgess, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
4. Roger D. Cotton, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.
5. Deborah M. Gill, B.S., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
6. James D. Hernando, B.A., B.S., M.S., M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D.
7. Mark A. Jenkins, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
8. Donald A. Johns, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
9. Paul Lewis, B.A., M.Div., M.A., Ph.D.
10. Frank D. Macchia, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Th.D.
11. Martin W. Mittelstadt, B.Th., M.Div., Ph.D.
12. Waverly E. Nunnally, B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
13. Douglas A. Oss, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
14. James H. Railey, B.A., M.Div., Th.M., D.Th.
15. Charles E. Self, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
16. Amos Yong, B.A., M.A., M.A., Ph.D.

B. Students

1. There are presently no students in the program.
2. There are two students presently working on the prerequisites for admission to the program.

C. Degrees Conferred

1. To this date there have not been any degrees conferred in this program.

D. Enrollment History

1. To this date there is not an enrollment history.

E. Program Maps

1. The Th.M. BTH shares courses with the Ph.D. BTH. Thus, the same Program Map applies to both.

COURSE ROTATION Th.M. BTH				
2014		June 2-6	June 9-12	October 20-24
		(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT-- Nunnally	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical-Theological Models and Methods— Oss
		BNT 941 Interpreting the Parables of Jesus--Gill		THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I--Lewis
2015	February 23-27	June 1-5	June 8-12	October 19-23
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I—Lewis	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit--Railey	BOT 925 Texts and Contexts: Archaeology and the OT—Jenkins
2016	February 22-26	June 6-10	June 13-17	October 17-21
	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological	BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptics and Acts: Luke-Acts--Mittelstadt	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT-- Nunnally	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods—Gill

	Models and Methods-- Oss			
2017	February 27-March 3	June 5-9	June 12-16	October 23-27
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John--Berg	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit—Railey	BTH 943 History of Pentecostal Theology-- Lewis
2018	February 26-March 2	June 4-8	June 11-15	October
	BNT 942 Studies in the General Epistles	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological Models and Methods	BOT 941 Studies in the Prophetic Writings	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT
2019				
	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods	BOT 943 Studies in the Pentateuch and Historical Books	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	BNT 945 Studies in the Writings of Paul
2020				
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT	BOT 942 Studies in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature	BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts
2021				
	BTH 941 Epistemology and Christianity	BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological Models and Methods	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods
2022				
	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	BOT 925 Texts and Contexts: Archaeology and the OT	BOT 921 Post-Biblical Jewish Hermeneutics and Writings	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks

F. Curriculum Maps (courses where learning outcomes are met)

1. The Th.M. BTH shares courses and program objectives with the Ph.D. BTH. Thus, the same Curriculum Map applies to both programs.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Student Learning Outcome</b>
<b>Core Courses</b>	
BNT 901 NT Use of the OT	1, 2, 3
BOT 902 Literary Methods	1, 2, 3
BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks	1, 2, 3
BTH 905 Biblical-Theological Models and Methods	1, 2, 3
BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	1, 2, 3
<b>Required Supervised Readings</b>	
BNT 930 Readings in NT Introduction and Theology	1
BOT 930 Readings in OT Introduction and Theology	1
<b>Elective Courses</b>	
BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts	1, 2, 3
BNT 942 Studies in the General Epistles	1, 2, 3
BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John	1, 2, 3
BNT 945 Studies in the Writings of Paul	1, 2, 3
BNT 949 Life and Writings of Paul (Study Tour)	1, 2, 3
BOT/BNT 925 Biblical History and Archaeology	1, 2, 3
BOT 941 Studies in the Prophetic Writings	1, 2, 3
BOT 942 Studies in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature	1, 2, 3
BOT 943 Studies in the Pentateuch and Hist. Books	1, 2, 3
BTH 921 Post-Biblical Jewish Herm. and Writings	1, 2, 3
BTH 922 Special Topics in Biblical Theology	1, 2, 3

BTH 931 Global Hermeneutical Models	1, 2, 3
BTH 941 Epistemology and Christianity	1, 2, 3
BTH 942 Biblical Worldview in the Arts and Sciences	1, 2, 3
BTH 943 History of Pentecostal Theology	1, 2, 3
BTH 945 Field Experience	1, 2, 3
THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I	1, 2, 3
THE 942 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology II	1, 2, 3
THE 943 Special Topics in Theology	1, 2, 3
<b>Thesis Research and Writing</b>	
BTH 901 Thesis	1, 2, 3, 4

- G. Advising
  - 1. Each student in the program is assigned to a faculty advisor upon admission.
    - a) The advisor-student relationship continues through the program and includes course selection, sequencing of courses, preparation for the summative exams, and guidance in selecting a thesis committee.
  - 2. At the thesis stage, the student and advisor select a chair of the thesis committee and its members (usually two in addition to the chair).
    - a) The thesis committee guides the student through the research and writing of the thesis.
- H. Facilities
  - 1. Classrooms
    - a) There are two lecture-hall rooms with a seating capacity of 65 students each.
    - b) There are five classroom with an adult-learner seating arrangement around a conference table, each of which seats up to 18 students.
  - 2. Computers
    - a) The library facility includes a computer center that provides access to productivity software, library resources and the internet. The computer center is equipped with 16 personal computers and a printer. AGTS students may use the library's copy machine to scan and save copies of documents, either using USB drives or their personal email accounts, and for color printing. A wireless network is accessible throughout the facilities and students can send their laptop or home computer print jobs to the library's printer or copy machine.
  - 3. Library
    - a) The Cordas C. Burnett Library has a 135,000 volume capacity and its holdings currently consist of 126,051 bound volumes, 80,201 microforms, 5,557 audiovisuals, approximately 250 current periodical subscriptions, and a significant number of online databases that are collectively licensed by the Evangel University libraries. These collections include extensive biblical, theological, and missiological materials, augmented by the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center located at the Assemblies of God Leadership and Resource Center in Springfield.
  - 4. Student Lounge (approximately 30-48 feet)
    - a) Furnishings
      - (1) Two leather couches
      - (2) Two leather love seats
      - (3) Four leather chairs
      - (4) Four dining/study tables w/our chairs per table
      - (5) High top counter w/four bar stools
    - b) Kitchen
      - (1) Two refrigerators

- (2) Two coffeemakers
- (3) One dishwasher
- (4) One microwave oven
- (5) One stove w/oven
- (6) One double basin sink
- (7) Ten storage cabinets
- c) Vending machines
  - (1) One for soft drinks
  - (2) One for snack foods

I. Locations, Sites, and Modes of Program Delivery

1. All seated courses (Core and Elective) in the program are offered on- site in the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary building.
  - a) They are offered in one-week intensives, 40 hours of in-class participation, in February, June, and October.
  - b) They are preceded by assignments (readings, papers, journals, etc.) to be submitted when the intensive week begins.
  - c) They are followed by assignments (reading, paper, journals, etc.) to be submitted within 60 days of the end of the week of seated participation.
2. The required supervised readings course does not require seated participation.
  - a) The supervisor provides an extensive bibliography of readings required for the course(s).
  - b) The student completes the readings and several writing assignments to affirm and solidify the value of the assigned readings.
3. The summative exams are taken either on-site at AGTS or in a carefully supervised and proctored situation convenient to the student.
4. The thesis is accomplished by the student off-site.
  - a) The AGTS library resources are available to the student either in-house or delivered by mail or electronic means.
  - b) The research and writing of the thesis is carefully monitored and advised by the student's thesis committee primarily through its chair.

IV. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis

A. Strengths

1. A well-qualified faculty
2. A well-designed program
3. Program utilizes a modular delivery mode, so re-location for participation is not required
4. One of the very few Th.M. programs within Pentecostalism

B. Weaknesses

1. Lack of a full-time program director
2. Limited support staff for the program
3. Lack of dedicated marketing strategy for program recruitment and placement within the larger academic community

- C. Opportunities
  1. The Th.M. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology can play an important role in the Assemblies of God, the larger Pentecostal world, and the Evangelical community.
  2. The program can strengthen the faculty by providing the opportunity to do high-level research while teaching courses and advising doctoral dissertation.
  3. The program can serve to continue the elevation of the status and stature of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University.
- D. Threats
  1. The need for a full-time program director and support staff, juxtaposed with budgetary restraints, is a major threat to the program.
  2. The sustainability of the program, given the lack of a clear and effective marketing/recruiting strategy, is a threat to which a response must be made.
- V. Peer Institutions/Benchmarking
  - A. The AGTS Th.M. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology
    1. Thirty-two credits are required for the degree (four credits per course)
      - a) Twenty credits of Core Courses (five courses)
      - b) Four credits of Supervised Readings Courses (one course)
      - c) Eight credits of Elective Courses (two courses), OR
      - d) Eight credits of Thesis Research and Writing
    2. Language expectations
      - a) At least one year each of biblical Greek and Hebrew.
      - b) At least two years of either biblical Greek or Hebrew, dependent on the student's concentration.
    3. Summative Exams
      - a) Taken after the 24-credits of Core and Supervised Reading courses are completed.
      - b) Graded Pass-Fail
      - c) Successful completion of the comprehensive exams allows the student to prepare and submit a proposal for the thesis and begin work on the final phase of the program.
    4. Thesis Research and Writing
      - a) The first stage is the Thesis Proposal which will be prepared by the student under the guidance of the Thesis Committee (primarily through the chair).
      - b) The research and writing of the Thesis is also under the guidance of the Thesis Committee (primarily through the chair).
      - c) When completed, the Thesis must be approved by all members of the Thesis Committee.
  - B. Regent University, School of Divinity
    1. Twenty-four credits required for the degree
      - a) Nine to fifteen credits of coursework
      - b) Three credit comprehensive exam
      - c) Six to twelve credit thesis



2. Courses delivered face-to-face, entirely online, online with a week-long or weekend on-campus modular component, or a blend of these options.
  3. Nine concentrations are offered:
    - a) Biblical Studies
    - b) Christian Leadership
    - c) Christian Spiritual Formation
    - d) Christian Theology
    - e) Church & Ministry
    - f) Evangelism & Church Development
    - g) History of Christianity
    - h) Intercultural Studies
    - i) Pastoral Theology
- C. Talbot School of Theology
1. Twenty-six credits are required for the degree
  2. Two tracks in the program
    - a) The thesis track
      - (1) Five credits prescribed
      - (2) Twelve credits in major area
      - (3) Three credits electives
      - (4) Six credits thesis
      - (5) Comprehensive exams
    - b) The non-thesis track
      - (1) Five credits prescribed
      - (2) Fifteen credits in major area
      - (3) Six credits electives
      - (4) Comprehensive exams
  3. Four emphases
    - a) Bible Exposition
    - b) New Testament
    - c) Old Testament
    - d) Theology
- VI. Assessment Procedures
- A. Student surveys
  - B. Exit interview/surveys
  - C. Comprehensive Exams
  - D. Thesis
  - E. External curriculum/program committee
    1. Committee members
      - a) Dr. Joe Castleberry, President, Northwest University of the Assemblies of God.
      - b) Dr. Don Meyer, Recently retired President, Valley Forge University
      - c) Rev. Joe Girdler, Superintendent, Kentucky District Council of the Assemblies of God
      - d) Rev. Dan Morrison, Ph.D. Candidate, McMaster University.

2. Documents provided to each
  - a) Th.M. BTH Program Overview
  - b) Th.M. BTH Learning Objectives
  - c) Th.M. Course Descriptions and Curriculum
  - d) Th.M. Summative Exams and Objectives
- F. Grading Rubric for Research Papers
  1. Rubric based on a scale, 0-4, with 4 being excellent.
  2. Items included in the rubric
    - a) Topic selection and rationale for research
    - b) Research and organization
    - c) Critical thinking skills
    - d) Writing, verbal expression, academic form
    - e) Biblical knowledge and interpretative skills
- VII. Findings
  - A. The Th.M. BTH is a well-designed program that can be delivered with academic integrity in the modular delivery modality.
  - B. The Th.M. BTH is designed to meet a very important need in the world of academe, that of preparing a generation of scholars from the Pentecostal perspective, to influence and shape the future of that tradition's scholarship.
  - C. The Th.M. BTH is served by a well-qualified faculty on the AGTS, Evangel University campus. The program also has access to well-qualified faculty serving at other Assemblies of God institutions of higher education as well as others serving in non-Assemblies of God but compatible institutions.
  - D. The program has underperformed in the marketing/recruiting area.
- VIII. Recommendations
  - A. Increased attention be given to course offerings, faculty selection, and student advising.
  - B. Select a Program Director and negotiate with the University for course release or full time status.
  - C. Replace the current Program Coordinator who is transitioning to a position in the University Adult and Graduate Studies Department.
  - D. Consult with the University Marketing Department about a rigorous campaign to market the Th.M. BTH.
  - E. Consult with the University Enrollment Management team about intentional recruiting efforts for the Th.M. BTH.
- IX. Actions Items
  - A. Fill the vacant position of Program Coordinator by October 1, 2016.
  - B. Have a process in place for selecting a new Program Director by March 1, 2017.
  - C. Consult with the University Marketing and Enrollment teams about placing the needs of the Th.M. BTH toward the top of their plans for marketing and recruiting by December 1, 2016.
  - D. Have the course schedule for 2017 in place by January 31, 2016.