

## Program Review Form

**Date:** August 7, 2020

**Program Review Year:** 2017-2020

**Name of Program Being Reviewed:** BS BA Biblical and Theological Studies

**Degrees Covered by Review:** All College Degrees (30 and 40 hour majors)

**Name of Department:** School of Theology

**Department Chair:** Kevin L. Hester

**Program Coordinator:** Kevin Hester

### Mission of the College

*The mission of Welch College is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through Biblical thought and life.*

#### Strategic Initiative (from the strategic plan)

Strategic Initiative #1 – Integrating a Christian worldview.

The College will develop policies, programs, and activities which will enable students to develop a worldview that integrates the Christian faith with the academic disciplines in the whole of life.

#### Strategic Objective (from the strategic plan)

Strategic Objective 1.1 – Develop curricula that integrates the Christian worldview throughout all programs of study.

#### Program Objectives (from the College Catalog)

Graduates of the program should be able to

1. demonstrate a general and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible as a whole and in its major parts
2. interpret the Bible consistently and persuasively according to sound hermeneutical principles
3. apply Biblical truth in the formation of his or her own character in a manner consistent with a Christian worldview
4. use the Bible effectively in the particular ministry he or she prepares for, or as a Christian layperson in more general Christian service.

#### Program Objectives link to Institutional Purpose/General Objectives of the College

Accomplishing the mission of the College successfully depends upon inculcating within students a perspective on life, ministry, and the world that accurately and comprehensively reflects what the Bible teaches. If students are to integrate Biblical thought into their lives and ministries, they must have an adequate cognitive mastery of basic Biblical content and teaching. Further, they must display capability in bringing that knowledge to bear in interpreting the Bible consistently according to sound principles of hermeneutics.

These purposes are reflected in the College's general objectives (from the College Catalog) 1, 2, and 3.

1. A broad comprehension of Biblical teaching.
2. Christian character and spiritual maturity manifested in living according to Biblical principles and a meaningful devotional life.
3. A Christian worldview, manifested in an awareness of its implications for thought and life.

### Program Objectives link to Departmental Objectives

Not Applicable. Program and departmental objectives are the same because of the fact that all our students receive a major in biblical and theological studies. Specific program objectives will be available for ministry degrees housed in the department.

### Courses Aimed to Accomplish Specific Program Objectives

Program Objective	Courses
1. demonstrate a general and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible as a whole and in its major parts	BIB 1011, BIB 1031, BIB 1100, BIB 2032, BIB 2062,
2. interpret the Bible consistently and persuasively according to sound hermeneutical principles	BIB 1100, BIB/THE 3XXX, BIB/THE 4XXX (All BIB and THE 4000 level electives)  BIB 2601 (ministry majors only)
3. apply Biblical truth in the formation of his or her own character in a manner consistent with a Christian worldview	IDS 1902, IDS 3101, IDS 4101, PHL 3602
4. use the Bible effectively in the particular ministry he or she prepares for, or as a Christian layperson in more general Christian service	BIB 1250  THE 3101 (non-ministry majors)  THE 3251, THE 3301, THE 3402, THE 4032 (ministry majors)

## Program Review: Assessment

Program Objective	Means of Assessment	Strategic Objective/Goal	Results (17-18)
What we want to do (general)	How we will know if we did it	Specific Goals	What actually happened
demonstrate a general and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible as a whole and in its major parts	ABHE Bible Test administered to incoming students and graduates	<p>Graduates will demonstrate a twenty point increase in raw score from pretest to post test.</p> <p>Average student post test will be at or above the national norm for this assessment.</p>	<p>Average score for graduates was a 20 point increase. Online Associate (11), traditional Associate (11), Bachelor (21).</p> <p>Review content on associate level to strengthen these courses.</p> <p>Average score for all graduates was 74, national norm on the exam was a 61.</p>
interpret the Bible consistently and persuasively according to sound hermeneutical principles	sampling of senior exegetical papers from online and traditional BIB 4000 level courses	Randomly chosen papers will show a score of at least 80% on items related to adequate exegesis and sound interpretation.	<p>18 graduate papers were reviewed from the courses BIB 4907 and BIB 4307 (online). Average score was 87% across modalities. However, 4 students did not submit the research paper in these courses.</p> <p>Emphasis will be given to staged submission of papers where appropriate.</p>
apply Biblical truth in the formation of his or her own character in a manner consistent with a Christian worldview	Instructor review of capstone project in IDS 4101	100% of students will score 80% or better on the capstone project in IDS 4101.	
use the Bible effectively in the particular ministry he or she prepares for, or as a Christian layperson in more general Christian service	Survey of Recent Graduates	Average response to the question "my education prepared me for ministry" will be at least a 4 on a 5-point Likert scale.	

**Program Review: Use of Results**

Strategic Objective/Goal	Results (17-18)	Use of Results (18-19)	Results Revisited (19-20)
What we wanted to happen	What actually happened	What we did to improve	How did this affect later assessments?
<p>Graduates will demonstrate a twenty-point increase in raw score from pretest to post test.</p> <p>Average student post test will be at or above the national norm for this assessment.</p>	<p>Average score for graduates was a 20-point increase. Online Associate (11), traditional Associate (11), Bachelor (21).</p> <p><b>Review content on associate level to strengthen these courses.</b></p> <p>Average score for all graduates was 74, national norm on the exam was a 61.</p>	<p>Average raw score improvement was 21 points (slight increase). However online Associates (19) and traditional Associates (14) saw significant improvement. Bachelors (24).</p> <p><b>Review content in upper level BIB courses to strengthen content in an attempt to mirror advances in lower level courses.</b></p> <p>Average score for all graduates was 76 and the national norm was again 61.</p>	<p>Value added scores were at 26 for all graduates (a very significant increase). Online 4-year degrees only demonstrated a 10 point average increase. Both online and traditional raw exit scores were however very similar traditional (82) and online (85) both of which were significantly above the national norm (61).</p> <p><b>The department considered raising the goal to a 25-point value added increase but changes to the ABHE Bible exam for next year will call for additional review.</b></p>
<p>Randomly chosen papers will show a score of at least 80% on items related to adequate exegesis and sound interpretation.</p>	<p>18 graduate papers were reviewed from the courses BIB 4907 and BIB 4307 (online). Average score was 87% across modalities. However, 3 students did not submit the research paper in these courses.</p> <p><b>Emphasis will be given to staged submission of papers where appropriate.</b></p>	<p>23 graduate papers were reviewed from the courses BIB 4017 and BIB 4307 (online). Average score was 90% traditional and 85% online.</p> <p>There was a better submission rate in traditional courses.</p> <p><b>Scaled submission of papers will be implemented in online courses.</b></p>	<p>20 graduate papers were reviewed in 2020. 100% of students met the goal in the courses BIB 4707 (traditional) and BIB 4207 (online).</p> <p>The average was a 90% across all modalities.</p> <p><b>Will continue to monitor.</b></p>
100% of students will score 80% or better on	100% of students met this goal. 12/12 in	19/22 students met this goal. There was	Both traditional and online IDS 4101

<p>the capstone project in IDS 4101.</p>	<p>traditional and 5/5 in online.</p> <p>Continue to monitor.</p>	<p>only 1 online student who completed this course this year.</p> <p>Students failing to meet this objective were close to the goal.</p> <p>Changes in faculty in the traditional course may have impacted this score, Dean will review teaching materials and provide instruction to junior faculty in the traditional course.</p>	<p>courses were reviewed. 26/28 students met this objective. Those not meeting the objective were only slightly below the goal at 76% and 77%.</p> <p>Will continue to monitor.</p>
<p>Average response to the question “my education prepared me for ministry” will be at least 90% agree or strongly agree.</p>	<p>Average from 2016 survey was 100%. 75% Strongly agree. 25% Agree.</p> <p>This is a biennial assessment.</p>	<p>90% of students indicated agreement (60% strongly agree, 30% agree). While the goal was met, 8% of graduates strongly disagreed. This is troubling.</p> <p>The Dean will discuss the need for ministry application in Bible/Theology courses regularly in departmental meetings.</p>	<p>Assessment in Spring 2020 was moved to Fall 2020 because of Covid-19.</p>

Note: This page is to be completed only in years of a complete program review according to the Cycle of Curricular Assessment.

### **Program Review: Comparison with Other Similar Programs**

The Dean reviewed the Bible/Theology requirements at Johnson University (TN) a regional institution that, like Welch College holds both regional accreditation (SACSCOC) and national accreditation (ABHE).

Whereas, Johnson University is programmatically accredited Welch College is institutionally accredited with ABHE. In non-ministry majors, JU requires 15 hours of Bible/Theology courses in similar content and proportion to the 30 hours required by WC. No changes are therefore indicated or possible unless WC wishes to move toward programmatic rather than institutional accreditation with ABHE. Total hours in the degree(s) are similar.

In ministry majors and the Bible major, program objectives and student learning outcomes are similar. Hours are similar in the major with WC having 37 as compared to JU 33. Welch College does have significantly more Theology (10) than JU (3). This is an institutional emphasis on worldview and application in fulfillment of the current strategic plan and mission of the institution. No changes are currently contemplated.

### **Program Review: Analysis of Graduate School/Vocational Requirements**

WC graduates have matriculated at numerous institutions of higher learning in the area of theology and biblical studies over the last three years. These institutions include: Southern Theological Seminary, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Beeson Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, and Welch College's own MATM program. It has been noted that WC graduates in the WC MATM program demonstrate generally higher levels of preparation than non-WC students in the program. They certainly have greater familiarity with biblical and theological literature and have better writing/communication skills in the discipline.

No changes are indicated at this time.