

Statement of Educational Effectiveness July 1, 2017

The mission of the Seminary is to educate students who love the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word, equipping pastors for the ministry of the Gospel and preparing others in the Church for effective service in His Kingdom, all within the framework of the historic Reformed faith.

For each of our degree programs, RPTS has established student learning outcomes (SLOs) along with the means for assessment and the criteria for success. These are assessed using both direct and indirect measures in order to show the extent to which these outcomes are achieved. The programs assessed are the Master of Divinity (MDiv), the Master of Theological Studies (MTS), and the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degrees. An overall plan of assessment has been established in which the Faculty meets annually to review the SLOs on a rotating basis, which ensures that every three years the SLOs in each program have been assessed.

The direct and indirect measures include live evaluation of sermons preached in chapel by graduating seniors, juried reviews of academic papers, tabulations of grading rubrics used for exegesis papers, entering and graduating student questionnaires, pastoral feedback from student internships, and pass rates for presbytery exams.

Based upon the results reviewed each September, the Faculty makes recommendations for each SLO which may include minor adjustments to either course requirements or data collection procedures; or, changes to a program or the SLOs for that program. Please see the [Academic Catalog](#) for the SLOs for each degree program.

MDiv Licensure & Ordination

The purpose of the MDiv program is to prepare men for the ordained Gospel ministry in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA), and in other Reformed, Presbyterian, and Evangelical churches. The following table represents the total number of exams attempted in the RPCNA and the PCA with the sustain rate for MDiv students on their presbytery examinations, both for licensure and for ordination.

CLASS OF 2016	Licensure Exams	Ordination Exams
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)	33 Exams 94%	6 Exams 100%
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	<small>As the PCA has a different licensure structure, we only report statistics for ordination exams.</small>	No Exams Yet Taken
CLASS OF 2015	Licensure Exams	Ordination Exams
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)	16 Exams 81%	No Exams Yet Taken
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	<small>As the PCA has a different licensure structure, we only report statistics for ordination exams.</small>	7 Exams 100%

Completion Rates

The following table represents the length of time (listed in the rows) students completed each degree (listed in the columns) for the graduating classes indicated.

CLASS OF 2016	Master of Divinity	Master of Theological Studies	Doctor of Ministry
< 2 Years	6%	-	-
2 to < 3 Years	6%	-	-
3 to < 4 Years	38%	20%	-
4 to > 5 Years	19%	40%	-
5 to < 6 Years	19%	20%	-
6+ Years	12%	20%	-
Median	3.5 years	4 years	-
Average	3.8 years	6.2 years	-

CLASS OF 2015	Master of Divinity	Master of Theological Studies	Doctor of Ministry
2 to < 3 Years	-	25%	-
3 to < 4 Years	62%	50%	-
4 to > 5 Years	13%	-	-
5 to < 6 Years	-	-	25%
6+ Years	25%	25%	75%
Median	3 years	3 years	6 years
Average	4.4 years	9.5 years	6.2 years



Placement Information

The following table represents the placement rates for both the MDiv and MTS degree programs offered at RPTS. This data represents the activity for graduates within one year of graduation for the programs indicated. DMin students are not included in this data, since they are already actively engaged in ministry upon acceptance into the program.

CLASS OF 2016						
Degree Program	Vocational Placement	Non-Vocational Placement	Further Study	Seeking Placement	Other	Totals
Master of Divinity	75%	-	-	13%	12%	100%
Master of Theological Studies	50%	17%	17%	-	16%	100%

CLASS OF 2015						
Degree Program	Vocational Placement	Non-Vocational Placement	Further Study	Seeking Placement	Other	Totals
Master of Divinity	87%	-	-	13%	-	100%
Master of Theological Studies	100%	-	-	-	-	100%



Alumni Surveys

As part of our 2017 re-accreditation visit, RPTS surveyed alumni who graduated between 2007 (the date of the previous self-study) and 2014. Of the 140 graduates in that time period, one is deceased, and ten were unable to be contacted. Of the remaining 129 who received the survey, fifty graduates (39%) responded. The following data represents a sampling of student satisfaction questions which were asked on this survey.

What were the most important factors in your decision to pursue theological education?

- The top three responses were: sensing a call from God; intellectual interest in religious/theological questions; the opportunity for growth and study.

What were the most important factors in your decision to attend RPTS?

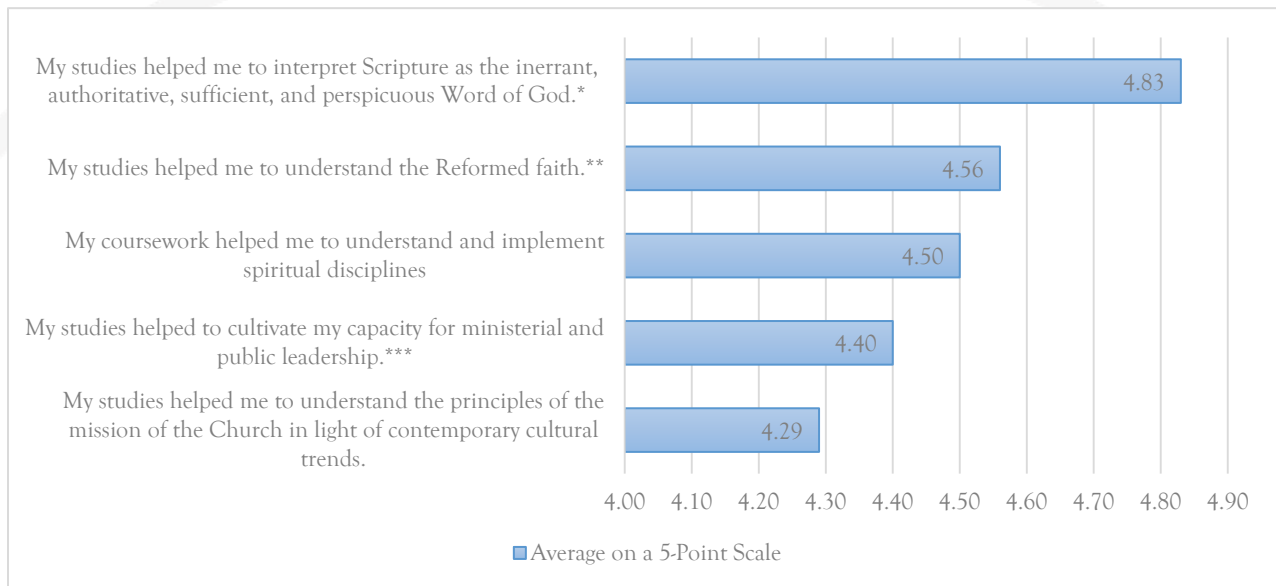
- The top three responses were: comfort with doctrinal positions/theological perspectives at RPTS; curriculum; quality of the faculty.

Level of satisfaction in various areas of seminary experience:





Coursework Satisfaction:



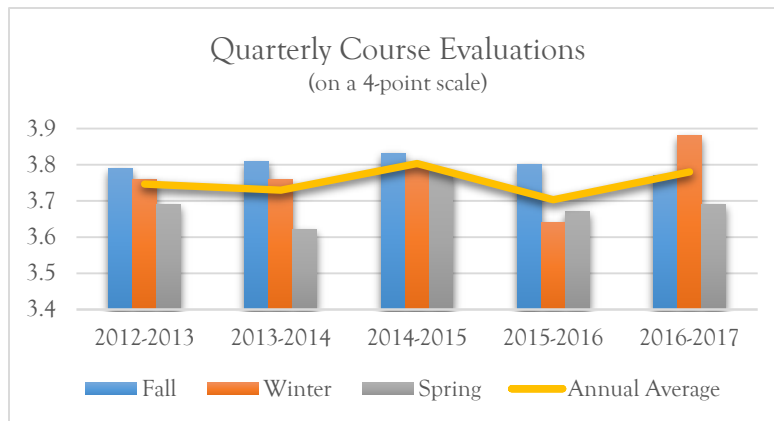
* For MDiv students, this question includes courses in the Biblical languages.

** Including the mediatorial Kingship of Christ, as it is summarized in the Westminster Standards and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

*** For MDiv students, this would include performing the duties of an ordained Gospel minister according to the Scriptures, the Westminster Standards, and the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

Quarterly Course Evaluations

The Seminary provides the opportunity each quarter for students to evaluate all courses offered. These evaluations, which use a four-point scale, include questions regarding: professor knowledge, preparedness, and teaching ability; course organization and content; time spent on and the value of assignments. Students are also asked about the availability of professors for extra assistance when needed, and a comment box is provided for written feedback.



What are the Seminary's greatest assets?



In a time when theological education has experienced a decline in enrollment, 96% of 46 RPTS alumni surveyed indicated that they would still encourage young people to consider ministry or another religious vocation. Furthermore, if those alumni could do it over again, they themselves would still attend seminary (98% of 48), and most would still attend RPTS (96% of 48).

Additionally, 98% of 46 alumni strongly agreed or agreed that they would recommend RPTS to a friend with similar beliefs and calling; 92% of 48 alumni would recommend RPTS to others in different denominations.

