

ACADEMIC CATALOG

2022



**Forge
Theological
Seminary**

EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



A Letter from the Provost

Rev. Michael R. Burgos

B.S., Lee University

M.A., University of Chester

M.A., Belhaven University

Ph.D., Forge Theological Seminary



There are few things men undertake that are as critical and glorious as theological education. The faculty and leadership of Forge Theological Seminary (FTS) recognize the weight of our mission, to provide rigorous and accessible theological education in the name of Christ. We also recognize that FTS serves at the pleasure of the people of God. Christ never established a seminary or Bible college and, therefore, we affirm and uphold the supremacy and authority of local churches as it relates to theological education. For that reason, we require our students and faculty to be active members in a local church *because we exist for the church*.

A quick survey of reveals a vast array of options for theological education. Prior to becoming a faculty member at FTS, I faced a dizzying array of schools, programs, and modalities as I contemplated pursuing doctoral education. Why then should one consider FTS? Here are the four reasons that convinced me:

- FTS is utterly committed to the inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture and the biblical gospel.
- FTS represents education in the Reformed tradition and, therefore, we cherish the theological legacy of the Protestant Reformation.
- The faculty of FTS are men who uphold the importance of the local church. Many of our faculty are ordained churchmen.
- FTS offers a highly accessible approach to education that emphasizes research, asynchronous learning, academic rigor, and affordability.

May our Lord guide you as you pursue education for his glory and the good of his people.

Michael R. Burgos

About Forge Theological Seminary



Biblical Fidelity, Academic Rigor, & Real Life Flexibility

Forge Theological Seminary exists to provide rigorous theological education that will serve both students and Christ's church. We've developed our programs to be extremely affordable and to have real-world flexibility. Our goal is to engender actual theological formation in students while they serve their families and local church.

Doctrinal Stance

All staff and faculty members affirm the following:

The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

The Nashville Statement

The Danvers Statement

The Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel

The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation

The Apostles', Nicene, Chalcedonian, and Athanasian Creeds

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Statement on Accreditation



Forge Theological Seminary (FTS) is not accredited by any accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). That does not mean, however, that the educational programs offered by FTS are inferior to those institutions that have chosen either regional or national accreditation. According to the USDE,

Unaccredited institutions are not reviewed against a set of standards to determine the quality of their education and training. This does not necessarily mean that an unaccredited institution is of poor quality, but earning a degree from an unaccredited institution may create problems for students.[1]

Two qualifications must be made regarding the above statement by the USDE. First, while it is true that unaccredited institutions are not reviewed by USDE/CHEA accreditors, such institutions may be reviewed against another set of standards. In the case of FTS, the quality of our academics and degree programs is ensured by godly persons who possess a commitment to biblical fidelity and who are aware of what constitutes rigorous and effective curricula. The assumption in the USDE's statement is that an education from an institution accredited by a USDE/CHEA recognized accreditor is necessarily of good quality. In light of the ungodly and unbiblical education offered by a legion of traditionally accredited institutions, this assumption is invalid. Second, whether a degree from an unaccredited institution will create problems for a graduate is dependent upon what one intends to accomplish with an unaccredited degree. Degrees obtained from FTS are intended only for service to Christ's church, whether in the pulpit, on the mission field, or in other ministerial vocations. If a student intends to achieve a career in academia or another vocation that requires education from an institution with traditional accreditation, he or she ought to attend another institution.

Achieving regional or national accreditation is an expensive and lengthy process that requires an institution to meet a variety of criteria that may or may not be in the best interest of either the institution or its students. While there are several excellent national Christian accreditors (e.g., Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, or the Association for Biblical Higher Education), even these require a certain amount of involvement with the federal government.

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Statement on Accreditation Cont.



For instance, Title IV compliance is required by both the aforementioned accreditors. FTS has opted to refrain from such involvement with the federal government to maximize our religious and academic freedom. Moreover, given the recent trajectory of government-recognized accreditors in light of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), we believe it is unwise to yoke FTS with the government in any manner.

We believe the local church should not be concerned about secular or parachurch accreditation for theological education and pastoral formation. The church has its own authority from King Jesus. It doesn't ultimately submit to the state for theological education. Further, the church doesn't submit to colleges, seminaries, universities, accrediting agencies, or parachurch organizations. Because of these convictions, the leadership of Forge Theological Seminary has not sought accreditation with any accrediting institution affiliated with the federal government.

For further information on accreditation see the following resources:

Rick Walston, *Walston's Guide to Christian Distance Learning*, 5th Ed. (Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2007).

Lisa Parro, "Free from State Oversight," *Christianity Today*, 10/19/2007.

Ted Olson, "Accreditor Says Creationism Mandate Violates Academic Freedom," *Christianity Today*, 05/01/2002.

Michael R. Burgos, "On the Logic of the Biblical Counseling Movement & the Question of Accreditation" in *Light Through the Spectrum: Essays on Biblical Counseling* (Torrington, CT: Church Militant Pub., 2020), 46-57.

John Frame, "Seminaries and Academic Accreditation."

John M. Wiley, "Is an Unaccredited College or Seminary a Viable Option for Theological Education?"

[1] "Diploma Mills & Accreditation- Accreditation," U.S. Department of Education, 10/15/2009.

Religious Exemption from State Oversight

As an institution whose sole purpose is religious and theological training, Forge Theological Seminary is exempt from state oversight as per the South Carolina Code of Laws, Nonpublic Postsecondary Institution License Act, Section 59-58-30(4).

Degree Programs



Undergraduate Studies

Associate of Theology (Theology)

This program is designed to give basic training in biblical and theological studies.

At 60 credit hours, students generally complete this program in two years of full-time study.

Bachelor of Theology (Theology; Degree Completion Program)

This program is designed for students who want a thorough knowledge of the Bible and theological studies for training as preparation for ministry and for graduate study. The Th.B. in theology is a degree completion program designed for students who possess some college or an Associate degree. Graduation requires a total of 120 credit hours or the equivalent of four years of full-time study.

Bachelor of Theology (Biblical Counseling)

This program is forthcoming. This program provides students with a thorough knowledge of biblical and theological studies and biblical counseling.

Graduate & Doctoral Studies

Master of Theology (Biblical & Theological Studies)

The M.Th. in Biblical and Theological Studies is designed for students who want advanced knowledge of the Bible and systematic theology ideally for training as preparation for ministry or doctoral education. The M.Th. is a 36 credit hour program that is generally completed in one year of full-time study.

Master of Theology (Research)

The M.Th. (Research) affords students the opportunity to conduct rigorous research in one of six areas. Students produce a thesis and undergo a research examination and defense. This program is generally completed in one year of full-time study.

Master of Theological Studies (Biblical Counseling)

This program is forthcoming. The program equips students with a foundation of biblical and theological studies and robust training in biblical counseling.

Doctor of Theology

Th.D. students will conduct considerable research, produce a dissertation, and undergo a research examination and defense. This is a research-only program that is generally completed in two to four years.

Admission Requirements



Undergraduate Studies

Associate of Theology

- High school diploma or GED
- Membership in a local church
- General agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance

Bachelor of Theology (Theology; Degree Completion Program)

- An undergraduate degree consisting of two years of full-time study or equivalent*
- Membership in a local church
- General agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance

Bachelor of Theology (Biblical Counseling)

- *This program is forthcoming*
- High school diploma or GED
- Membership in a local church
- General agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance

*In certain cases students may be able to gain entrance into either the Th.B. (Theology track only), M.Th. (excluding the research track), or M.T.S. programs without the aforementioned educational prerequisites. Students who wish to gain entrance by exception should note this on their application.

Graduate & Doctoral Studies

Master of Theology (All Majors)

- An undergraduate degree consisting of four years of full-time study (or equivalent)*
- Membership in a local church
- General Agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance
- M.Th. (Research) NT concentration: Demonstration of proficiency in Biblical Greek
- M.Th. (Research) OT concentration: Demonstration of proficiency in Biblical Hebrew

Master of Theological Studies

- *This program is forthcoming*
- An undergraduate degree consisting of four years of full-time study (or equivalent)*
- Membership in a local church
- General Agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance

Doctor of Theology

- An undergraduate degree consisting of four years of full-time study (or equivalent)
- A graduate degree in Biblical or theological studies or a closely related field (e.g., religion, counseling, ministry)
- Demonstration of proficiency in Biblical Greek (for New Testament concentration)
- Demonstration of proficiency in Biblical Hebrew (for Old Testament concentration)
- Membership in a local church
- General agreement with FTS' doctrinal stance

Faculty



Asbjørn Berland

Associate Professor of Theological Studies

Th.B. (NLA University College)

A.B. (University of Bergen)

M.Th. (VID Specialized University)

Rev. Michael R. Burgos

Provost, Professor of Theology & Biblical Counseling

B.S. (Lee University)

M.A. (University of Chester)

M.A. (Belhaven University)

Ph.D. (Forge Theological Seminary)

ACBC Certified with Addictions Specialization

Edward L. Dalcour

Academic Dean of Research Studies

M. Apol. (Columbia Evangelical Seminary)

Ph.D. (North-West University)

Rev. Conley Owens

Associate Professor of Theological Studies

M.Div. (North American Reformed Seminary)

Rev. Darin S. Wilt

Professor of Homiletics

B.S. (Park University)

M.Div. (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary)

D.Min. (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary)

Rev. Christain S. Watkins

Professor of Biblical Studies

B.A. (Boyce College)

Th.M. (Forge Theological Seminary)

Ph.D. (Forge Theological Seminary)

Christopher L. Bolt

Professor of Christian Philosophy

B.A. (Lynchburg College)

M.Div. (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Ph.D. (Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Chris Chumita

Associate Professor of Biblical Counseling

A.A.S. (Youngstown State University)

B.S. (Indiana Wesleyan University)

M.A. (Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary)

ACBC Certified

Rev. Steven H. Mathews

Professor of Christian Ethics

B.A. (Florida Baptist Theological College)

M.A. (Trinity Theological Seminary)

M.B.A. (Liberty University)

M.Div. (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary)

D.Min. (Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary)

D.Min. (Forge Theological Seminary)

Ph.D. (University of Pretoria)

Steven Veach

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies

B.A. (Thomas Edison State College)

M.T.S. (Nations University)

Th.D. (Forge Theological Seminary)

Lucas Vieira

Associate Professor of Theology

B.A. (Westmont College)

M.L.S. (Trinity Law School)

M.St. (New Saint Andrews College; Cand.)

Courses



Undergraduate

Introduction to the Old Testament I: Pentateuch (BS103)
Introduction to the Old Testament II: Historical Books (BS104)
Introduction to the Old Testament III: Wisdom Literature (BS105)
Introduction to the Old Testament IV: Prophets (BS106)
Introduction to the New Testament I: Gospels & Acts (BS100)
Introduction to the New Testament II: Pauline Epistles (BS101)
Introduction to the New Testament III: General Epistles & Revelation (BS102)
Systematic Theology I: Prolegomena & Theology Proper (TH100)
Systematic Theology II: Bibliology & Anthropology (TH101)
Systematic Theology III: Christology, Pneumatology, and Soteriology (TH102)
Systematic Theology IV: Ecclesiology & Eschatology (TH103)
Christian Ethics (TH200)
Biblical Hermeneutics (BS107)
Church History I: The Ascension to the Medieval Era (TH201)
Church History II: The Reformation to the Present Day (TH202)
Introduction to Apologetics (TH205)
Apologetics II: Theological Polemics (TH206)
Introduction to Biblical Counseling (TH203)
Theology of Biblical Counseling (TH204)
Capstone (TH207)

Graduate & Doctoral

Introduction to the Old Testament I: Pentateuch (BS503)
Introduction to the Old Testament II: Historical Books (BS504)
Introduction to the Old Testament III: Wisdom Literature (BS505)
Introduction to the Old Testament IV: Prophets (BS506)
Introduction to the New Testament I: Gospels & Acts (BS500)
Introduction to the New Testament II: Pauline Epistles (BS501)
Introduction to the New Testament III: General Epistles & Revelation (BS502)
Systematic Theology I: Prolegomena & Theology Proper (TH500)
Systematic Theology II: Bibliology & Anthropology (TH501)
Systematic Theology III: Christology, Pneumatology, and Soteriology (TH502)
Systematic Theology IV: Ecclesiology & Eschatology (TH503)
Introduction to Biblical Counseling (TH603)
Theology of Biblical Counseling (TH604)
Graduate Research (RE690)
Graduate Defense (RE699)
Doctoral Research (RE890)
Doctoral Defense (RE899)

Tuition & Fees



Introduction

For the first seven years of its operation, Forge Theological Seminary functioned exclusively upon donations and a volunteer faculty. By 2022, it became apparent that the tuition-free model was no longer sustainable. Under the direction of a new provost, Dr. Michael Burgos, the seminary adopted a low-cost subscription-based model that both maintains the accessibility of our programs while ensuring our institution's financial stability. In turn, vast improvements to our online learning platform, web presence, and additions to our faculty have resulted.

Tuition Rates & Fees

Undergraduate & Graduate Programs

Monthly Subscription of \$60
One-Time Graduation Fee of \$65

Doctoral Program

Monthly Subscription of \$100
One-Time Graduation Fee of \$65

Tuition FAQ

- **Is there an application fee?** No, applying to Forge Theological Seminary is completely free.
- **When do I pay?** Students who have already completed the application process are eligible to begin their subscriptions.
- **How do I pay?** Using the links provided on our tuition page, select your program and initiate your monthly subscription.
- **Will my tuition increase?** We guarantee no tuition increases for students who are presently subscribed to a monthly payment plan.
- **Is there another method of payment?** Because we have sought to keep our tuition costs as affordable as possible, there is no other method of payment.
- **What if I miss a payment?** Students who miss one payment are placed on probationary status for a period of one month. We will attempt to draft your account an additional time to cover the missed payment. Students who miss two payments will be removed from their program until payment is made. Additionally, students who have missed payments will be unable to obtain copies of their transcript until overdue balances are paid in full.
- **I do not wish to continue in my program. How do I end my subscription?** End your subscription through your PayPal account. Contact info@forge.education to end enrollment.
- **May I pause my program?** Programs may be paused only when you are not presently enrolled in a course. Students who are between courses may contact info@forge.education and explain their desire to pause studies. Cancel your subscription through your PayPal account. Students who wish to withdraw from a course should contact our office via email.

Cont.

Tuition & Fees Cont.



Tuition FAQ

- **When do I pay my graduation fee?** Students who complete the requirements of their program may apply for graduation by contacting info@forge.education. Upon approval, you may pay the fee.
- **Is there a transcript fee?** Yes, the fee for an official transcript is \$8.
- **Is there a cost to transfer credit?** No, there is no fee associated with credit transfers for students who have an active payment subscription.

