BEESON
DIVINITY SCHOOL

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
Samford University’s Beeson Divinity School opened its doors in the fall of 1988 to an entering class of 32 full-time students. Much has changed; the Beeson Divinity School family now includes more than 1,150 graduates serving the Lord on six continents. Much remains the same; we continue to be loyal to our core commitments. We are committed to the life of the church, to the practice of spiritual disciplines, to the total truthfulness of Holy Scripture, to the centrality of preaching, to the mission and unity of the church in the world and to the great principles that characterized the Protestant Reformation.

At Beeson Divinity School, we frequently say, “Above all else, we want our students to be men and women of God.” We welcome you gladly to join with us as we press “toward the high calling” of God in Jesus Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!

Timothy George
Founding Dean
Beeson Divinity School
Beeson Divinity School trains men and women for a lifetime of faithful service to the church.

We do this by teaching biblical languages and biblical theology, history and doctrine, preaching, spiritual formation, and pastoral ministry courses that equip you to minister to the church and preach the gospel throughout the world. You will learn to serve God’s people by studying and preaching the Bible, integrating the history and theology of the church throughout the centuries, and serving in local and cross-cultural ministry settings.
Beeson Divinity School was founded to represent the entirety of the orthodox Christian church. Our faculty and student body are Protestant Christian, evangelical and interdenominational. You will learn in community with students, faculty and staff who represent more than 20 different evangelical denominations but who together confess the orthodox tenets of the Christian faith and are passionate about the unity and witness of the church. The faculty teaches elective courses that help students learn their own and others’ ecclesial traditions. The divinity school joyfully expresses this identity and ethos within the context of a larger Christian university.

Beeson uniquely blends interdenominational and evangelical Christianity with historic orthodoxy and the tenets of the great Protestant Reformation as well as an ambience of worship and mentored fellowship in small groups.

—I. Rev. Dr. David Bowman Riker, former president, Equatorial Baptist Theological Seminary, Belém, Brazil, M.Div.
Confessional

Beeson prepares God-called men and women for ministry in the church of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the One Triune God of holiness and love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are committed to the great tradition of historic Christian orthodoxy. Therefore, we believe in the central doctrine of justification by grace through faith, the tenet by which the church either stands or falls. We also believe that the good news of God’s gracious salvation in Christ is clearly taught in God’s written Word, the Bible; its full inspiration and total truthfulness we confess, and to its authority we submit. This rich core of commitments forms the basis of our unity as a theological, interdenominational community centered on Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITY worship

We meet as a community of faith and learning each Tuesday during the semester to worship God in Andrew Gerow Hodges Chapel. Each semester we focus our chapel services on a specific theme. Some of our past themes include: “Knowing God through the Psalms,” “Finkenwalde: In the School of Bonhoeffer,” and “Apocalypse Now: The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

ENDOWED LECTURES

We offer three endowed annual lectureships (Biblical Studies Lectures, Reformation Heritage Lectures and William E. Conger Jr. Lectures on Biblical Preaching) in order to enrich the spiritual life of our community and enhance the educational experience of our students.

“The Beeson community confesses the Apostles’ Creed, seeking to know and live the faith once for all delivered to the saints.”

“I believe.”

Beeson focuses on God’s work throughout history. If we pay attention to church history, we receive training on how to read the Bible, articulate our faith, steward our Christian inheritance and stay connected with believers throughout the world.

—Dave Shaw, M.Div. student
We believe strongly that a community-oriented, full-time and personal environment offers the best opportunity to train for a lifetime of faithful ministry.

Beeson has not just shown me love, it has shown me Christ, continually pointing me toward him. I can say that I have learned as much from the example and love of students and teachers as I have in the fantastic classes.

—Yannick Christos-Wahab, M.Div. student

Beeson students learn from renowned faculty in the classroom and worship and pray alongside them in weekly chapel and mentor groups.

Personal

STUDENT SERVICES
Your holistic development at Beeson is enhanced through weekly faculty-led mentor groups, extracurricular events, counseling resources and student advocacy. The Student Government Association (SGA) promotes student interests in the decision-making process at Beeson Divinity School. SGA officers sponsor various activities, such as intramurals, luncheons with professors, and other social and educational events for the student body.

WOMEN’S THEOLOGICAL FELLOWSHIP
The Women’s Theological Fellowship encourages and prayerfully supports female students at Beeson. The fellowship meets several times each semester and occasionally welcomes special guests who discuss their experiences and roles in ministry leadership. Meetings include sharing a meal and a time of prayer.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER ROOM
Beeson’s Prayer Room is dedicated to engaging in the ministry of prayer for others. The Beeson community is invited to join in this pastoral ministry of soul care. Each volunteer commits to a half-hour, hour or longer session once a week in the Prayer Room.

BEESON WIVES FELLOWSHIP
The Beeson Wives Fellowship provides a place for wives to grow and mature together in Christ as they prepare for ministry individually and alongside their husbands. Each wife’s call and seminary journey is different; therefore, the fellowship meets regularly for discussion and a time of prayer. It also invites special speakers and host retreats.
Curriculum

We believe training for ministry requires knowledge, skill and wisdom in all the areas below. We believe you must be informed and transformed by God’s Word and Spirit in community. Beeson students commit to serious, full-time study. We do not offer distance learning because we believe the best training for personal ministry of the gospel takes place in a personal environment.

**BIBLICAL LANGUAGES, BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AND PREACHING**

Learning the original languages helps you communicate the Bible as God desires. Beeson emphasizes biblical theology and the ability to preach and teach directly from the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.

**HISTORY AND DOCTRINE**

Effective preaching and teaching of the gospel requires knowledge and understanding of how the church throughout the ages has confessed and defended the witness of Scripture. The history and doctrine curriculum is a four-course sequence from the Early Church to today that focuses on key doctrines, texts and theologians who have shaped the history and theology of the church.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND PASTORAL MINISTRY**

We emphasize spiritual formation and pastoral and missional theology that puts you in real ministry settings. Local church and cross-cultural practicums engage you in such ministry while you study.

**LILLY GRANT PREACHING INITIATIVE**

In 2013, Beeson Divinity School was awarded a five-year grant by the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its pilot Initiative to Strengthen the Quality of Preaching program. This project is designed to strengthen preaching through the use of new course offerings, conferences and lectures, web resources, and quality peer groups of pastors and current Master of Divinity students. In accordance with the divinity school founding donor Ralph W. Beeson’s belief that the school should prepare “pastors who can preach,” the grant is designed to continue to improve the quality of preaching for all ministers in the Birmingham region and beyond.
The Master of Divinity prepares students for full-time Christian ministry. It is the flagship program of Beeson Divinity School.

Degree Programs

MASTER OF DIVINITY (M.Div.)
The Master of Divinity is the flagship degree of Beeson Divinity School. It combines academic and practical training to prepare students for full-time ministry. This degree offers a balanced curriculum of biblical studies, history and doctrine, spiritual formation and ministry leadership development. The M.Div. consists of 93 hours and typically requires three and a half to four years to complete.

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (M.A.T.S.)
The Master of Arts in Theological Studies is a general academic degree. It is designed for laypeople who want to broaden and deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and theology. Admission to this degree is selective and limited to 10 percent of the total student body. The M.A.T.S. consists of 40 hours and typically requires two years to complete.

JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS
The joint-degree programs offered between Beeson Divinity School and five other graduate schools on the Samford University campus allow students to pursue two degrees concurrently and in a reduced amount of time through credit sharing. This makes your divinity degree even more versatile and tailored toward your particular call to ministry. The following joint degrees are currently offered:

- Master of Divinity/Master of Education
- Master of Divinity/Juris Doctorate
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Juris Doctorate
- Master of Divinity/Master of Music
- Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration
- Master of Divinity/Master of Social Work
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies/Master of Social Work

Generally, between six and 12 hours of course work earned toward one degree satisfy the electives of the other degree. The number of transferrable electives varies by program. A student must apply to each school individually to be considered for enrollment. Please see inserts in back pocket for more specific information.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
The Certificate of Anglican Studies (C.A.S.) helps students deepen in the knowledge of Anglican belief, practice, worship and spirituality.

The Missions Certificate provides students called to cross-cultural missions a rich training ground that combines both classroom and field training.

Certificates are awarded with the successful completion of the M.Div.
Our graduates serve the Lord and his church in various roles and denominational contexts around the globe.

We are committed to walking alongside each person, educating, encouraging and equipping them to minister to the body of Christ.

Engaging in the practice of ministry under caring and competent supervision, you will be assisted in clarifying God’s call, gaining or improving ministry skills, growing in God’s grace, and much more. While we encourage you to worship and serve in a local congregation throughout your time at Beeson, most students complete a yearlong Supervised Ministry Practicum (SMP) in the latter half of their degree program. The director of Ministry Leadership Development is available to advise you on these and other vocational matters.

The adventure of discerning how God may best use you and your gifts in ministry begins early in your Beeson studies. The programs for ministry leadership development and ministry placement are closely linked at Beeson, providing students and alumni with highly personalized assistance in seeking and securing positions of service.

PLACEMENT SERVICES
Placement Services regularly hosts ministry opportunity events, allowing students to make vital connections with ministry leaders and to explore possibilities for present and future service. As a result of these and other initiatives, nine out of 10 Beeson graduates (2010-14) who have actively sought ministry-related positions are engaged in positions of ministry leadership within one year following graduation.

Students learn to analyze the Greek New Testament, to drink deeply from the well of the Christian tradition, and to engage the present-day culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Beeson is at once academic and pastoral, ancient and contemporary, and the Beeson experience is both challenging and rewarding.

—Rev. Dr. Dillon T. Thornton, senior pastor, Cornerstone Community Church, Greeley, Colorado, and fellow, The Center for Pastor Theologians, M.Div.

90% of Beeson graduates (2010–14) who have actively sought ministry-related positions are engaged in positions of ministry leadership within one year following graduation.

Amy Jackson, Family Ministries Associate, Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Alabama, M.Div.

Rev. Peter Smith, Assistant Pastor, St. Peter’s Anglican Church, Birmingham, Alabama, M.Div.

Rev. Dr. Ronald Sterling, Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Smithfield, Alabama, M.Div., D.Min.
Our vision is to prepare missional students who intentionally participate in Kingdom expansion.

Global Center

The Global Center of Beeson Divinity School exists to help people know their world, serve God in the world and help the world know God through Jesus Christ.

We send equipped divinity students into every part of the world and invite global Christians into our community. The Global Center offers students focused missions curriculum, special events and speakers, resources for world missions participation and prayer, and cross-cultural ministry opportunities. Through Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicums, M.Div. students train for at least two weeks with ministry mentors who provide holistic, long-term, gospel-centered ministry in strategic locations in the U.S. and around the globe. We also provide prayer support for more than 40 divinity school alumni serving Christ internationally.

The Global Center has been a place where I can come together with like-minded people who love God and desire to make His name known both locally and internationally. —Callie McManus, M.Div. student

CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY PRACTICUMS

All M.Div. students complete a two-week minimum cross-cultural immersion experience overseen by the Global Center. Certificate students participate in a minimum six-week experience. Beeson has partners both in the United States and around the world with mentors who oversee students. Ministry partners are in places such as the Czech Republic, Liberia, Malaysia, Ecuador, Mexico, the Middle East and Brooklyn, New York.

GLOBAL VOICES

Global Voices is a weekly event in which students, alumni and special guests share their cross-cultural ministry experiences. They also discuss the global church, global needs and issues pertinent in missions today. Complimentary lunch is included.

GO GLOBAL AND WORLD CHRISTIANITY FOCUS WEEK

During the fall semester, the Go Global Missions Emphasis allows students to consider their involvement in global missions through interacting with guest speakers and representatives of various missions agencies. In the spring during the World Christianity Focus Week, students are able to hear and interact with a leader in the world Christian movement and modern scholarship about the state of the church worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH CLUB

Beeson students meet every other week over lunch with international university students to develop cross-cultural friendships through English conversation and cultural exchange. Complimentary lunch is included.
Faculty

Timothy George
Dean
Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
A.B., University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
M.Div., Harvard Divinity School
Th.D., Harvard University
Research Interests: Reformation theology, history of exegesis, Catholic/Evangelical relations, John Calvin, Baptist history and heritage

Carl L. Beckwith
Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
B.A., St. Olaf College
M.Div., Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
M.A., Yale University
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
Research Interests: Trinitarian thought of the Early Church Fathers, use of the Fathers by the Reformers, Lutheran theology, Hilary of Poitiers, Johann Gerhard

Gerald L. Bray
Research Professor of Divinity
History and Doctrine
M.Phil., Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland
M.A., Yale University
Ph.D., University of Paris-Sorbonne, France
Research Interests: church history, historical theology, systematic theology, doctrine of God

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Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Divinity
New Testament
B.S., Union University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Ph.D., Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Gospel of John, biblical theology, theological education

D. Mark DeVine
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B.S., Clemson University
M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Bonhoeffer, faith and vocation, Baptist history and theology

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Research Interests: church history, historical theology, systematic theology, doctrine of God

Thomas L. Fuller
Director, Ministry Leadership Development, Placement and Assessment
B.A., Samford University
M.Div., D.Min., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Ph.D., The University of Alabama
Research Interests: pastoral leadership

Victoria J. Gaston
Curator of Hodges Chapel and Coordinator of Spiritual Life
B.A., Florida Atlantic University
M.Div., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
D.Min., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Research Interests: Old Testament exegesis, biblical theology, history of interpretation, theological hermeneutics

Lyle W. Dorsett
Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism
Evangelism and Spiritual Formation
B.A., M.A., University of Missouri—Kansas City
Ph.D., University of Missouri—Columbia
Post-Doctoral Studies, Iliff School of Theology
Research Interests: C.S. Lewis, evangelism, spiritual formation, church history

Mark S. Gignilliat
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
B.A., Bob Jones University
M.Div., Reformed Theological Seminary
Ph.D., University of St. Andrews, Scotland
Research Interests: Old Testament exegesis, biblical theology, history of interpretation, theological hermeneutics
Faculty

Paul R. House
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Old Testament
B.A., Southwest Baptist University
M.A., University of Missouri—Columbia
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M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
Th.D., Harvard University
Research Interests: systematic theology, Reformation studies, continental philosophy, social theory

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M.Div., Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Old Testament, Hebrew, Leviticus, Joshua

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M.Div., Beeson Divinity School, Samford University
Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Exodus, Isaiah, Psalms, Hebrew

Allen P. Ross
Professor of Divinity
Old Testament
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M.Div., Th.D., Dallas Theological Seminary
Ph.D., University of Cambridge, England
Research Interests: Jonathan Edwards, Jewish-Christian theology, theology of religions

Mark A. Searby
Director, Doctor of Ministry Studies and Student Services
B.A., Lincoln Christian College
M.Div., Lincoln Christian Seminary
D. Min., Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

Robert Smith Jr.
Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity Preaching
A.S., God’s Bible College
B.A., University of Cambridge, England
Ph.D., Duke University
Research Interests: the place of passion in preaching, the literary history of African American preaching, Christological preaching, theologies of preaching

Frank Thielman
Presbyterian Chair of Divinity
New Testament
B.A., Wheaton College
M.A., University of Cambridge, England
Ph.D., Duke University
Additional studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Research Interests: Romans, history of early Christianity, the life and theology of the apostle Paul, Greek

Douglas D. Webster
Professor of Divinity
Pastoral Theology and Christian Preaching
B.A., Wheaton College
Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College, Toronto School of Theology, Canada
Research Interests: pastoral theology and Hebrews, preaching, Christ and culture issues
Beeson Divinity School sits at the heart of Samford University—Alabama’s top-ranked private university. Samford was founded in 1841 and has an enrollment of over 5,400 students (2,000+ graduate and professional students) representing 47 states and 29 countries. Samford is comprised of 10 schools and offers 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with 166 undergraduate majors, minors and concentrations. As part of the larger Samford University community, students have access to many resources, including an excellent library, sporting and art events, health services, workout facilities and community service opportunities.
Beeson Divinity School is located in Birmingham, Alabama, the largest city in the state with a population of about one million people in a seven-county area.

It’s a new day in Birmingham. Today, there is a shared vision and passion among city and church leaders for a unified, forward-moving city that represents the many cultures and traditions of its residents. The city boasts a revitalized urban center, a nationally recognized food and art scene, and, most importantly, new areas of church and parachurch ministry. In fact, many of the new church plants in Birmingham’s city center are pastored and led by Beeson alumni.

Welcome to Birmingham

Barber Motorsports Park
Birmingham Barons
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Birmingham Museum of Art
Birmingham Zoo
Fiesta: Annual Hispanic Festival
Greek Food Festival
Magic City Art Connection

Oak Mountain Park
Pepper Place Farmer’s Market
Railroad Park
Red Mountain Park
Sidewalk Film Festival
Stoss Furnace
Stoss Music and Arts Festival
St. Elias Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival
Vulcan Park and Museum

Firehouse Shelter
The Foundry
Jimmie Hale Mission
The Lovelady Center

M-Power Ministries
Urban Purpose
The Wellhouse

To see more of what Birmingham has to offer, go to meetmagiccity.com.
Experience Beeson Divinity School for yourself! We would love to arrange a visit that allows you to sit in on a class, take a tour and talk with an admission representative. We also host Preview Days each semester that allow a group of students to hear from the dean, meet professors and gain insight into the divinity school’s uniqueness from current students. See Preview Day dates at beesondivinity.com/previewday. Arrange a campus visit by calling 877-575-0595 or 205-726-2066, or at beesondivinity.com/visit.
FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Most full-time M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students at Beeson Divinity School receive a scholarship. Below are available scholarships and requirements. Please visit our website for the latest information.

DEAN’S SCHOLARSHIPS
Dean’s Scholarships provide $5,000 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters. Qualified M.Div. candidates are selected by the scholarship committee based on academic achievement and ministry involvement. Dean’s Scholars are required to earn a minimum 3.2 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

JOHN WESLEY BEESON SCHOLARSHIPS
These awards provide $2,750 per semester for a maximum of seven semesters to M.Div. or M.A.T.S. students. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 3.00 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

BEESON TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS
Approximately 40% of full-time M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students receive a Beeson Tuition Scholarship of $1,500 per semester. Beeson students may receive this scholarship for a maximum of eight semesters. Recipients are required to earn a minimum 2.5 semester and cumulative GPA for the award to be renewed.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

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APPLY TODAY AT BEESONDIVINITY.COM/APPLY

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BeesonDivinity