

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Academic Affairs

NO.: AAC 13-10

COMMITTEE DATE: October 9, 2012

BOARD DATE: October 16, 2012

**APPLICATION OF NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO AWARD THE
MASTER OF DIVINITY**

MOVED: The Board hereby approves the Certificates of Organization of
Nazarene Theological Seminary to offer the **Master of Divinity**.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Dr. Shelley Tinkham, Assistant Commissioner for Academic, P-16 and
Veterans Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Nazarene Theological Seminary Master of Divinity

INTENT

Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS), an independent out-of-state institution located in Kansas City, Missouri, has requested authority to offer the Master of Divinity degree. Nazarene Theological Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The degree will be offered through a mix of intensive courses offered at Eastern Nazarene College (ENC) in Quincy, MA, online courses and synchronous video courses.

The mission of Nazarene Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, is to prepare women and men to be faithful and effective ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to offer itself as a theological resource in service to the Church of the Nazarene, its sponsoring denomination, and the wider Christian Church. NTS is the graduate institution of the Church of the Nazarene.

Discussions were held with the Commissioner for Education of the Church of the Nazarene as well as with district denominational leaders regarding the educational needs of ministers for the Church. In the fall of 2009 a joint meeting was held with the Executive Committee of the NTS Board of Trustees and the General Superintendents (the top-ranking leaders of the denomination) of the Church of the Nazarene to discuss the matter. All agreed that a program offered by NTS on the campuses of the eight undergraduate institutions with Nazarene affiliation in the United States would enhance the educational opportunities of ministers.

Denominational statistics reveal that roughly 80% of Nazarene ministers do not hold a Master of Divinity degree. There are roughly 600 Nazarene churches in the New England region and 80% of them are pastored by persons who do not have a seminary degree. Research by NTS and by its accrediting association, ATS, reveals that students today are inclined to desire education close to home rather than relocating across the country. The institution claims there are hundreds of practicing pastors in and around Massachusetts who would benefit from having access to graduate theological education that is affordable, close to home, and offered in a format that is conducive to the time constraints of a busy pastor.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

Nazarene Theological Seminary, accredited by the Commission of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, is located in Kansas City, Missouri. Its founding was authorized in 1944 as the graduate institution of the Church of the Nazarene. As a post-baccalaureate educational institution, the Seminary's academic focus is the curriculum that leads to the Master of Divinity degree. It also recognizes the importance of specialized forms of Christian education, missiology, compassionate ministry, and academic teaching. Degree programs leading to the Master of Arts in Christian Formation and Discipleship, the Master of Arts in Intercultural

Studies, and the Master of Arts (Theological Studies) provide special preparation for such ministries. The Seminary also acknowledges the importance of post-Master's level study for professional clergy, and therefore offers the Doctor of Ministry degree.

The Seminary offers the Master of Divinity at three locations other than the main campus: Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma, Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio, and Trevecca Nazarene University in Tennessee.

Nazarene Theological Seminary is seeking to award the Master of Divinity degree in Massachusetts.

ACADEMIC AND RELATED MATTERS

Admission

Applicants must have an earned a baccalaureate degree with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. The applicant must provide official transcripts detailing previous academic study from all universities or colleges attended, a completed application for admission, a \$25 non-refundable application fee, references from a senior pastor or ecclesial supervisor and a professor from undergraduate or graduate studies, and a personal reference. The Seminary does not require admission tests such as the GRE.

Projected Enrollment

Since students are projected to be current pastors and staff members of churches in New England, it is anticipated that all will be part-time rather than full-time students. It is assumed that each student will take two courses per semester (6 hours) for a total of 12 hours per year.

	# of Students Year 1	# of Students Year 2	# of Students Year 3	# of Students Year 4*
New Full Time				
Continuing Full Time				
New Part Time	10	5	5	5
Continuing Part Time		10	15	20
Totals	10	15	20	25

Tuition and Fee Charges

Tuition for the 2012-13 school year is \$445 per credit hour. There are no mandatory fees. The total cost of tuition for the entire 76 hour program is \$33,820. Nazarene students receive a \$50 per credit hour discount. The cost of the total program for members of the Church of the Nazarene is \$30,020.

Curriculum (Attachment B)

The program requires 76 credit hours for completion. In addition, each student must participate in Supervised Ministry and participate in case study seminars during the practicum. Students are also required to develop a formation portfolio for the process of self-assessment and assessment by the institution of progress toward degree completion.

PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

The overall goal of the M.Div. curriculum is the personal development of students to the degree of spiritual maturity of mind and character appropriate for service in the various ministries of the Church, especially the pastoral ministry. This Christian spiritual formation takes place through a deepening knowledge of the Triune God of Christian faith as the God whose character is holy love, revealed as the Incarnate in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. This deepening knowledge is achieved through the following objectives:

1. The practice of the Christian disciplines of worship, prayer, contemplation, study and service within the community of the Seminary and in and through specific congregations and the wider church.
2. The articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
3. The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry
4. The growth of mature self-awareness and self-understanding as flawed human beings, reconciled to God and to each other within the Christian community, who are being transformed into the perfect likeness of Christ, filled with his Spirit, and gifted for the service of humanity.
5. The cultivation of gifts for ministry into competent skills and practices in worship and preaching, teaching and discipleship, care and counseling, evangelism and missions, administration and servant-leadership.
6. The investigation of human society, thought and culture in order to articulate clear and coherent views of the context of the mission of the Church, and to develop an

understanding of the Church as the community of faith with a passion for the gospel engaging in mission to different cultures.

The campus, in response to its last accreditation visit, is in the process of developing a complete assessment plan for all programs. Details of the proposed assessment program were provided to the visiting committee during the site visit and will be formally presented to the accrediting body in January 2013.

RESOURCES AND BUDGET

Faculty and Staff

Current faculty (14 full-time) and staff will support the proposed program supplemented by faculty from Eastern Nazarene College. Additional faculty will be drawn from the faculty of Eastern Nazarene College who will teach in the program with permission of their academic supervisor on an overload basis. They will be appointed with affiliate or adjunct professor status with NTS according to the procedures described in the NTS Faculty Handbook.

The Master of Divinity degree in Massachusetts will be managed and serviced by administrative and staff personnel at the main NTS campus in Kansas City, MO. NTS employs a three-quarter time Director of the Multi-Campus seminary. This person is responsible for the marketing of the multi-campus sites (including ENC) as well as overseeing the relationships with staff and students at the multi-campus sites.

Eastern Nazarene College has also pledged support from its staff including library staff, student counseling staff, etc. During the time the courses are taught on the campus of ENC (four one-week intensive courses per year) students will have access to all services at ENC including housing, food, parking, etc. Maintenance of all academic records, academic advising, etc., will be handled by the NTS campus staff in Kansas City via electronic media.

Library and Information Technologies

Students taking courses at Eastern Nazarene will have full access electronically to the William Broadhurst Library on the NTS campus. The library collection contained 149,217 items in 2009. The major components represented in this figure are 96,559 monographs, 14,019 bound periodicals, and 29,023 microforms. In addition to the resources available from the main campus in Kansas City and through interlibrary loan, students will be granted full access to the resources of the ENC library, as well.

Facilities

NTS has a video conference classroom on its main campus that will be used to stream courses to multi-campus sites. Eastern Nazarene has committed to providing a classroom and appropriate supporting services during the intensive one week course offering. This classroom is equipped with white boards, high-speed internet access for

professors and students, appropriate table, chairs, etc. Eastern Nazarene possesses the capacity to receive video delivered classes on its campus, as well

Fiscal (Attachment B)

The institution submitted a budget for the proposed program.

EXTERNAL REVIEW AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

The proposed program was reviewed on July 19 – 21, 2012 by a visiting committee comprised of Perry G. Downs, Ph.D, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; David Esterline, Ph.D., McCormick Theological Seminary; and Rodney Harrison, D. Min., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The visiting committee met with administrators, staff and faculty on site at Nazarene Theological Seminary; met with students remotely through video conferencing, and talked with the Provost and other key personnel from Eastern Nazarene via video conferencing.

The visiting committee was impressed with the quality of the program proposed, the program assessment outlined during conversations with the Dean of Nazarene Theological Seminary and the support for both online and video conference classes provided by the institution. The visiting committee commented that the faculty are committed to the concept of offering the M.Div. on Nazarene undergraduate campuses and skilled in the various methods of pedagogy required by this strategy.

The visiting committee had no recommendations for the institution. No major concerns were raised during the visit. The visiting committee felt that the degree was well established, noting that the institution had experience in administering the proposed degree at other sites.

PUBLIC HEARING

The required public hearing was held on October 8, 2012 at the Department of Higher Education, located at One Ashburton Place in Boston, Massachusetts.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

After a thorough evaluation of all documentation submitted, staff is satisfied that the proposal of Nazarene Theological Seminary to award the **Master of Divinity** degree meets the requirements for 610 CMR 2.07 in the Degree Granting Regulations for Independent Institutions of Higher Education. Recommendation is for approval.

ATTACHMENT A: CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total # of courses required = 13)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
PTH505	Core Relationships for Christian Ministry	3
MID100	Middler Assessment	0
PTH621	Supervised Ministry	1
PTH721	Supervised Ministry	2
PTH800	Senior Integrative Seminar	1
THE760	Christian Ethics	3
ICS/MSS/URB	Cultural Exegesis (This requirement may be fulfilled with one of the following courses: Congregational Mission, Cross-Cultural Communication of the Gospel, Cultural Anthropology, Introduction to Urban Ministry, Missionary Anthropology, Mission Leadership & Strategy, Practice of Intercultural Mission, The Context of Global Mission)	3
	SubTotal # Core Credits Required	13
Elective Course Choices (Total courses required = 63) (attach list of choices if needed)		
OTL	Old Testament	6
NTL	New Testament	6
BIB/OTL/NTL	Biblical Electives*	6
CHS	Church History	6
THE	Christian Theology	6
CHS/THE/PHL	Any Combination of Church History, Christian Theology, or Philosophy	6
CED/PRH/PTH/SPF	Ministries of Formation Courses. This discipline may be fulfilled with any combination of Worship, Spiritual Formation, Preaching, Discipleship, or Leadership & Administration courses.	6
EVG/ICS/MSS/PTH/URB	Ministries of Witness Courses. This discipline may be fulfilled with any combination of Pastoral Care & Counseling, Compassionate Ministry, Evangelism, and Global Mission.	3
	Practical Theology. This discipline may be fulfilled with any combination of the Ministries of Formation or Ministries of Witness courses.	6
	Free Electives. Electives may be fulfilled with any of the combination listed above.	12
	SubTotal # Elective Credits Required	63
Curriculum Summary		
Total number of courses required for the degree		13

Prerequisite, Concentration, Dissertation or Other Requirements:**Bible Content Exam:****Prerequisite:**

1. All students are required to take the Bible Content Exam prior to their first semester. Students who do not receive a score of 75 or better are required to take BIB515, Reading the Biblical Story during their first year.
2. Before being permitted to enroll in supervised ministry (see below), students must take PTH505, Core Relationships for Christian Ministry.
3. Students without 6 hours of undergraduate Biblical Languages are required to take LNG510, Intro to Biblical Languages..

Other Requirements:**Supervised Ministry**

These courses provide ministry leadership development under the direction of a qualified supervisor in a local church context. In the first placement (PTH621), the student will learn by exposure to, participation in, and description of the ministry setting. The student will be expected to spend at least 5 hours per week for a total of at least 75 hours in local church directed ministry. Following PTH621 the student will enroll in PTH721 or by permission of the Supervised Ministry Director in PTH631 and PTH641. PTH721 will require at least 10 hours per week for a minimum total of 150 hours in local church directed ministry. PTH631 and PTH641 will each require at least 5 hours per week for a total of at least 150 hours in local church directed ministry. Students enrolled in PTH631, PTH641, and PTH721 will participate in and plan for ministry leadership in their ministry setting. The student will develop learning covenants for each semester as described in the current Supervised Ministry Handbook (See Appendix 11). The student is required to participate in case study groups that will meet regularly during their supervised ministry.

Formation Portfolio

A process of assessment of each student will begin with PTH505 (Core Relationships for Christian Ministry). Each student will begin a Formation Portfolio in that class and will add materials and reflections to the portfolio at specific stages along his or her progress toward completion of the M.Div. Degree program. The portfolio will be available for both self assessment and student assessment at the Middler Assessment and will be used in a summative way in the student's Senior Integrative Seminar.

Middler Assessment

The M.Div. student must participate in Middler Assessment after completion of 30 hours but no more than 48 hours. The student must have at least 1 credit in SME and have completed PTH505 or have permission of the degree director. The assessment will evaluate ministry fitness and readiness. The primary purpose of the assessment is for advising purposes in the final portion of one's degree program. Inadequate performance in the assessment may lead to remediation, re-evaluation, and possible discontinuance of the M.Div. Degree Program. Students receive a Pass with Excellence, Pass, Pass with Reservations, Pass with Conditions, Fail (Retake) or Fail (Discontinued) within a week of the experience. Students who "Pass with Conditions" will have some form of remediation depending upon the areas of improvements. Typically, they are assigned to a professor who was part of the learning experience to complete the remediation within a certain time frame. Students who "Fail (Retake)" must repeat Middler

Assessment during the next semester. Students who “Fail (Discontinued)” for Middler Assessment will not be allowed to progress in the M.Div. program.

Senior Integrative Seminar

Each M.Div. senior (49 hours and above) who has: (1) at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA; (2) no more than 2 semesters remaining for degree completion (including the semester in which the seminar is taken); (3) successfully completed the Middler Assessment, and (4) is in the final year of SME, must participate in PTH800, Senior Integrative Seminar. The seminar is designed as a summative evaluative experience of one's Seminary career. It focuses on evaluating a student's progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the M.Div. Degree. The seminar is led by a resident professor, a pastor, and a series of faculty resource persons. It investigates personal and professional development, readiness for ministry, and provides 1 basis on which the faculty can assess its own efforts at theological education.

Any student who transfers to NTS may not take the Senior Integrative Seminar until completing at least 1 semester at NTS; no student may graduate without having successfully completed the seminar.

Final assessment of M.Div. students takes place through a five-week Senior Integrative Seminar. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the ability of the student to integrate theological, historical, and biblical knowledge into ministerial skills and cultural engagement.

The seminar is an exercise in integrating what the student has learned in different classes and different disciplines. In Old and New Testament classes students learn to think like a biblical scholar, developing to some degree the specialized skills of a historian, a linguist, and an expert in literature and hermeneutics. In Philosophy of Religion students sharpen the ability to examine arguments, to test presuppositions, and to become familiar with the philosophical influences on our culture that shape the relationship between faith and reason. In the History of Christianity and in Christian Ethics, students become familiar with the concrete issues which have faced the people of God in the past and which confront us today. In Theology students wrestle with the coherence of Christian doctrine and delve into specializations such as patristic or theological methodology. There are also specializations in areas of practical ministry – church administration, youth ministry, pastoral counseling, cross-cultural ministries, evangelism, the practices of Christian worship and spiritual disciplines, and so on.

The purpose of the Senior Integrative Seminar is to help students integrate their thinking across all these specializations so that the resources gathered in various classes might inform and shape ministry. The Master of Divinity degree is primarily a preparation for local church ministry and the Senior Integrative Seminar is an attempt to help students as general practitioners know how to utilize the resources garnered from the specialists.

The Senior Integrative Seminar is therefore integrative in two ways. First, it aims to encourage students to integrate understandings across the academic disciplines. But secondly, it is a way of integrating understanding of the Christian faith and one's role as a minister of the gospel. It aims to help seminarians integrate the academic world of the classroom (including the Pastoral Theology classroom) with the world of the church in its cultural context.

In the series of case studies in this booklet, set in an imaginary but typical Nazarene church, students are challenged to use their learning in Theology, Biblical Studies, History, Philosophy, and Practical Theology to minister in and through this congregation. The exercise is inevitably

artificial. The discussion will take place in an academic environment and not in an actual church. But the aim is to draw on the resources of years of academic study and the experiences of supervised ministry to consider how to respond to typical issues and crises which arise in any ministry. To keep the discussion grounded, the seminar has an experienced pastor as co-leader.

The seminar meets five times, and before each session students prepare a two-page account of how they, as the new pastor of Morningside Church of the Nazarene, will deal with a particular demand or challenge posed by a case study. To encourage students to actually use those resources which years of college and seminary have given them, they include in the two pages a brief bibliography indicating those sections of class notes and/or books from syllabus bibliographies which they have drawn upon.

To gain a pass grade from the Senior Integrative Seminar students must demonstrate two things:

1. The ability to think pastorally and express Theology, Ethics, Biblical understanding, etc, not to a group of academics and specialists and fellow seminarians, but to lay people, ordinary Christians – mature and immature, educated and uneducated, supportive or difficult, Nazarene loyalists, new converts, ethnic minorities, liberals, conservatives – whoever!
2. The acquiring of a deepening understanding of Scripture and the literature of the Christian faith and a maturing wisdom of ministry with real people demonstrating a knowledge of where to go if you don't know the answer and that you don't rely on mere human common sense and pragmatism.

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM BUDGET

One Time/ Start Up Costs	Cost Categories	Annual Expenses			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
	Full Time Faculty (Salary & Fringe)				
	Part Time/Adjunct Faculty (Salary & Fringe) (\$2,500 stipend per course)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Staff (one fourth of the salary for the director of the multi-campus seminary initiative)	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250	\$ 6,250
	General Administrative Costs	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
	Instructional Materials, Library Acquisitions	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	Facilities/Space/Equipment (25% of tuition revenue paid to ENC)	\$11,550	\$17,775	\$24,300	\$31,125
\$ 5,000	Field & Clinical Resources (travel and lodging)	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
\$15,000	Marketing	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
\$10,000	Other (Specify) Licensure Fees	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
\$30,000	TOTALS	\$43,300	\$49,525	\$56,050	\$62,875

One Time/Start- Up Support	Revenue Sources	Annual Income			
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
\$30,000	Grants (Kern Foundation)				
	Tuition	\$46,200	\$71,110	\$97,200	\$124,500
	Fees				
	Departmental				
	Reallocated Funds				
	Other (specify)				
\$30,000	TOTALS	\$46,200	\$71,110	\$97,200	\$124,500
\$ 0,000	PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$ 2,900	\$21,585	\$41,150	\$ 61,625