

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTAL END OF YEAR REPORT

Submit to the Director of Academic Assessment by June 30, 2025.

Program / Department: **Biblical Studies** Submitted by: **Peter Amerman**

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING GOALS and OUTCOMES

I. List the Program Goals in the first column and indicate in which year those goals will be assessed.

Program Goals = what the program aims to achieve and what it should offer students who take it.

[Each goal should be assessed at least once over a 3-year cycle – indicate by X]

Goals for the <u>Biblical Studies</u> Department	Year	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Goal 1: Effectively interprets and applies the Bible on the basis of sound hermeneutical principles		X		
Goal 2: Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of the Bible and the individual books of the Old and New Testaments				X
Goal 3: Has acquired the theory and skills necessary for the practice of Christian ministry		X		
Goal 4: Demonstrates an acquaintance with the salient features of the history of Christianity			X	
Goal 5: Understands and articulates the major doctrines of the Christian faith			X	
Goal 6: Develops the capacity for critical thinking and theological reflection				X
Goal 7: Exhibits intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a desire for lifelong learning				X

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I. Program Goals and Specific Student Learning Outcomes for assessment in 2020-2021

1. *In column 1, identify which goal(s) will be assessed this year. In column 2, list the corresponding specific learning outcomes.*

Specific Learning Outcomes = component parts of program goals which identify in more detail what you want students to know or be able to do by the end of the program.

2. *Attach syllabi of courses where learning outcomes will be assessed and any other relevant assessment tools.*

[The table below should enable you to provide the relevant information succinctly. This section can be done as a narrative if preferred, but please ensure you include all the information required to complete the table.]

Program Goal to be assessed this year	Specific Student Learning Outcomes to be assessed (Typically taken from course syllabus)	Which course will these be assessed?	How assessed? (eg. Rubric, survey, focus group)	Does assessment tool already exist? Y / N?	If NO, who will create it?	By when?	When will data be collected & analyzed?
Goal 2: Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of the Bible and the individual books of the Old and New Testaments	i) Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of the Old and New Testaments	"Old Testament Survey"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025
	ii) Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of individual books of the Bible	"Old Testament Survey"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025

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Program Goal to be assessed this year	Specific Student Learning Outcomes to be assessed (Typically taken from course syllabus)	Which course will these be assessed?	How assessed? (eg. Rubric, survey, focus group)	Does assessment tool already exist? Y / N?	If NO, who will create it?	By when?	When will data be collected & analyzed?
Goal #6- Develops the capacity for critical thinking and theological reflection	i) Develops the capacity for critical thinking in Biblical and theological contexts	"Principles of Biblical Interpretation"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025
	ii) Develops the capacity for theological reflection	"Principles of Biblical Interpretation"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025
Goal #7- Exhibits intellectual curiosity, creativity, and a desire for lifelong learning	i) Exhibits curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, openness, and excitement with respect to theology, Church history, and/or the content of the Bible	"Principles of Biblical Interpretation"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025
	ii) Engages with and appreciates the various historical, theological, and Biblical texts, as well as various cultural expressions of Christianity	"Principles of Biblical Interpretation"	Rubric	Yes			May, 2025

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III. Rationale for decisions

[Include a brief explanation of the rationale for your decision to assess outcomes for these program goals and specific learning outcomes in the way(s) indicated. Why is this course/essay the best place to assess this goal/outcome? Why is this method (eg. survey, rubric) the best way to assess the goal/outcome?]

Goal #2- “Old Testament Survey” - This course is designed to acquaint students with the history, literature, and theology of the Old Testament scriptures, with emphasis on the content of the thirty-nine divinely inspired books that comprise the Old Testament. Attention is also given to the transmission of the text and the canonization of the Old Testament. Students are exposed to the critical issues and scholarly methods employed in the modern study of the Old Testament scriptures.

Goal #6 - “Principles of Biblical Interpretation”- This course is designed to acquaint students with the process of accurate and correct interpretation of the Bible by articulating the various steps involved in the interpretative journey, applying principles of detailed observation to a verse, a paragraph, and to longer units of a biblical text, understanding the role of historical-cultural background and literary context in determining the meaning of a biblical text, determine word meanings within biblical texts, and demonstrate the proper use of a concordance, software, and online tools for research in biblical languages, describing the history of our English Bible and explaining the differences between modern translations, understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in biblical interpretation and interpreting and applying biblical texts with regard to the various major genres found in the both the Old and New Testaments.

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Goal #7 - "Principles of Biblical Interpretation"- This course is designed to acquaint students with the history, theology, background and development of texts of the Bible. Students are to comprehend the author's situation and understanding of God's relationship with the recipients of the texts and to research in detail the specific application of theological principles that relate to their situation. They also are able to articulate origins and concepts of Christian belief and doctrine related to these texts.

IV. What conclusions can be drawn based on your assessment results?

Goal #2- Outcomes # 1- Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of the Old and New Testaments

Outcome #2- Demonstrates familiarity with the background, literature, and theology of individual books of the Bible .

An average of 3.11 for 9 papers for outcomes in Goal #2 is proficient, over our target of 3.0 (proficient) overall.

Goal #6- Outcome #1- Develops the capacity for critical thinking in Biblical and theological contexts

Outcome #2- Develops the capacity for theological reflection

An average of 3.83 for 10 papers for Outcomes #1 and #2 of Goal #6 is at our target of 3.0 (proficient), indicating that indicating that students are doing well in acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities targeted for outcomes #1 and #2.

Goal #7- Outcome #1- Exhibits curiosity, inquisitiveness, wonder, openness, and excitement with respect to theology, Church history, and/or the content of the Bible

Outcome #2- Engages with and appreciates the various historical, theological, and Biblical texts, as well as various cultural expressions of Christianity

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*An average of **3.83** for 10 papers for Outcomes #1 and #2 of Goal #7 is at our target of **3.0** (proficient), indicating that indicating that students are doing well in acquiring the knowledge, skills and abilities targeted for outcomes #1 and #2.*

V. Based on your analysis of the assessment results, what curricular or instructional changes will be made to improve student learning outcomes?

Based upon this assessment, no specific actions need to be taken at this time

VI. Please evaluate the quality of program-level assessment in your area and specify any steps needed for improvement. When, and by whom will these steps be implemented?

Based on this assessment, no specific actions need to be taken at this time