

REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATIONS  
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND DISTANCE LEARNING  
DOUG WATKINS  
FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION  
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As a part of its Cooperative Program supported ministries, Florida Baptists have been involved in a three-way partnership in theological education for many years. The partners are the Florida Baptist Convention, The Baptist College of Florida, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Through this partnership, we offer theological education classes at the certificate, associate, baccalaureate, master, and doctoral levels. At our Centers in Hialeah, West Palm, and Broward County we offer studies in English, French, and Spanish. Our goal is to provide theological education within two hours of every Florida Baptist.

We provide accredited theological education at the levels of need for Florida Baptists. Students can enter at the certificate level and go to the doctoral level. Leavell College of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and The Baptist College of Florida offer various certificate programs of study in Florida. These classes are designed to provide basic training for local church leaders and others who desire to get basic theological education. Our certificate programs are hosted by many churches and associations throughout the state. We continue to seek opportunities to provide training at the certificate level in partnership with additional churches and associations in Florida.

Students wishing to pursue an accredited associate degree may pursue it through one of four BCF centers or two NOBTS undergraduate centers in the state. Students who hold the appropriate undergraduate degree may pursue the next level, the Master of Arts in Christian Education or the Master of Divinity degree. Classes are offered in a variety of formats, including live broadcasts through compressed interactive video at five NOBTS centers statewide. Other formats include extension center classes with local NOBTS professors and qualified adjuncts, online classes, and academic workshops. The highest level of accredited theological education we offer is the professional doctorate. The Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry degrees may be pursued through New Orleans Seminary.

Graduate students in Florida may now earn all but eighteen hours of their master's level degrees in the state of Florida. Eighteen hours must still be earned in New Orleans, but the other twelve hours of on-campus requirements may now be earned at the Orlando Hub.

This year, nearly 1300 Florida Baptists took some level of theological education through the efforts of the Department of Theological Education and Distance Learning and our partner institutions. In addition, Florida Baptists are providing certificate training to more than 150 pastors in Haiti, with graduation scheduled for August 2012. We remain committed to riding the cutting edge of theological education in order to strengthen Florida Baptist churches and provide leaders to plant new ones. None of this would be possible without the Cooperative Program. Thank you Florida Baptist's for allowing us to excel in ministry training. For further information please contact [theologicaleducation@fbcorlando.org](mailto:theologicaleducation@fbcorlando.org).