Appalachian School of Theology

Catalogue

(Updated July 1, 2026)



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Phone 276.479.3222 or 276.393.2741 (Mobile)

www.astva.org US School

www.astug.org Uganda School, Apio Sarah

Phone 256-773-922689 (Mobile)

Appalachian School of Theology is a religious institution exempt from state regulation and oversight in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Accreditation:

AST is duly accredited through the American Accrediting Association of Theological Institutions (AAATI) in the US and also internationally through the International Association for Quality Assurance in Pre-tertiary and Higher Education (IQAHE Association).

The mission statement of the Appalachian School of Theology is: "***To partner with others and provide opportunities for God's people within our region and beyond to engage in quality religious training and theological education at an affordable cost."***

We exist to provide a quality, bible-based education merging study, practical application, and life experiences so that lives are transformed through our practical Christian service.
See Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; Philippians 4:9

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FROM OUR US PRESIDENT

When we think about leaders and leadership roles we tend to think of corporate executives, elected officials, and military officers; however, Webster defines a leader as: "… a person who controls or influences what other people do …" Or as Henry Blackaby said, "… ordinary people who believe their world needs to change but who are not sure what, if any, role they should play in the transformation."

Just now our nation is at a crossroads and the politicians in our country do not seem to have the answers we need. Only God can give us direction and He chooses to work through people, ordinary people who choose to make a difference in the environment wherein He places us. So if you're wondering what this might resemble in our 21st century world, consider this: "If you make the place where you live, work, study, and worship better, then you are a leader. And, if ever this world needed leaders, it is now."

Spiritual leadership isn't what we would consider to be an occupation but a calling, a calling from God that involves people from every background: business owners, health care workers, educators, politicians, factory and service-related workers, parents and grandparents. Yes, God calls everyone to be spiritual leaders.

With this in mind we must remember, Jesus set the ultimate example for us a servant leader. As such, he has called and commissioned us to join him where he is working and lead others by example. This is our calling. But we must ask – what is our ultimate destination? Where are we moving to? Let's just say we're moving people to God's agenda. But what is God's agenda. Through the prophet Jeremiah God said to his people, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11, NIV). Isn't this exactly what's needed in our country and world?

If you're looking to improve your leadership skills in a healthy, fun-filled, learning environment we have good news for you because our Appalachian School of Theology is both local and affordable.

Tuition is affordable and scholarship assistance, if needed, is readily available. If you're interested send us an email at: president@astva.org or give us a call 276-479-3222 or at 276-393-2741.

Dr. Steve J. Collins
President, Appalachian School of Theology, US

OUR HISTORY

For many years there has been great interest in the formation and development of theological training and continuing religious educational opportunities for God's people and churches within the region of southwest Virginia. In past years we established partnerships with others across our state to provide these classes; however, the cost for those educational experiences skyrocketed, which excluded a great number of people from pursuing and achieving their educational dreams.

In early January of 2017 we assembled a group of local church leaders and addressed these issues. From our time of brainstorming emerged the "Appalachian School of Theology."

Our plans were originally to offer local theological education at strategic locations in four counties within our region (Scott, Lee, Russell, & Wise counties) but not limited to these counties or other locations. When the COVID Pandemic struck, we made investments in technology and began offering hybrid classes (in person and online) through the utilization of Zoom technology. This investment enabled us to connect with and enroll students in Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and beyond the southwest region of Virginia. At this point we are connected with and assisting in training international pastors and key church leaders in numerous locations globally.

These classes are ideal for: pastors, youth leaders, teachers, preachers, small group leaders, or anyone with a desire to broaden their understanding of God and his ever-advancing Kingdom.

APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

Our core values and beliefs express the major emphasis of faith and life that define the Appalachian School of Theology, seeking to be within the great biblical traditions of faith.

About God
God is the One who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are equal and are one God. *See Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

About the Bible
Holy Scripture is the inspired Word of God, revealing God's divine will for the salvation of the world and is totally truthful in all it intends to affirm. Scripture is the true and authoritative rule of faith for all Christian belief and practice. *See: 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*

About Humanity
We are created in God's image and likeness but all persons (except Jesus Christ) come into the world under the curse of sin and need redemption. *See Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5.*

About Salvation
Salvation is by God's grace alone through faith and that people cannot save themselves by works of righteousness but that works of righteousness are products of the Holy Spirit who indwells believers by faith. *See Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1*

About Jesus Christ
Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, Savior and Lord of all creation; he is the perfect revelation of God, the only mediator between God and humanity. *See John 1:1-14, 10:25-33, 14:6-11; Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9-10; Philippians 2:5-7*

About the Church
The church was instituted by Jesus Christ to be the people of God and is made up of all true believers in a local congregation regardless of race, gender, age or station in life. We regard evangelism and missions for the salvation of the lost and social transformation to be essential works of the church. *See: Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47, 12; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 2:19-22; Colossians 1:17-20*

About Servanthood
We believe that by following the example of Jesus, all true believers are called to servanthood, worship, prayer, the study of Scripture, faithful witness, and obedience to the commandments of the resurrected Christ. *See Matthew 28:18-20, 25:35-40 Philippians 2:3-8; Colossians 2:23-24; Galatians 5:13-14; Mark 9:34-45, 10:42-45; Romans 12:6-13*

Our Educational Goal
We exist to provide a quality, bible-based education merging study, practical application, and life experiences so that lives are transformed through our practical Christian service. *See Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17; Philippians 4:9*

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR ACADEMIC DEAN

The Appalachian School of Theology is a religious institution that welcomes students and teachers of all church denominations. Our purpose is to serve in the Kingdom of God by providing accessible, accredited theological training that equips our students to become transformational leaders in the global ministry of Jesus Christ. We are accountable to our supporting churches and institutional partners throughout our region, across the Commonwealth of Virginia, and around the world. Our goal is to educate and develop students in Christ-like character, spiritual discipline, compassion, biblical knowledge, and skills which produce pastors and lay leaders who can serve in diverse ministry settings.

As a community of faith and learning, the school provides a curriculum that seeks to develop leaders according to a four-dimensional formation model. The four dimensions are:

(1) Theological – The student should develop an intellectual understanding of the Scriptures, historical and systematic theology, global church history, Christian ethics, etc., as they are addressed within each degree program.
(2) Spiritual – The student should exhibit a sincere love toward God and others, the spiritual disciplines, and accountability within a faith community.
(3) Practical – The student should exhibit growth in the skills and understanding of leadership, whether as a pastor, teacher, chaplain, church program director, or a leader in business or nonprofit organization.
(4) Transformational – The student should have a passionate desire to be a more effective spiritual leader in the calling God has given them. As the student seeks God's will, self-assessment and discernment for future learning and life experiences will be important to become a more effective disciple of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the application of theological learning and relational skills will improve their spiritual leadership skills.

The programs we offer are designed to meet the contexts or challenges faced by the students in their life experiences and service. These settings include: (1) ordained congregational or denominational leadership; (2) competent leadership in congregations or other ministry positions outside the local church; and (3) leadership positions of religious schools, universities, or seminaries. Corresponding to these three contexts are the following degree programs: the Associate Degree of Theology, the Bachelor Degree of Theology, the Master of Theology, and the Doctor of Theology. These opportunities are usually scheduled in the evenings so that students who are working full-time may pursue their studies without significantly compromising their family life or employment.

Thank you for your interest in The Appalachian School of Theology. We look forward to meeting you and assisting you in achieving your educational goals through the courses of study we offer.

Dr. Tammy Lane, Academic Dean academicdean@astva.org

ADMINISTRATION

Office of the Presidents

Dr. Apio Sarah, President, AST UG, africacoordinator@astva.org
BTh., MTh, ThD., Appalachian School of Theology, Nickelsville, VA
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Vice-President

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Academic Dean

Dr. Tammy Lane, academicdean@astva.org
BS King University, Bristol, VA
MTh., Appalachian School of Theology, Nickelsville, VA
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Faculty Chair

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Registrar's Office

Brenda Isaacs, registrar@astva.org
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MTh., Appalachian School of Theology, Nickelsville, VA

Treasurer

Larry M. Culbertson
MTh., Appalachian School of Theology, Nickelsville, VA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Allen Jessee: Vice Chairman and
Interim, Pastor of Regional and Global
Networks Abingdon, Virginia

Larry Culbertson: Treasurer Educational
Administrator, Retired Businessman,
Surveyor
Nickelsville, VA

Dr. Bob Moore
Reverend, Retired
African Missionary Work
Bon Air, VA

Brett Hall
Attorney
Wise, VA

Michelle Thomas Castle
Attorney
Kingsport, TN

Terry Buckner
Reverend, Retired
Nickelsville, VA

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Application for Admission

Students seeking admission to the Appalachian School of Theology must complete the application process and provide all required documentation before an admission decision can be made. Applications remain incomplete until every required item has been received and reviewed by the Admissions Team.

Required Application Materials for Undergraduate and Graduate students

Applicants should submit the following:

- A completed Application for Admission (This can be found online by clicking the "Apply now" or by downloading the application on the website, filling it out, and emailing it to registrar@astva.org)
- Official academic records and/or transcripts from the previously attended educational institutions, when applicable.

  Please send all official documents to:

  Email: registrar@astva.org or

  Mail: AST Registrar 11606 Nickelsville Hwy, Nickelsville VA 24271

Academic Documentation

High School Graduates

Applicants who have not previously earned a college degree must provide one of the following:

- An official high school transcript showing graduation from an accredited secondary school.
- Official General Educational Development (GED) scores or another recognized high school equivalency credential.

Final transcripts should include all completed coursework, cumulative grade point average (if applicable), and the student's graduation date.

Applicants with Previous College Coursework

Students who have attended another college, university, or post-secondary institution must request that official transcripts be sent directly to the Appalachian School of Theology from each institution attended. Transfer credit, when applicable, will be evaluated after official transcripts have been received.

Associate Degree Holders

Applicants who have earned an associate degree from an accredited institution may satisfy the secondary education requirement through submission of their official college transcript.

Additional Admissions Documentation

The AST Admissions Team reserves the right to request supplemental information whenever additional clarification is needed to evaluate an applicant. Such documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Letters of recommendation.
- Personal statements.
- Ministry experience summaries.
- Interviews.
- Other supporting materials deemed appropriate by the Admissions Team.

Additional Doctoral Admission Requirements

Candidacy Review:
Acceptance into the Doctor of Theology Program can be achieved through one of two tracks:

- Track 1 is for students who hold a Master's Degree, or higher, in religion, theology, or education from a duly accredited school, college, or university.

- Track 2 is for students who hold a Master's Degree, or higher, from a duly accredited school, college, or university without any theological education and/or experiences.

Admission Requirements:
The admission procedure will include;

- Review of transcripts

- Completing a written questionnaire
- A personal interview by the Academic Dean or President.
- Final admission consideration will include evaluation by a Credentials Committee composed of three individuals holding earned doctoral degrees

Admission Decisions

Applications are reviewed after all required materials have been received. Admission decisions are based upon the applicant's academic preparation, readiness for collegiate study, and, where appropriate, ministry experience and personal qualifications.

Applicants will be notified in writing regarding their admission status.

Students accepted for admission will receive additional information concerning enrollment procedures, tuition payment, orientation, and course registration.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Please note:
All courses that are offered and completed by AST students will be applicable toward all degree programs. Participants who take the classes for credit and achieve the standards set forth by the Appalachian School of Theology will be awarded an Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate Degree in Theology at the completion of their programs of study in which they are enrolled.

While the textbooks for these Degree Programs may, at times, be the same; the levels of testing, depth of research, and testing materials presented by the students enrolled in different levels of the Degree Programs are held to a much higher standard.

Program Types

On-Site (In-person and Hybrid option available)
On-site classes are currently being offered in two locations; Kingsport, TN and Nickelsville, VA. on two different nights of the week. They will be offering two different classes so that students may be able to take more than one course each semester.

Online Classes (Online Platform Only)
Students who cannot attend in-person classes have the option to attend online classes. These courses may be audited or taken toward the Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's degree programs. Doctoral students may not currently take these courses unless approved in advance by the academic dean or on Track 2 and completing required theology introductory courses. Please see the academic dean to determine pathway and requirements.

Our Programs of Study

Continuing Education "Audit"
This is ideal for the person who wishes to learn and grow in an academic setting with the understanding that completion of grading of assignments and examinations are not required or expected.

Each semester, students enroll in individual courses to deepen theological understanding, refine ministerial skills, learn more about a topic of interest, or as a tool to discern full

enrollment into a degree or certificate program. Continuing education courses are charged at the audit- non degree rate.

Coursework completed under the ‘continuing education’ or 'audit' status can be applied to a certificate or degree program. Please contact the registrar or academic Dean for more details.

Associate’s Degree in Theology, ATh (45 credit hours)

Acceptance into the Associate’s Program requires a high school or GED diploma from a fully accredited school.

Curriculum Requirements:

1.Introduction to the New Testament
2. Introduction to the Old Testament
3. Christian Ethics
4. Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels
5. Johannine Literature
6. The Prophets
7. Spiritual Development
8. Christian Theology I
9. Christian Theology II

Curriculum Requirements:

1. Church History
2. Counseling
3. Baptist Beliefs & History
4. Formation for Ministry
5. Knowing God (Spiritual Intimacy)
6. Spiritual Leadership
7. Preaching and Communication
8. Pastoral Care & Counseling
9. Philosophy of Religion
10. Formation for Ministry
11. History and Theology of the Church
12. Encountering John
13. Encountering the Book of Romans
14. Theology of Missions
15. Connecting with Community

Bachelor's Degree in Theology, BTh. (45 credit hours)
Acceptance into the Bachelor's Program requires an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree from a duly accredited school, college, or university.

Curriculum Requirements:

1.Introduction to the New Testament
2. Introduction to the Old Testament
3. Christian Ethics
4. Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels
5. Johannine Literature
6. The Prophets
7. Spiritual Development
8. Christian Theology I
9. Christian Theology II

Master's Degree in Theology, MTh. (45 credit hours)
Acceptance into the Master's Program requires a Bachelor's Degree from a duly accredited school, college, or university.

Curriculum Requirements:

1. Church History
2. Counseling
3. Baptist Beliefs & History
4. Formation for Ministry
5. Knowing God (Spiritual Intimacy)
6. Spiritual Leadership
7. Preaching and Communication
8. Pastoral Care & Counseling
9. Philosophy of Religion
10. Formation for Ministry
11. History and Theology of the Church
12. Encountering John
13. Encountering the Book of Romans
14. Theology of Missions
15. Connecting with Community

Doctoral of Theology Degree, DTh. (Minimum of 42 credit hours)

Doctoral Degree Requirements:
Upon acceptance into the program all Doctoral students will be required to complete (2) approved Doctoral program courses. Upon completion of these courses a formal review

will be completed. Continuation in the doctoral program is contingent upon satisfactory academic progress, professional conduct, financial standing, and compliance with institutional policies. Doctoral students may continue with their course program according to the track in which they entered the Doctoral program.

Track 1

- Completion of (2) more prior approved courses at the prevailing tuition rate. This requirement will include teaching at least one session per semester for each class taken for credit.
- Completion of four (4) projects for which the student will earn 36 credit hours (9 credit hours for each project) when completed.

Track 2

- A minimum completion of (5) more prior approved courses (to be determined in the formal review evaluation meeting) at the prevailing tuition rate. This requirement will include teaching at least one session per semester for each class taken for credit.
- Completion of four (4) projects for which the student will earn 36 credit hours (9 credit hours for each project) when completed.

More Doctoral degree information and requirements may be found on the "Doctoral Program Handbook" which is available online at astva.org.

DIRECTIONS FOR ENROLLING IN A COURSE

1. If you have not completed the online Application for Admission Form please go to **https://astva.org** and click the "Apply Now" button. This will create a sign-in for you and your application will be reviewed for admissions.
2. If you have been admitted into AST you will need to "Sign-In" to your account. This can be done by visiting: **https://astva.opensis.com/admsn?u=irwbFU0** or by clicking the "Enroll in a course" on the website.
3. Log in using the username and password you created after you filled out your admission application form online.
4. From the menu on the left side of the screen, click **Courses**.
5. Select **Course Enrollment**.
6. Under **School Year**, choose **2026–2027**.
7. Browse the list of available courses and locate the course you wish to enroll in.
8. Click on the course name. The course details will expand.
    - Note: Be sure and choose the correct degree program before "Selecting" a course.
9. If you have selected the correct course, click **Select**.
10. At the bottom of the page (on the right hand side), click the green **Courses/Sections Selected** button.
11. Click **Request for Enrollment** to submit your enrollment request.

Your course enrollment request has now been successfully submitted and will be reviewed by the registrar and you will be billed accordingly.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Online Education

Some states may allow out-of-state institutions without a physical presence in the state to enroll students in that state in online education without any registration, licensure, authorization, or approval requirements. Other states may have such requirements or may require an application for an exemption. If you contemplate moving to or taking an Appalachian School of Theology (AST) class in another state and would like to continue as a AST student via online education from that state, please contact the AST Academic Dean, Tammy Lane, as early as possible to determine if you will be able to do so. If an application to another state is required, the approval process for the application could take several weeks or months.

Advanced Standing Students

Those who have taken comparable courses and/or achieved competence related to an area of graduate study may request to bypass certain required courses and substitute other courses or electives to complete the required number of hours or request to have AST reduce the number of credits required for completion of the student's program. The applicant must make a written request to the academic dean. No more than one-third of the degree being sought may be bypassed with advanced standing. In appropriate cases, advanced standing may be granted for undergraduate courses equivalent to required AST graduate courses, such as language courses, or if the student had formal learning not resulting in a transcript, or if a student can demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes of certain required courses.

Recognition of Credit from or at Other Schools

Under certain conditions, The Appalachian School of Theology (AST) will recognize credit earned at other educational institutions. In addition, credit can be requested and may be granted for life and ministry experiences. All requests for such credit need to be directed to the Academic Dean, Tammy Lane academicdean@astva.org Under these conditions, credit may be transferred from a never completed degree program at another graduate school, and credit may be shared that is earned in a completed master’s degree at another school. The Appalachian School of Theology (AST) will consider for transfer or shared credit graduate level credits earned from accredited institutions such as Bible Colleges and Seminaries through grade transcripts. The Appalachian School of Theology will also consider undergraduate-level transfer or shared credits earned from institutions

accredited by regional accreditation associations. Each course considered for transfer or shared credit is required to have a grade of at least C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and must be substantially parallel to a course offered in the Appalachian School of Theology curriculum. When appropriate credit has been given for previous education, training, and life experiences the student's required curriculum of AST courses will be shortened proportionately, and the eligible student notified.

Whether course credit earned at one institution is accepted for transfer at another institution is a decision of the receiving institution, and the receiving institution may consider multiple factors including but not limited to institution and program accreditation, grades received, the number of credits sought to be transferred, dates credits were earned, and the comparability of the courses taken to courses in the student's desired program at that institution. Students seeking to transfer course credit from AST to another institution are responsible for determining whether the other institution will accept the credit. The AST registrar provides academic transcripts to designated schools upon written, signed requests from current or former AST students to assist other institutions in credit transfer decisions. Students should be aware that given the Christian religious and theological nature of AST's curricula, other institutions may not accept AST credit for transfer into non-religious or non-theological programs or into non-Christian religious or theological programs. Similarly, students seeking employment in concentrations outside of theology or religion may experience difficulty in obtaining employment due to differences in required study, education, and training. With respect to church and denominational positions, students are responsible for determining the specific degree, ordination, and pastoral licensing requirements of their specific church or denomination.

Appalachian School of Theology Policy Recognition of Academic Credit for Honorably Discharged Veterans

Appalachian School of Theology recognizes and honors the service, leadership, sacrifice, and life experience of honorably discharged veterans and active-duty personnel serving in the United States Armed Forces. Consistent with the institution's commitment to valuing applied learning and real-world experience, eligible students may receive academic credit toward degree completion based upon documented military service, education, training, and leadership experience.

Military credit evaluations are conducted in accordance with the Appalachian School of Theology Policy: **Recognition of Academic Credit for Honorably Discharged Veterans and Active-Duty Personnel Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces**. Credit consideration may include active-duty service, documented military education and

training, and leadership advancement, subject to institutional review and curricular alignment. Military credit awards are not automatic and are subject to established institutional limitations and academic standards. Students seeking military credit consideration should contact the Academic Dean and submit all required military documentation, including discharge records and/or official military training transcripts where applicable.

Appalachian School of Theology (Recognition of Life Experiences)

At the Appalachian School of Theology, we are committed to helping you earn credit for what you already know, whether it's from work, education, life experiences, military service, or technical training.

If you have worked in a career, served in the military or participated in learning environments outside of a traditional college classroom, you may be eligible to apply your experiential learning to earn up to 30 credit hours of college credit at the Appalachian School of Theology. You may submit the documentation and request consideration for credit.

Drop or Withdrawal

Students are encouraged to talk to their professors when experiencing difficulty in completing a course. In addition, counseling resources are available including short-term counseling with the dean or an appropriate faculty or staff member.

A student seeking to drop a class(es) or unconditionally withdraw from class(es) at The Appalachian School of Theology must academicdean@astva.org to request to be dropped or withdrawn from the class(es). If a student drops out of class without permission from the school, the permanent record will show a grade of "F." The student who officially drops or withdraws within the period allowed on the Academic Calendar will show no academic penalty on the permanent record.

Before dropping a class or seeking any withdrawal, students should consider the impact upon any scholarship award and communicate with the scholarship donor as needed. Full tuition refunds can be requested and made throughout the first four weeks of the semester; however, refunds after the first four weeks will be prorated.

If a student cannot complete coursework because of the student's serious physical or mental illness or another serious hardship affecting the student after the deadline has

passed for an unconditional withdrawal, the student or the student's authorized representative may request a withdrawal due to illness or other hardship. The deadline to request to withdraw from a course due to a serious illness or other serious hardship is the last day of the affected class or if an incomplete has been granted, by the deadline to resolve the incomplete. The request should initially be made to the professor(s) for the affected course(s). The professor(s) will consult with the Academic Dean and Faculty Chair. The Academic Dean or Faculty Chair will make the final decision of whether to grant the withdrawal request on a case-by-case basis and inform the student, professor(s), and registrar of the decision. The professor(s) will assign a grade of WP or WF according to whether the student is passing or failing at the time of the withdrawal.

Honor Code and Doctoral Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in doctoral programs at Appalachian School of Theology are expected to uphold the highest standards of Christian character, academic honesty, scholarly excellence, and professional conduct. As advanced students and developing scholars of the Word of God, doctoral candidates are expected to demonstrate integrity in all research, writing, ministry projects, academic collaboration, and use of emerging technologies.

All doctoral students are required to review, sign, and abide by the Appalachian School of Theology Student Honor Code as a condition of enrollment and continued participation in the program. The Honor Code establishes institutional expectations regarding original authorship, proper citation practices, academic honesty, ethical conduct, and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Doctoral students are expected to produce original scholarly work and maintain full compliance with approved citation standards. The use of AI tools is prohibited unless expressly authorized in advance by the supervising professor, course syllabus, dissertation supervisor, or doctoral committee, and any approved use must be appropriately disclosed in submitted work.

Violations of the Student Honor Code—including plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, misuse of AI, duplicate submission of academic work, or other breaches of academic integrity—may result in formal academic review and disciplinary action, including probation, suspension, dismissal, or referral through the institutional appeals process.

Doctoral students are expected to pursue scholarship in a manner consistent with the mission of Appalachian School of Theology: to honor Jesus Christ through faithful study, intellectual honesty, spiritual maturity, and a Biblical worldview.

Ministry Ethics and Professional Conduct

Students enrolled in the Doctor of Theology (ThD) program at Appalachian School of Theology are expected to demonstrate conduct that reflects Christian character, spiritual maturity, professional responsibility, and faithful stewardship of ministry opportunities. As representatives of Christ, their churches, ministry organizations, and Appalachian School of Theology, doctoral students are expected to maintain behavior that promotes trust, integrity, accountability, and servant leadership.

Doctoral students shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with Biblical principles and the mission of the institution, exhibiting honesty, humility, respect, and care in all academic, ministry, and interpersonal settings. Students are expected to engage faculty, fellow students, ministry participants, churches, and community partners with dignity, professionalism, and Christian love.

Professional conduct expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Demonstrating integrity and truthfulness in ministry, teaching, research, communication, and leadership responsibilities.
- Respecting confidentiality and exercising discretion regarding personal, pastoral, organizational, and ministry-related information.
- Maintaining appropriate boundaries and ethical relationships in ministry environments.
- Showing respect toward differing theological perspectives while remaining faithful to the doctrinal commitments of Appalachian School of Theology.
- Exercising responsible stewardship of ministry resources, finances, facilities, and institutional property.
- Conducting ministry projects and academic work in a manner that reflects sound judgment, accountability, and servant leadership.
- Communicating in ways that are respectful, constructive, and Christ-honoring in person, electronically, and through social media.
- Complying with all institutional policies, applicable laws, and expectations of ministry settings in which doctoral work is conducted.

Because doctoral study at Appalachian School of Theology emphasizes applied ministry and leadership development, students are expected to demonstrate not only academic achievement but also evidence of ethical ministry practice and Christian discipleship throughout the duration of the program.

Concerns regarding professional conduct or ministry ethics may result in review by the Academic Dean and institutional leadership and may lead to corrective action, probation, suspension, dismissal, or referral through established appeals procedures.

Each doctoral student acknowledges that academic excellence and ministry effectiveness are inseparable from Christian character and ethical conduct.

OUR REGIONAL LIBRARY

We provide a regional resource library, computer lab and free wi-fi to aid our students in their time of studies. Our students and others have open access to this library and its resources seven days a week to use at their convenience.

ACADEMIC WORKLOAD

Preparation

Graduate-level students should expect to work / prepare three hours during the week for each credit hour of class taken.

Texts

Graduate-level students should expect 200-300 pages of reading per hour of credit. This approximation will vary to some extent based on the difficulty of the readings required.

Style Manual

The SBL Handbook of Style (2nd ed.) is the required style manual for all classes. Students are expected to become familiar with The SBL Handbook, and all writing assignments should be formatted according to its guidelines. Where The SBL Handbook does not address a particular formatting, style, or citation issue, students should consult Kate Turabian's “A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (9th ed.) (Manual for Writers)” or “The Chicago Manual of Style (17th ed.)” in that order of preference. Students should also follow their professor's specific requirements for the content, organization, etc. of their writing assignments. In addition, Turabian's Manual for Writers provides much practical guidance on research and writing, such as defining the question, finding sources, engaging your sources, constructing arguments, drafting, and redrafting.

Exams

Examinations are administered at the discretion of the professor.

THE SCHOLASTIC GRADING POLICY

A+ 100-98 (4.3)
A 97-95 (4.0)
A- 94-93 (3.7) B+ 92-90 (3.3)
B 89-87 (3.0) B- 86-85 (2.7) C+ 84-82 (2.3)
C 81-79 (2.0)
C- 78-77 (1.7) D+ 76-74 (1.3)
D 73-71 (1.0) D- 70-69 (0.7)
F 68- below. The student has failed to master the material and its application.
P Passing
I Incomplete
WP Withdrawal Passing (unconditional or conditional)
WF Withdrawal Failing (unconditional or conditional)

Pass/Fail Policy

All requests to take a class Pass/ Fail must be submitted to the Registrar and the student's professor by the deadline specified in the Academic Calendar. The professor will determine whether to grant the request in consultation with the Academic Dean.

Incompletes

Incomplete designations are issued at the sole discretion of the professor of record and only due to extreme circumstances.

Before a student can receive an incomplete, the student and professor must sign the incomplete agreement form concerning the remaining work to be completed and stating the applicable deadline for submission of the work and the default grade if the completed work is not submitted by the deadline. If assignments to resolve incomplete work are not submitted by the applicable deadline, the default grade(s) for the missing assignment(s) will be recorded as 0 and the resulting grade for the course will be recorded.

Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal

Students who fail to maintain a grade point average of 2.00 after 9 credit hours will be placed on academic probation not to exceed two consecutive terms. Students who fail to maintain a 2.00 grade point average during two semesters will be required to withdraw. Students who have been required to withdraw because of academic suspension will not be permitted to apply for readmission until one full year has elapsed. No student achieving less than an overall 2.00 grade point average will be permitted to graduate.

Grade Reports

Final grades will be sent to students at the close of the semester or within three weeks after the end of class. Grades are not sent to students who are on financial hold.

Transcripts

Official transcripts are available to students upon request. A fee of $10 is charged for each official transcript issued, which may be paid to the Registrar, Brenda Isaacs, in person or mailed to the Appalachian School of Theology, 11606 Nickelsville Hwy., Nickelsville, VA 24271. To request an official transcript, the student must submit a letter with his/her handwritten signature authorizing release of their records to a third party. The letter should include complete contact information for the recipient of the transcript as well as for the student requesting the transcript. Requests should be scanned and emailed to registrar@astva.org or mailed to The Appalachian School of Theology, ATTN Registrar, 11606 Nickelsville Hwy., Nickelsville, VA 24271. Transcripts will not be provided for students who are on financial hold.

ACADEMIC YEAR

2026-2027

In-Person Courses:

Fall semester classes will begin on August 24, 2026 and end the second week of December. The Spring semester will begin on January 18th, 2027 and end the last week of April.

Online Courses:

Term 1 Fall A: August 31st, 2026-Oct. 22, 2026

Term 2 Fall B: October 26, 2026-December 17, 2026

Term 3 Spring A: January 4th, 2027-February 25, 2027

Term 4 Spring B: March 1st, 2027-April 22, 2027

Term 5 Summer A: April 26th, 2027-June 17, 2027

Term 6 Summer B: June 21st, 2027-Aug. 12th, 2027

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Student's Financial Responsibility
Preparation for theological studies should include a determination of financial needs and resources for meeting those needs. It is the student's responsibility to understand the costs involved in attending the Appalachian School of Theology. The following gives information regarding these costs for the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

Registration and Payment Deadlines:

- Online or In-person registration, full payment and/or an established payment plan must be completed on or before the date of the second class session.
- Failure to provide full payment or establish a payment plan will result in unenrollment from the class without the ability to re-enroll for that class term.
- All tuition must be paid in full by the end of the final scheduled class of the semester.
- Final grades will be withheld until all outstanding balances are paid in full.

Tuition Cost (Updated July 1, 2026)

Audit Rate: $300 per course

Associate Degree: $125 per credit hour

Bachelor's Degree: $125 per credit hour

Master's Degree: $ 250 per credit hour

Doctorate Tuition:
The approved tuition rate for all classes taken by doctoral students will be $300 per credit hour.
Each Doctoral Project will be worth 9 credit hours and (4) projects will be required to complete the Doctoral program totaling (36) credit hours regardless of which Doctoral Track (1 or 2) that a student is completing. Tuition will be $1,000 per (9 credit hour) project or $4,000 for the four (4) projects needed to complete this program.

Please Note:
Prospective participants who are concerned about the cost of the classes should not let this hinder their interest or involvement. Payments can be made throughout the semester and scholarship funding is readily available, both from our school and other sources such as the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV), provided that your church is a

participating BGAV church- Please click on: https://www.bgav.org/blog/scholarships-and-ministerial-education-funds ; however, participants who receive scholarship assistance need to remember that someone felt they were worthy of their investment and should try their best to excel.

***The Appalachian School of Theology does not provide room and board facilities for students.**

Policy Revision Statement

The Appalachian School of Theology reserves the right to revise policies, procedures, curriculum, tuition, and handbook provisions as necessary to maintain academic quality, regulatory compliance, and institutional effectiveness. Reasonable notice of substantive changes will be provided.