

JACKSON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Policies and Procedures Manual

2023-2024

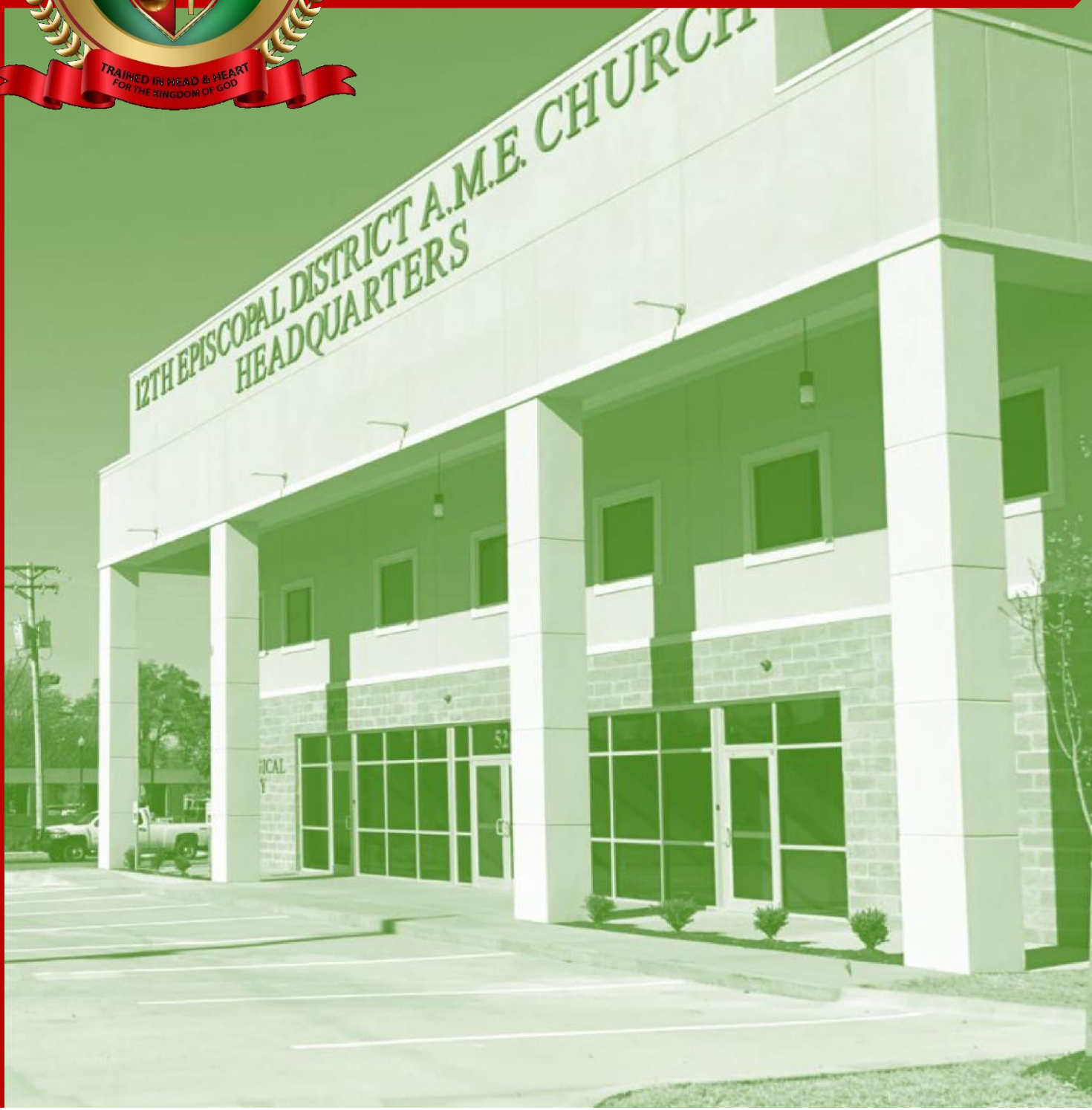


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Jackson Theological Seminary

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

This document is given to provide student, staff, facility, administration, and board members with the guidance necessary to ensure that the Seminary is operated with the upmost proficiency and professionalism. Policies and procedures are an essential part of any organization. Together, policies and procedures, provide a roadmap for day to-day operations. They ensure compliance with laws and regulations, give guidance for decision-making, and streamline internal processes.

THE NEED FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

However, policies and procedures will not do Jackson Theological Seminary any good if no one follows them. Students, staff alike don't always like the idea of having to follow rules. But policy implementation is not just a matter of arbitrarily forcing us to do things we don't want to do. Following policies and procedures is good for everyone and the seminary. After all, policies and procedures keep operations from devolving into complete chaos. When everyone is following policies and procedures, Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) can run smoothly. This document helps ensure that our structures and teams operate as they are meant, therefore mistakes and processes can be quickly identified and addressed.

THE RESULTS OF FOLLOWING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

When your staff is following policies and procedures, your organization will use time and resources more efficiently and you will be able to grow and achieve your goals. Our policies provide avenues of consistency in practices. We know what each of us are responsible for, and what is expected.

When JTS follow procedures, we perform tasks correctly and provide consistent, safe and efficient service. This enhances the quality of Jackson's services and reputation.

PUBLISHING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

This document is necessary and will also be made available online for expediency and accessibility.

ACCREDITATION

Jackson Theological Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), PO Box 328, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: 434-525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org, having been awarded Accredited Status as a Category III institution by TRACS' Accreditation Commission on October 25, 2022; this status is effective as of July 1, 2022, and is good for a period of five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education. (INCAAHE).

Jackson Theological Seminary is not currently approved for Distance Learning by the Department of Education (DOE) nor by TRACS. Any special provision must be issued by permission of the DOE.

TITLE IV STATEMENT

Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) is approved for provisional participation in Title IV and maintains a copy of the Program Participation Agreement (PPA). Financial is currently available for all who qualify.

INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY

The Board of Trustees, President, administrators, staff, and faculty of Jackson Theological seminary will operate with integrity, representing itself accurately and honestly to students, and the public. Furthermore, the institution will maintain honest and open communication with all accreditations, federal and state agencies and will abide by the policies and procedures set forth by each entity.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) had its beginning with Shorter College in 1886 and shared many of Shorter's physical facilities and programs. The Seminary is named for the late Dr. Thomas Henry Jackson who served as President 1895-1900 and Dean of the Theological Department 1904 – 1912. Dr. Jackson is a graduate of Wilberforce University. He entered Wilberforce at the age of 14, graduating with the first class, in 1870. In 1865, he was converted and entered the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, thus serving 56 years.

Jackson Theological Seminary is owned and operated by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Seminary is a valid Servant of the Church. Since the first graduate, Reverend John March Murchison in 1903, the Seminary has been an effective guide to those aspiring to be useful and great. Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) played a major role in providing theological and religious education to clergy and lay students in the 12th Episcopal District. In order to more adequately serve its basic purpose of educating and training Christian Ministers and Lay Leaders; several Extension Centers were authorized in Arkansas and Oklahoma. At least 30 hours earned in the Extension Centers could be applied toward the 90-hour course providing other academic requirements were met.

JTS offers a Master of Divinity and Bachelor of Biblical Studies (BA Degree Completion). While the school was not accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, the administration and faculty modeled the seminary after those that were accredited in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The leadership of JTS was recognized alternately as either the President or Dean of the seminary.

Some of the individuals who served as Deans during the period of 1960 to 2011 were:

- The Reverend J.M. Watkins
- The Reverend Rufus King Young, Sr.
- The Reverend Nathaniel Irving

- The Reverend Dr. Colin Lambert
- The Reverend James R. Hooper
- The Reverend Clarence H. Guy
- The Reverend Clarence V. Boyd, Sr.

Jackson Theological Seminary held classes and taught courses in theology, Christian education, pastoral leadership, and preaching continuously from 1960 to 2010. In the spring of 2009, JTS entered into an off-campus distance learning partnership with Florida Center for Theological Studies. The Florida Center for Theological Studies was an accredited seminary and using teleconferencing technology Jackson was able to offer students the opportunity to take graduate-level courses from an accredited school. The partnership lasted four semesters and ended when Florida Center for Theological Studies merged with another school that discontinued the distance learning program. Jackson discontinued holding classes after the 2011 school year because of a need to focus more attention on Shorter College. Any objective evaluation of its current status should include the primary concern of the original intent and historical mission.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church decided to establish, maintain, and develop an institution for the Theological Education of both Ministers and Laymen. The African Methodist Episcopal Church takes pride in the fact that it produces most of her leaders. JTS is a positive expression of the vision and determination to sustain this heritage in a relevant and responsible manner.

Seeing the need to provide theological education to Clergy and Layperson, the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, decided to reopen Jackson Theological Seminary and pursue accreditation with TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools), offering a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies (a degree completion program) and a Master of Divinity Degree. In June 2018, under the leadership of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell and Rev. Cecil Williams, Jr., President of Jackson Theological Seminary, the Seminary opened its doors to a brand-new facility for the continued purpose of educating and preparing clergy and lay for ministry from a theological perspective.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION (FAITH STATEMENT)

THE BIBLE

The sacred text that holds the historicity and spiritual authenticity of the relationship with God and humanity. It further shares the unique divine wisdom of the Lord. The unique divine, plenary, verbal inspiration and absolute authority of all sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as originally given. The Bible is the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. and is free from error of any sort, in all matters with which it deals, scientific, historical, moral, and theological. The Bible further records the eschatological beliefs of the Church. The unique divine, plenary, verbal inspiration and absolute authority of all sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as originally given. The Bible is the only infallible, authoritative Word of God and is free from error of any sort, in all matters with which it deals, scientific, historical, moral, and theological.

THE TRINITY

The triune Godhead, one eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, personal God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father: God the Father, the first person of the Divine Trinity, is infinite Spirit, sovereign, eternal, and unchangeable in all His attributes. He is worthy of honor, adoration, and obedience.

THE SON

The Perfect, sinless humanity and the absolute, full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, indissolubly united in one divine-human person since His unique incarnation by miraculous conception and virgin birth.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead who convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals all believers in Christ, and fills those who yield to Him. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all believers; however, the manifestation of any particular gift is not required as evidence of salvation.

HISTORICITY

The full historicity and perspicuity of the biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel.

REDEMPTION

The substitutionary and redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sin of the world, through His literal physical death, burial, and resurrection, followed by His bodily ascension into heaven.

SALVATION

Personal salvation from the eternal penalty of sin provided solely by the grace of God on the basis of the atoning death and resurrection of Christ, to be received only through personal faith in His person and work.

LAST THINGS

The future, personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth to judge and purge sin, to establish His eternal Kingdom, and to consummate and fulfill His purposes in the works of creation and redemption with eternal rewards and punishments.

BIBLICAL CREATION

Special creation of the existing space-time universe and all its basic systems and kinds of organisms in the six literal days of the creation week.

SATAN

The existence of a personal, malevolent being called Satan who acts as tempter and accuser, for whom the place of eternal punishment was prepared, where all who die outside of Christ shall be confined in conscious torment for eternity.

THE APOSTLES CREED

The creed encapsulates the core of our belief system. It incorporates the unified presence and individual power of the triune Godhead. It further shares the redemptive, salvific work of that same God. It states that we believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The seminary students and faculty seek to experience and examine theological training and thought formation centered on the exquisite grace of God, the example of Jesus Christ, and the excellent power of the Holy Spirit. Our philosophy of education emphasizes teaching and learning as an expression of social justice and liberation theology, tempered with service to community, and faith inspired by biblical, scriptural authority and historical Christian beliefs.

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL VALUES

The ethical values and standards of Jackson Theological Seminary seek to exemplify the liberating ministry, the services of sacrifice, the standards of justice, the love of Jesus Christ in ministerial and pastoral Christian service. The seminary is committed to representing the moral, ethical traditions and standards espoused by the Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments) and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Enrollment in Jackson Theological Seminary constitutes a recognition and reverence for these ethical values and standards by all students.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Biblical/Scriptural Authority: The extent to which the commandments and doctrines within the Old and New Testament scriptures are authoritative for human belief, conduct and destiny.

Historical Faith: Historical belief, trust, and loyalty of Christian Faith as described in the Old and New Testaments and through the Trinity - God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Academic Rigor: Teach conceptual understanding, procedural skill, fluency, and application.

Social Justice: Teach concepts of fair and just relations between the individual and society. This is measured by the explicit and tacit terms for the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and *social* privileges. Micah 6:8..... what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Liberation: The process to fight the ills of sin and exploitation through the relationship between *Christian theology* and political activism, economic justice, poverty, and human rights.

Service Orientation: The call to serve community, however, especially the least, the weak, poor and the needy. Mark 10:43but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

VISION

A Global Academy, providing biblical foundations for Christian ministries that serve, transform and liberate communities.

MISSION

Jackson Theological Seminary is an educational community preparing people for service to the local church and the broader community through transformative teaching and training. The faculty, administration and staff are committed to preparing students for effective Christian leadership in pastoral and ministerial service.

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

1. The Seminary shall prepare students for careers and service in Christian ministry for the local church and global Christian ministry.
2. The Seminary shall promote and prepare academic and theological excellence and scholarship through holistic, inclusive, and involved teaching and training of students for the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and the Master of Divinity degree programs. Each program will sponsor a teaching, training, and learning environment, where all are encouraged to participate, grow, and develop in Christian faith and service.
3. The Seminary shall educate, encourage, and engage students from varied spiritual, ethnic, cultural, male/female, and students with physical handicaps to encourage diversity and inclusiveness at the Seminary.
4. The Seminary staff, faculty, and Board of Trustees shall encourage solicitation of grants, aid, federal funding, research procedures, and practices to establish and enhance funding and scholarship for deserving students.
5. The Seminary shall promote and encourage the professional development of its faculty and staff to ensure relevant, realistic, and reliable instruction and training for all students.

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester for the Bachelor Completion program and the Master of Divinity program.

COURSE AUDIT POLICY

A BABS/MDIV Student/Individual (non-student) who wished to audit a course must register with the seminary. To register to audit or to change a course from credit to audit or audit to credit, individuals or students must file an application form (JTSFORM-1) with the registrar's office during the normal registration or prior to Mid-Term. The instructor's signature is required on the Registration slip (JTSFORM-14). Students/Individuals may audit courses for no credit with the permission of the instructor on a space available basis. Individuals/students who wish to audit a course at Jackson Theological Seminary for personal interest, and or are not interested in receiving credit, may audit a course. Individuals/students auditing a course are expected to regularly attend class and do all relevant readings. Grades/transcripts and or certification for completion will not be provided for courses that is audited. Student who are currently enrolled in the seminary, may be tracked in the system if their efforts are found to be satisfactory by the instructor. A student with successful participation in the course will be acknowledged on their transcripts by the indication an "X". However, if the instructor decides that the performance was not satisfactory no indication will be made on the transcript. An individual(s)/Student(s) who are auditing a course may switch from auditing to student status if the following items are met:

1. The request has been made prior to mid-terms.
2. Registration requirements have been met:
 - a. Jackson application form has been completed.
 - b. Appropriate Transcripts have been provided from an appropriate accredited college or university.
 - c. The required recommendation letter has been provided.
 - d. Payment provided for on half of the course(s) has been provided.
 - e. Writing samples have been provided.
 - f. Acceptance as a student at Jackson Theological Seminary.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

In order to receive an effective education from Jackson Theological Seminary requires you to arrive prepared and ready to think out loud and share ideological information to aid in your growth. Class meetings involve discussions in a variety of formats, some experimental and perhaps unfamiliar. These wide-ranging structures support diverse forms of analysis and thinking, they also accommodate varied personalities and learning styles. In all settings, respond considerately and respectfully with your peers. When you disagree with or do not understand something please ask questions. Your peers' questions are as important as yours, so listen carefully.

There are six critical requirements for graduation from the Bachelor of Arts Degree. The student must:

1. Receive a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5 in 60 credit hours of course work (These hours must include the Required Courses outlined in the Curriculum Requirements.).
2. Fulfill all financial responsibilities.
3. Have an assessment of eligibility and recommendation by the Academic Advisor and the Dean.
4. Complete a minimum of 45 residential credit hours through Jackson Theological Seminary.
5. Complete the required number of credit hours in each area.
6. Complete the Graduation Intent and Clearance Form.

MASTER OF DIVINITY PROGRAM

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) is a three- to five- year program of full-time study to prepare the student for professional ministry. As with all professional programs, this includes both the mastering of the academic materials and the acquisition of skills necessary for effective functioning within the profession. The program is also designed to accommodate the needs of the part-time student, particularly by offering evening classes.

There are seven critical requirements for graduation from the Master of Divinity degree. The student must:

1. Receive a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5 in 84 credit hours of course work (These hours must include the Required Courses outlined in the Curriculum Requirements.).
2. Complete the Senior Seminar.
3. Fulfill all financial responsibilities.
4. Have an assessment of eligibility and recommendation by the Academic Advisor and the Dean.
5. Complete a minimum of 63 residential credit hours through Jackson Theological Seminary.
6. Complete the required number of credit hours in each area.

Students can complete the program two times per year – at the end of the fall semester and the end of the spring semester. The commencement ceremony is held annually at the end of the spring semester and both fall and spring graduates are invited to attend.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS

TRACS has a clear, multi-stop process towards accreditation. The overall phases of the process are Application, Candidacy and Accreditation. After Successful complying with the standards set forth in the TRACS Institutional Eligibility Requirements (IER), their assessment of an institution's accomplishments affords advancement for accreditation. The process takes approximately two years for an institution that is currently in operation. Jackson Theological Seminary is currently in the Application phase having accomplished the foundational requirements for: Operational Authority, Organizational Structure, Publications and Policies, Educational Programs, Financial Services, Facilities and Equipment, Library and Learning Services, Faculty and Student Services.

Jackson Theological Seminary is not currently approved for Distance Learning by the Department of Education (DOE) nor by TRACS. Any special provision must be issued by permission of the DOE.

STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION

Institutions that have submitted an application for membership with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) are considered affiliates, but not members, of TRACS. An approved Applicant is an institution whose application has been approved by the Application Review Committee. In order for an Applicant institution to obtain Candidate status with TRACS, the institution is required to demonstrate compliance with the established Institutional Eligibility Requirements (IERs). IERs are noted as specific Standards within each Accreditation Requirement and specified Federal Requirements. IERs are noted in bold print. Candidate institutions must demonstrate compliance with all of the Accreditation Requirements and with all applicable Federal Requirements within five years of being granted Candidate status. (See the TRACS definition of Institutional Eligibility Requirements.) Accredited institutions are required to maintain and demonstrate compliance with all the Accreditation Requirements and with all applicable Federal Requirements. Accredited institutions found to be in non-compliance with Accreditation Requirements or applicable Federal Requirements must bring such areas of deficiency into compliance within the timeframe prescribed by the TRACS Accreditation Commission. Specific information regarding the processes involved in the various stages of TRACS accreditation can be found in the TRACS publication, “Steps Toward Accreditation”. The Accreditation Requirements are divided into sixteen categories:

1. Faith Statement
2. Mission and Services
3. Institutional Objectives
4. Institutional Integrity
5. Operational Authority
6. Organizational Structure
7. Publications and Policies
8. Educational Programs
9. Faculty
10. Student Services
11. Financial Operations
12. Institutional Assessment
13. Strategic Planning
14. Library and Learning Resources
15. Facilities and Equipment
16. Health and Security
17. Federal Regulations

ACADEMIC ADVISING & REGISTRATION

The Chief Academic Officer (CAO) will assign a faculty advisor to assist each student with their academic decisions as they matriculate their graduate and undergraduate experience. In addition, the Registrar’s Office will work with students on registering for courses and monitoring degree audits. The cost and payment of each student’s education must be completed by the end of each semester.

Open registration occurs at the following times:	
Fall semester registration	1 August
Spring semester registration	1 November

Summer term registration	TBD
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Academic faculty serving as academic advisors are responsible for discussing the following with students:

- Defining career goals
- How to effectively lead
- The discipline of ministry
- How do effectively handle administrative issues
- Skills to prepare for advanced academic aspirations
- Successful networking
- Individual student needs who have learning disabilities

Students can register through the student information system (SIS) POPULI [Populi - Jackson Theological Seminary \(populiweb.com\)](http://Populi - Jackson Theological Seminary (populiweb.com)).

If a student register following the close of the open registration period, a Drop/Add form must be completed, and the student will be assessed a \$50 late registration fee.

The Director of Admissions and Student Records (DAR) will work with new students individually to register them for their first semester (no late fees will be assessed). Following the first semester, students are responsible for registering themselves during the open registration period defined above. Tuition is due at the time of enrollment

The Course Schedule is published each semester via the website at www.jtseminary.org. It provides information on all courses offered during that semester and important semester dates.

<u>TUITION AND FEES</u>

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

1. \$250 per credit hour
 - a. Full time student minimum tuition costs: \$1800 (12 hours)
 - b. Part time student maximum tuition costs: \$ 750 (3 hours)
2. \$150.00 fee will be charged annually to cover the following: Technology fee, Transcript fee (unlimited copies throughout school year), Administrative fees, Parking and Orientation.
3. \$100 Graduation Fee. This fee is designed to cover administrative costs only. All other graduation items (such as regalia, class rings, etc.) must be purchased separately. Please see the admissions office for assistance with ordering any of these additional items.

NOTES:

+Members of the AME church are eligible for a \$25.00 per credit hour scholarship. ++Former Students of Jackson are eligible for \$25.00 per credit hour scholarship off their tuition +++All charges for the current semester are to be paid by the end of the first week of the term. In the event a student cannot pay his or her balance in full, a payment plan may be arranged with the Business Office. Please see the payment plan parameters below:

MASTER OF DIVINITY

1. \$275 per credit hour
 - a. Full time student minimum tuition costs: \$2475 (9 hours)
 - b. Part time student maximum tuition costs: \$ 825 (3 hours)

2. A \$150.00 fee will be charged annually to cover the following: Technology fee, Transcript fee (unlimited copies throughout school year), Administrative fees, Parking and Orientation fee.

3. \$100 Graduation fee. This fee is designed to cover administrative costs only. All other graduation items (such as regalia, class rings, etc.) must be purchased separately. Please see the admissions office for assistance with ordering any of these additional items.

NOTES:

*+Members of the AME church are eligible for at \$25.00 per credit hour scholarship.
++Former Students of Jackson are eligible for \$25.00 per credit hour scholarship off their tuition
+++All charges for the current semester are to be paid by the end of the first week of the term. In the event a student cannot pay his or her balance in full, a payment plan may be arranged with the Business Office. Please see the payment plan parameters below:*

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Standard Plan – 3 payments per the schedule below:

Fall Semester	
1st Payment	50% due upon enrollment
2nd Payment	25% due by 9-31
3rd Payment	25% due by 10-30
Spring Semester	
1st Payment	50% due upon enrollment

2nd Payment	25% due by 2-28
3rd Payment	25% due by 3-31

STUDENT LOAN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student loan policies and procedures are created and maintained by the Financial Aid Office. Federal student loan information is published in Jackson Theological Seminary's Consumer Information Guide. For more information, please contact Audra Hinton at audra.hinton@jtseminary.org.

REFUNDS

In the event of death, refund of full tuition and fees for the term will be granted. In all other cases of withdrawal from the School, students may have tuition refunded according to the following schedule as set by the Arkansas State Board of Private Career Education (APSBCE) Refund Policy and Jackson Theological Seminary Student Accounts Office:

Schools shall publish and adhere to a refund policy that provides not less than:

1. The registration fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) paid to the school by the student may be retained as an enrollment or application fee.
2. All amounts paid in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be refundable.
3. The refund shall be based on the cost for each payment period of the program. All tuition beyond the current payment period shall be refunded when a student terminates.
4. During the first twenty five percent (25%) of the payment period the refunds shall be made on a pro rata basis.
5. At completion of 25% of the payment period the student owes 50% of the tuition.
6. At completion of 50% of the payment period the student owes 75% of the tuition.
7. At completion of 75% of the payment period the student owes 100% of the tuition.

Federal student financial aid must also be returned according to the U.S. Department of Education required formula. (See: Return of Title IV funds below.) Once a withdrawal form is completed, Student Accounts will notify the student about the amount of funds to be returned.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AND FORMS

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION PROCESS

As federal financial aid is the main resource offered to the students of Jackson Theological Seminary, the FAFSA is the primary application requirement for financial aid and the federal EFC is the basis for determining financial need. Students should submit their FAFSA to Jackson Theological Seminary school code 0426800.

Additional documents may be requested to complete processing of the aid request. Notifications of these additional required documents are sent to students by email. Below is a list of documents which may be required.

1. Dependency Override Request
2. Dependent 400 401 Code Verification Form
3. Dependent Filing Status Worksheet
4. Dependent Household Information Worksheet
5. Dependent PJ for Income Reduction
6. Dependent PJ for Unusual Medical Expenses
7. Dependent Student Survival Statement
8. Independent Filing Status Worksheet
9. Independent 400 401 Code Verification Form
10. Independent Household Information Worksheet
11. Independent Student Survival Statement
12. Independent PJ for Income Reduction
13. Independent PJ for Unusual Medical Expenses
14. PJ for Marital Status Update Affecting Dependency Status
15. Verification of High School Completion Status
16. Statement of Educational Purpose
17. Unusual Enrollment History Resolution Form Flag 2
18. Unusual Enrollment History Resolution Form Flag 3

Note: Also see the section on “Data Elements to be Verified and Required Documentation”.

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION REVIEW PROCEDURE

Jackson Theological Seminary’s entire financial aid process for the student can be completed online, with the exception of the Financial Aid Responsibility Contract, which is required for the registration of classes. This form is the last step in the student completing and/or starting the financial Aid process. Before signing off on this form, financial aid staff checks all systems to ensure that the student has no outstanding documents currently being requested, preventing the student from being awarded. EdExpress/EdConnect notifies students of any outstanding documents via an email to their personal and/or school email. EdExpress/EdConnect also has a reporting function that allows financial aid staff to know what students and what documents are currently needed from a student. Although EdExpress notifies a student of outstanding documents, financial aid staff also notifies the student via email and/or a phone call. Once a student submits the additional documentation, financial aid scans and submits such via the EdExpress/EdConnect. EdExpress/EdConnect updates the student’s documents and continues the process until the student is awarded.

The EdfExpress/EdConnect identifies students who are selected for verification. If students are missing information or if additional information is needed due to Federal Verification selection, the student is emailed notifying him/her of the missing documents, links to forms (if applicable), and where/how to send the information. If the student has made an error on the FAFSA, the student is instructed to go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and correct this information.

If student has submitted a FAFSA and it is not received, the FAFSA record (ISIR) is requested through the Department of Education via FAA Access.

JACKSON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FORMS

As previously mentioned, Entrance counseling is required for newly admitted students as part of the need-based review process. The www.studentaid.gov houses all the needed forms for processing federal aid for a student. These forms can be downloaded from the Student Aid system, but a hardcopy of all the forms is filed in the Financial Aid Office along with all other financial aid documentation collected by the Financial Aid Office.

All financial aid forms are available on the School's website.

DEADLINES

All students are asked to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible to speed financial aid processing.

The 2022-2023 FAFSA is available until June 30, 2023. However, FAFSA information and any additional documents required for federal verification or to resolve FAFSA comment codes must be received to the School within 30 days of the request. No federal financial aid will disburse until all documentation is received.

DOCUMENT ASSIGNMENT, COLLECTION, AND TRACKING

Financial aid documentation is kept in hard copy files securely stored in the Financial Aid Office. FAFSAs will be stored electronically in EdExpress. Students are notified of required documents via email and/or a phone call.

A small percentage of students are selected for federal verification and/or require additional information, and EdExpress and Financial Aid staff will email the student to inform him/her of the reason for the request and any required forms or the next steps needed by the student.

Once additional information is received, the EdExpress finalizes the award(s) and the Financial Aid Office includes the information in the student's file and inputs it into Populi. If the information is incomplete, the student is notified by EdExpress and Financial Aid staff via phone or email. When all required documents are received, the student is considered complete and ready to be packaged/awarded. The Financial Aid staff gathers all documentation and creates a student file for new students and updates previous year files for returning students.

PRE-AWARD APPEALS

The School has limited scholarship funds available and; therefore, appeals of the scholarship award decisions are not applicable.

Students not able to join Jackson Theological Seminary due to financial constraints may send a letter explaining the situation to the Financial Aid Coordinator. Triggers for appeals typically involve involuntary loss of employment by the student or spouse, high medical expenses, or child or elder care. Students will be instructed to provide documentation of the change in income or out-of-pocket expenses for a particular time period (typically a calendar year for income and academic year for expenses). Students would be notified of appeal decision by email or appointment. Any changes to a financial aid award would be available for view on Populi as well.

VERIFICATION

Verification is the process of confirming the accuracy of student reported data on the FAFSA. Only a portion of the student population is selected for verification. Students are notified that they are selected for verification on the FAFSA/Student Aid Report (SAR). In addition, the student is notified via email that he/she has been selected for verification via Express.

The Financial Aid Office verifies only those applicants identified by the Department of Education (DOE) or if there is a discrepancy or a condition which is unusual and warrants investigation. Jackson Theological Seminary verifies only those data elements required by the DOE. However, the Financial Aid Office may request additional information if further investigation is needed to resolve a discrepancy.

The Financial Aid Office is required to resolve any discrepancies discovered in a student's file, regardless of whether the student is selected for verification. The Financial Aid Office will request additional information from the student to resolve the discrepancy.

For students selected for verification, the Financial Aid Coordinator sends an email to the student as well as a reminder of the specific items needed and to let the student know the information may be mailed, faxed, or scanned and sent electronically. **All verification requirements must be satisfied within 30 days of the request.**

VERIFICATION EXCLUSIONS

In the circumstances below, student verification is not required. The Financial Aid Office documents the specific reason within the student's file if any of the following applies:

1. An applicant who died during the award year
2. A student who does not receive Title IV funds
3. A student who is eligible to receive only unsubsidized loans
4. Student was selected for verification after ceasing to be enrolled at the School and after all Title IV aid has disbursed.

DATA ELEMENTS TO BE VERIFIED AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Income information for tax filers

- a. Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- b. U.S. Income Tax Paid.
- c. Untaxed Portions of IRA Distributions
- d. Untaxed Portions of Pensions
- e. IRA Deductions and Payments
- f. Tax Exempt Interest Income

g. Education Credits

Acceptable Documentation

- (1) 2020 tax account information of the tax filer that the Secretary has identified as having been obtained from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) through the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and that has not been changed after the information was obtained from the IRS; or
- (2) A transcript 1 obtained at no cost from the IRS or other relevant tax authority of a U.S. territory (Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands) or commonwealth (Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands), or a foreign government that lists 2016 tax account information of the tax filer.

FINANCIAL AID DISBURSEMENTS

Financial aid disburses to the student's account no sooner than 10 days prior to the start of classes. Beginning the Spring 2022 semester and going forward, loan disbursements will be in two equal disbursements per semester.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Federal regulations require Jackson Theological Seminary to establish and implement a policy to measure whether students applying for and/or receiving federal financial aid are making satisfactory academic progress (SAP) towards program completion. This regulation applies to all students applying for aid, whether or not financial aid has been previously received. SAP is the successful completion of degree requirements according to established increments that lead to awarding the degree within published time limits. There are three measurements that are used to determine eligibility: Credit Hour Requirement, Grade Point Average and Maximum Time Frame. Not meeting these requirements may result in loss of all financial aid.

MONITORING OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Students' progress will be reviewed after grades are finalized at the end of each semester. A determination of eligibility to receive financial aid for subsequent enrollment periods will be made by the Financial Aid Office, the Chief Academic Officer, and/or the Registrar. Although the student will receive a notification from the Institution if they aren't meeting program standards, the student is fully responsible for monitoring their own academic progress as it relates to financial aid eligibility. The student should review their grades on an on-going basis and compare it to the standards set forth in this SAP policy to determine if they are meeting (or failing to meet) the established criteria. The SAP policy for Title IV aid recipients is aligned with the Institution's academic policy.

SAP POLICY

Academic success is important and necessary for students to receive federal Title IV financial aid. At the end of each semester (fall, spring and summer), students' academic records will be reviewed to verify satisfactory academic progress toward earning a degree. Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requires students to pass a required number of hours with a minimum cumulative grade point average in a maximum timeframe. The policy applies to all students—continuing, transfer, and re-entry.

Minimum Grade Point Average

Students must maintain the following minimum cumulative grade point (GPA) averages:

Undergraduate Students: The minimum GPA requirement, cumulative GPA 2.0.

Graduate Students: The minimum GPA requirement, cumulative GPA 2.5

Pace or Successful Completion of Course Work Attempted

To be considered as progressing successfully, students must complete at least 67% of all attempted credit hours. Successful completion of a course is defined as a passing grade. Grades of W (withdrawn), XW (Administrative Withdraw), F (failed), XF (unofficial withdrawal) or I (incomplete) are not considered successful completion. Pace is calculated using the following formula:

Cumulative number of hours student successfully completed

All coursework attempted including periods when student do not receive federal Title IV aid will be considered in determining the maximum time frame students have to complete a degree and in the calculations of the cumulative grade point average and pace. Students must complete their program within 150% of the published timeframe of their degree program. Example: Degree program that requires 120 hours. $120 \times 150\% = 180$ hours maximum

Transfer Hours: All transfer work accepted by Jackson Theological Seminary will be counted in the ratio to determine the successful completion of course work, and in the determination of the maximum time frame.

Repeated Coursework: If a student repeats a course, the highest grade earned will be used to calculate his/her grade point average. All hours attempted including repeated course will be used to determine the student's pace and maximum time frame. Only one repeat per course will be eligible for financial aid.

Academic Clemency: The Office of Financial Aid must count all prior work attempted in determining eligibility for federal financial aid including hours forfeited through the Academic Clemency Policy.

Grade Changes: Once a grade change occurs, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the Financial Aid Office if they wish to have their eligibility for financial aid recalculated based on the grade change.

Academic Warning/Financial Aid Warning

If a student fails to meet satisfactory academic progress standards, the student will be placed on academic warning status and be permitted to receive federal financial aid for one additional semester. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of all academic services available to improve their academic progress during this semester. If satisfactory progress standards are not met at the end of the warning semester, the student will NOT be eligible to receive federal financial aid for the next semester.

Academic Suspension/Financial Aid Suspension

Academic Suspension Students on academic warning who do not achieve the minimum cumulative GPA by the end of the probationary term will be suspended. Students suspended from Jackson Theological Seminary may register provided they successfully complete the proper readmission procedure (appeal process) and are successfully approved for readmission. Suspended students must petition the college to be readmitted. Petition forms are available in the Registrar's Office. A readmission petition may be approved by the college administration for good and sufficient reasons. A petition is valid only for the term it is submitted. A readmitted student may be subject to specific course and credit hour restrictions. Suspended students who are readmitted must repeat courses in which they received a "D" or "F". The petition facts, circumstances, and outcomes must be documented in the institutions records in order to establish a student's eligibility for assistance under federal financial assistance programs. Students may be required to produce corroborative documents to complete the petition process.

Appeal

Students who have extenuating circumstances may appeal the termination of federal financial aid. Examples of extenuating or mitigating circumstances include illness under a doctor's care, illness or accidents requiring hospitalization or the prolonged illness of a dependent, death of an immediate family member, or other life altering events. The appeal may not be based on the need for assistance or lack of knowledge of the academic requirements. The appeal must be submitted in writing and include why the student failed to meet the standards with an explanation of what has changed that will now allow the standards to be met. Supporting documentation of the extenuating circumstance is required.

The deadline for submitting an appeal is no later than the fifth (5th) day of class of the term for which the appeal is requested. The decision of the Financial Aid Appeals Committee is final; there is no further avenue of appeal. An appeal will either be:

1. Denied: Students who are denied will not be eligible to receive federal financial aid.
2. Probation: The appeal is approved, and the student is eligible to receive federal financial aid for one additional semester. The student must meet the satisfactory academic progress standards at the end of the semester or financial aid eligibility will be terminated.
3. Academic Plan: The appeal is approved, and the student will be given an academic plan with performance standards that must be adhered to for the student to remain eligible for federal financial aid.

The Financial Aid Appeals Committee cannot guarantee a favorable decision; therefore, students will be responsible for payment of any outstanding student account charges by the due date even if an appeal decision is pending.

Reinstatement of Financial Aid

After federal financial aid termination, students may be eligible for reinstatement of financial aid after the student enrolls in courses at his/her own expense and meets the terms of the satisfactory academic progress policy. The student must meet the following:

1. Not exceed the maximum timeframe.
2. Complete at least 67% of the attempted cumulative hours as calculated; and
3. Achieve the required Jackson Theological Seminary GPA.

Notifications

Students who fail to meet minimum satisfactory academic progress standards will be notified of their status through an email sent to their Jackson Theological Seminary email and/or via U.S. mail. Students who do not regain eligibility for financial aid through the appeal process will be notified of the decision through a letter sent to their Jackson Theological Seminary email and/or via U.S. mail. It is the student's responsibility to check their email on a weekly basis.

RETURN OF TITLE IV FUNDS

When a student withdraws, the student may no longer be eligible for the full amount of Title IV funds that the student was originally scheduled to receive. In this event, the amount of Federal funds earned must be determined. If the amount disbursed is greater than the amount earned, unearned funds must be returned.

PROCESS OVERVIEW & APPLICABILITY

Steps in Federally Mandated Process

1. Determine the withdrawal date. If the student officially withdraws, the withdrawal date is the date Jackson Theological Seminary determines the student either began the withdrawal process, or the date the student provided official notification to Jackson Theological Seminary, in writing or verbally, of his or her intent to withdraw. If the student does not provide official notification of his or her intent to withdraw, the withdrawal date will be determined by Jackson Theological Seminary as one of the following: The date the student last attended an academic function, failed to return from approved leave of absence, or was administratively withdrawn.
2. The Date of Determination is defined by the date the school became aware that the student is a withdrawn student.
3. Calculate the percentage of enrollment period completed. The percentage of enrollment period completed is determined by dividing the total number of calendar days in the enrollment period into the number of calendar days completed in that period as of the withdrawal date. The total number of calendar days in a payment period includes all days (including weekends) within the period. Scheduled breaks of at least five consecutive days are excluded from the total number of calendar days in the enrollment period and the number of calendar days completed in that period
4. Calculate the amount of Title IV aid earned. If the withdrawal date is equal to or greater than 60 percent of the enrollment period (semester) the student has earned 100 percent of the Title IV funding disbursed for that semester. If the withdrawal date is less than 60 percent of the semester, the amount of Title IV funding the student has earned is calculated by using the federally mandated calculation to determine the percentage of Title IV funds that have been earned by the student for that semester. This percentage is then applied to the total amount of Title IV funding that was disbursable for the semester as of the withdrawal date.

5. Determine the amount of Title IV aid unearned. The amount of Title IV funding the student has not earned is calculated by subtracting the amount of Title IV funding the student earned from the total Title IV funding disbursed/or was disbursable. \
6. Allocate unearned aid. Jackson Theological Seminary is required to return the lesser of the total amount of Title IV funds the student has not earned or an amount equal to the charges if the total amount to be returned exceeds the charges incurred by the student. Charges include tuition and fees and can include other education-related expenses assessed by Jackson Theological Seminary.
7. Unearned Title IV funds must be returned within 45 days of the Determination that the student withdrew. Jackson Theological Seminary will return the student's unearned Title IV funding on his or her behalf and consider the returned funds as the student's debt to the College. Students must decide with the Student Accounts Office for repayment of the debt. Consequences of non-payment include blocks on re-enrollment, transcript and diploma holds, and student account placement with Collections. Title IV funding amounts to be returned by Jackson Theological Seminary will be credited to the appropriate programs in the following order: Unsubsidized Federal Direct loans, Subsidized Federal Direct Loans, Direct Graduate PLUS Loan, Direct Parent PLUS Loan, Pell Grant, FSEOG, and Iraq & Afghanistan Service Grant. If amounts to be returned remain after repayment of all outstanding loan amounts, the remaining excess must be credited to any amount awarded for the semester for which a return of funds is required. Federal Work Study is excluded from this policy.
8. Communication of return of funds. Students for which a portion of Title IV aid must be returned will receive a communication from the Financial Aid Office sent to their Jackson Theological Seminary email address indicating an adjustment has been made and funds have been returned on the student's behalf. This communication further instructs any resulting balances on the student account must be paid by the student and arrangements for payment must be made directly with the Student Accounts Office.

WITHDRAWAL DATE

Policies

The withdrawal date for an official withdrawal is determined by the student's instructor(s) and is the date the student began the withdrawal process, or the date the student provided official notification, in writing of his or her intent to withdraw.

Attendance taking isn't required, but highly recommended.

An unofficial withdrawal will be determined by one of the following:

1. the last date of academic attendance, as determined by the school from its attendance records. Such as academic work turned in, study group.
2. Students that are administratively withdrawn (expel, suspended, etc), the withdrawal date is the date Jackson terminates enrollment.
3. Student's that pass away while attending Jackson, the School must get documentation and determine the appropriate withdrawal date.
4. For all others that do not officially withdraw the midpoint of the payment period the withdrawal date.

Procedures

Instructors provide withdrawal dates to the Registrar; and an official attrition notice via NSLDS and notifies the Financial Aid Office.

FORMULA CALCULATION

Policies

Upon receipt of an attrition notice from the Registrar via NSLDS reporting, the Financial Aid Office performs a return of Title IV funds calculation using the web-based application provided by CPS Online: <https://faaaccess.ed.gov/FOTWWebApp/faa/faa.jsp>.

The institution's calendar is determined by:

1. Calculating the days in the particular term from the first day of classes to the last day of finals.
2. Weekend days are included in the total number of days.
3. Breaks of five or more days are excluded.
4. When counting the number of days attended the date of withdrawal is counted as a day attended.

Institutional costs are used to determine the amount of refund due from the institution versus the student, but do not change the amount of aid earned by the student. These costs refer to the original amounts charged to the student for educational expenses for the term of withdrawal and not pro-rated amounts used by the institution based on the date of withdrawal. Required fees are included. Aid disbursed or aid that could have been disbursed is determined by:

1. Counting the aid accepted for the term in question only.
2. Aid that could have been disbursed refers to aid accepted by the student and for which all paperwork/application materials and federal verification have been completed by the student.
3. If loan fees are taken out, the net amount disbursed or that could have been disbursed is used.

PROCEDURES

The withdrawal notice is received by the Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office performs the Return to Title IV calculation on the web. The Office saves a copy of the withdrawal notice in the student's file. The calculation is then sent to Student Accounts. Student Accounts adjusts the student's account and returns any federal financial aid within 45 days of the date of student's withdrawal.

POST-WITHDRAWAL DISBURSEMENTS

Policies

If an amount of Title IV aid a student has earned is greater than the amount of Title IV aid that has been disbursed, the difference is treated as a post-withdrawal disbursement to the student. Any post withdrawal disbursement must be made within 180 days of the date the institution determines that the student withdrew. Aid for which all requirements (paperwork/application materials and federal verification) have been satisfied is disbursed to the student account 10 days prior to the start of classes. Refunds of applicable aid are provided to the student immediately after the drop/add date for each term. If withdrawal is during the first 60% of the semester should be aware that a portion of these funds may have to be repaid

Procedures

If a student has undisbursed aid for which all requirements have been satisfied, a Return to Title IV calculation must be performed to ensure that funds for which a student was eligible and had earned at the time of withdrawal but had not been disbursed are offered as a post-withdrawal disbursement. The School must disburse any amount of a post-withdrawal disbursement of grant funds that is not credited to the student's account as soon as possible but no later than 180 days after the date it is determined the student withdrew. A post-withdrawal disbursement of Title IV grant funds does not require permission from the student, but title IV loan funds need student permission for sub and unsub or parents' permission if PLUS. Written notification will be sent to the student within 30 days of the date of determination that the student withdrew and confirmation received before making any post withdrawal disbursement of loan funds. The student will also be notified and billed if the calculation leaves them with a balance. The notification will include:

A request for confirmation.

1. A confirmation deadline of fourteen (14) days or more.
2. The type and amount of the loan funds it wishes to credit to the student's account or disburse directly.
3. An option to accept or decline the post-withdrawal disbursement.
4. A notice of obligation to repay loan funds.
5. A notice the student may not receive, as a direct disbursement, loan funds that the institution wishes to credit to the student's account unless the institution agrees to do so.
6. A post-withdrawal disbursement must be made from available grant funds before available loan funds.

RETURNING UNEARNED FUNDS

Policies

The amount of Title IV funds the student has not earned is calculated by subtracting the amount of Title IV funds the student earned from the total Title IV funding disbursed/or was disbursable. Unearned Title IV funds must be returned to the applicable Title IV program within 45 days of the date of determination of the students' withdrawal. If the amount earned is greater than the amount that has been disbursed, the difference is treated as a post-withdrawal disbursement to the student. Unearned funds are returned to the Title IV programs within 45 days of the student's date of determination of withdrawal by Student Accounts on behalf of the student and consider the returned funds as the student's debt to Jackson Theological Seminary.

Procedures

Students are notified via their e-mail account that, as a result of withdrawal and pursuant to the Return to Title IV calculation, adjustments have been made to their aid package which may create a balance on the student account. Students must make arrangements with Student Accounts for repayment of the debt if returned funds create an account balance. Unearned Title IV funds are returned to the Title IV programs in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loans
3. Direct Graduate PLUS Loans
4. Direct Parent PLUS Loan

5. Federal Pell Grant
6. FSEOG
7. Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant

INSTITUTIONAL REFUNDS

Institutional refund policies are outlined in the Consumer Information Guide. Tuition adjustments are made based on the following unless otherwise specified on the withdrawal notice. Date of withdrawal Percentage of tuition charged:

Schools shall publish and adhere to a refund policy that provides not less than:

- The registration fee not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) paid to the School by the student may be retained as an enrollment or application fee.
- All amounts paid in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be refundable.
- The refund shall be based on the cost for each payment period of the program. All tuition beyond the current payment period shall be refunded when a student terminates.
- During the first twenty five percent (25%) of the payment period the refunds shall be made on a pro rata basis.
- At completion of 25% of the payment period the student owes 50% of the tuition.
- At completion of 50% of the payment period the student owes 75% of the tuition.
- At completion of 75% of the payment period the student owes 100% of the tuition.

TITLE IV FRAUD

STUDENT FRAUD

In reviewing reports, appeals, or in other secondary review of files (see SECTION 7: FILE REVIEW for more Information), discrepancies may arise. Discrepancies in student application materials (i.e. income, citizenship, name, SSN, signatures) must be investigated and resolved. To do so, the Financial Aid Office will contact the student to request additional information and documentation. If, in the Financial Aid Office's judgment, there has been intentional misrepresentation, false statements, or alteration of documents which have resulted or could result in the awarding or disbursement of funds for which the student is not eligible, the case shall be referred to the President and Dean of Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

The Committee will review the student's aid file together and if the decision is made by the committee to pursue the possibility of denying or canceling financial aid, the Financial Aid Office will contact the student to set up an appointment. If the student does not make an appointment, the Director of Financial Aid may:

- Not process a financial aid application until the situation is resolved satisfactorily
- Not award financial aid
- Cancel financial aid
- Determine that financial aid will not be processed for future years.

Students who willfully submit fraudulent information will be investigated to the fullest extent possible. All cases of fraud and abuse will be reported to the proper authorities. After investigating the situation, if the Financial Aid Office believes there is a fraudulent situation, he/she will refer all information to the Department of Education's (ED's) Office of Inspector General (OIG).

INSTITUTIONAL AND THIRD-PARTY FRAUD

Jackson Theological Seminary’s compliance policy, including how reports of suspected fraud are handled, may be found in the President’s office.

THIRD PARTY SERVICER

Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) entered into a Service Bureau Agreement with Global Financial Services (GFS) on May 3, 2022. Deliverables in this engagement will be the successful completion of the processing of origination, disbursement, and refund records within ED’s COD and G5 systems to include applicable monthly reconciliations as specified in the scope of services. Confirmation of any COD/G5 activity will be facilitated by email to the JTS contact once completed during the month and the monthly reconciliation will be forwarded to JTS upon close of each month.

ADVANCED STANDING POLICY

Advanced standing is the recognition of previous successful study which may be relevant and may be applied to continued studies in the M.Div. Program at Jackson Theological Seminary. The Seminary may grant advance standing credit to students in the BA Completion program who have successfully completed the following courses below with a C or greater.

Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies	Master of Divinity
Survey of the Old Testament 1 BW 2341 Survey of the Old Testament 2 BW 2342 Survey of the Old Testament 3 BW 2343	BS 1 Old Testament
Survey of the New Testament I BW 2351 Survey of the New Testament II BW 2352 Survey of the New Testament III BW 2353	BS 2 New Testament

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

Applicants of all religious, ethnic, gender, race and cultural backgrounds are welcome at Jackson Theological Seminary. Applicants are expected to maintain a level of academic competence that makes their seminary experience profitable.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO STUDY:

Students are required to have basic competence in computer skills, including familiarity with the internet, email and word processing. In addition, students must be self-directed and able to organize their own structure for study and completion of assignments.

COURSE AUDIT POLICY

BABS & MDIV. Student/Individual (non-student) who wish to audit a course must register with the seminary. To register to audit or to change a course from credit to audit or audit to credit, individuals or students must file an application form (JTSForm-1) with the registrar's office during the normal registration or prior to Mid-Term. The instructor's signature is required on the Registration slip (JTSform-14). Students/Individuals may audit courses for no credit with the permission of the instructor on a space available basis. Individuals/student who wish to audit a course at Jackson Theological Seminary for personal interest, and or are not interested in receiving credit, may audit a course. Individuals /students auditing a course are expected to regularly attend class and do all relevant readings. Grades/transcripts and or certification for completion will not be provided for course that is audited. Student who are currently enrolled in the seminary, may be tracked in the system if their efforts are found to be satisfactory by the instructor. A student with successful participation in the course will be acknowledged on their transcripts by the indication an "X". However, if the instructor decides that the performance was not satisfactory no indication will be made on the transcript. An individual(s)/Student(s) who are auditing a course may switch from auditing to student status if the following items are met:

1. The request has been made prior to mid-terms.
2. Registration requirements have been met:
 - a. Jackson application form has been completed

Appropriate Transcripts have been provided from an appropriate accredited college or university.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES (BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES):

Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester

BABS ADMISSION POLICY REGARDING TRANSCRIPTS

To be admitted into the BABS Program, incoming students must have completed an associate's degree from

an accredited institution recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or a minimum of 60 credit hours from an accredited institution recognized by CHEA. Of those 60 credit hours, a minimum of 35 credit hours must be completed in General Education as required by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Please see the chart below for requirements.

AREA	HOURS
English	6
Mathematics	3
Science (Students are required to take corresponding lecture/lab combinations)	8
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
U.S. History or Government	3
Social Science	6
Speech/Communications	3
Electives	25
TOTAL HOURS	60

1. Students must have completed an associate degree from an accredited institution recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or a minimum of 60 credit hours from an accredited institution recognized by CHEA. Of those 60 credit hours, a minimum of 35 credit hours must be completed in General Education as required by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.
2. At least 60 hours of general education requirements completed from an accredited institution (must submit an official transcript of all work undertaken) Students from foreign institutions of collegiate standing may be admitted if they present satisfactory evidence of having completed studies equivalent to comparable institutions in the United States. A graduate of an unaccredited U.S. school may be admitted only as a Special Student.
3. A completed application (\$50.00 application fee)
4. Two letters of recommendation – one professional and one from the applicant’s pastor or denominational official.
5. A 500-word writing sample on the subject, “What is the value of a theological education to me?” Included in the essay should be the motives for entering Christian ministry and those persons, influences and religious experiences that led to choosing a church-related vocation.
6. Submit copy of their Driver’s License (or acceptable government photo ID) and Social Security Card.
7. Although not required, a copy of Immunization Card and or Covid-19 card would be appreciated.

The applicant is responsible for having the above documents sent to Jackson Theological Seminary. Final action upon the application for admission will not be made until all these documents have been submitted. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the Admissions Office typically within two weeks of completing the application process.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES (MASTER OF DIVINITY):

Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing each student with the maximum opportunity to develop and learn. As such, we accept new students each semester.

1. Students wishing to be admitted to the Master of Divinity program should hold the bachelor's degree based upon the completion of work at an accredited institution. Students from foreign institutions of collegiate standing may be admitted if they present satisfactory evidence of having completed studies equivalent to comparable institutions in the United States. A graduate of an unaccredited U.S. school may be admitted only as a Special Student. Student must submit an official transcript of completed collegiate work.
2. A completed application for admission (\$50.00 application fee) .
3. Two letters of recommendation – one professional and one from the applicant's pastor or denominational official.
4. A 750 -1,000 word writing sample on the subject, "What is the value of a theological education to me?" Included in the essay should be the motives for entering Christian ministry and those persons, influences and religious experiences that led to choosing a church-related vocation.
5. Submit copy of their Driver's License (or acceptable government photo ID) and Social Security Card.
6. Although not required, a copy of Immunization Card and or Covid-19 card would be appreciated.

The applicant is responsible for having the above documents sent to the seminary. Final action upon the application for admission will not be made until all these documents have been submitted.

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by the Admissions Office typically within two weeks of completing the application process.

READMISSION PROCEDURES:

Students who have not been enrolled for over 12 months need to complete a application, including providing requested documents and payment of a readmission fee.

To be eligible for the readmission process, a student must resume the program of study within three years of the last term in which work was done. After this three-year period, a new admissions application is required, including a new application form, updated letters of recommendation, and a letter describing plans and a schedule for completing the program of study. If the withdrawal was for health reasons, the student must obtain clearance from a physician before registering and resuming the program of study. In readmission of students to Jackson Theological Seminary, only course work done within five years that has earned a letter grade of C or better or a P grade will be considered for degree credit.

Students with unpaid balances or incomplete course work will not be considered for readmission until these issues are resolved. Readmission after withdrawal for medical reasons requires medical clearance by a physician.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

The transfer student must meet the admission requirements of Jackson Theological Seminary. A student transferring is admitted to advanced standing in accordance with work completed, provided the college/seminary from which he/she comes is accredited by acceptable accrediting associations. The extent of credit allowed for prior work is determined in each case by the faculty person. Transfer students, like all others, are required to complete a minimum of thirty credit hours in residence. Transfer credits will not substitute for the completion of the residency requirements. You may only be granted credit for courses with a grade of “C” or better. An official transcript needs to be submitted from each college or seminary school where credits were earned. Fifteen credit hours are the maximum number of transfer credits that are accepted. A transfer student must take the required courses at Jackson Theological Seminary, though a written appeal can be made for special consideration for courses taken at similar colleges and or theological institutions.

BABS Admission Policy Regarding Transcripts

To be admitted into the BABS Program, incoming students must have completed an associate’s degree from an accredited institution recognized by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or a minimum of 60 credit hours from an accredited institution recognized by CHEA. Of those 60 credit hours, a minimum of 35 credit hours must be completed in General Education as required by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Please see the chart below for State Minimum Core requirements.

STATE MINIMUM CORE REQUIREMENTS	
AREA	HOURS
English	6
Mathematics	3
Science (Students are required to take corresponding lecture/lab combinations)	8
Fine Arts	3
Humanities	3
U.S. History or Government	3
Social Science	6
Speech/Communications	3

MASTER OF DIVINITY:

The transfer student must meet the admission requirements of Jackson Theological Seminary. A student transferring is admitted to advanced standing in accordance with work completed, provided the college/seminary from which he/she comes is accredited by acceptable accrediting associations. The extent of credit allowed for prior work is determined in each case by the faculty person. Transfer students, like all others, are required to complete a minimum of forty-two credit hours in residence.

Transfer credits will not substitute for the completion of the residency requirements. You may only be granted credit for courses with a grade of “C” or better. An official transcript needs to be submitted from each college or seminary school where credits were earned. Twenty-four credit hours are the maximum number of transfer credits that are accepted. A transfer student must take the required courses at Jackson Theological Seminary, though a written appeal can be made for special consideration for courses taken at similar colleges and or theological institutions.

STUDENT FILES:

STUDENT RECORDS/FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS

The Registrar, located in the Office of Academic Services, processes student records, transcripts, identification cards, and diplomas. The Registrar also processes changes in student status such as name, address, residency, and major. For more information, please contact the Office of Academic Services.

ANNUAL FERPA NOTIFICATION DEADLINE

To prevent the “directory information” from appearing in any of these mediums, students must file a “Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information” at the time of the annual FERPA notification or by three weeks into Fall semester.

Requests filed after the Fall semester deadline may not prevent designated “directory information” from appearing in these mediums. Jackson Theological Seminary assumes that a student’s failure specifically to request blocking access to any element of “directory information” constitutes approval for disclosure. To prevent the Seminary from disclosing any “directory information” to third parties, students must sign and file a “Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information” with the Registrar.

TO ADD A PRIVACY FLAG

To withhold disclosure, a student must present a photo ID in person to the Registrar's Office and complete a Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information Form. The form may be submitted at any time throughout the year and will go into effect immediately.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS

Jackson Theological Seminary has adopted procedures in compliance with the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act of 1974. To preserve strict confidentiality of records, the college does not permit access to or release of educational records or personal information, without the written consent of the student.

1. INFORMATION ALLOWED INCLUDE:

- a. Grades/GPA, demographic, registration, student ID number, academic status, and/or enrollment information
- b. Billing statements, charges, credits, payments, past due amounts, and/or collection activity
- c. Financial aid awards, application data, disbursements, eligibility, and/or financial aid satisfactory progress
- d. Access to student records maintained by the Office of the Registrar, Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Student Affairs including all the above examples

EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL FILES:

The Seminary maintains personnel files on each employee in the administration office. These files contain documentation regarding all aspects of the employee's work history with the Seminary, such as (but not limited to) performance appraisals, training records, documentation of oral counseling and warnings, beneficiary designation forms, disciplinary actions, commendations, and payroll documents. Everyone has the right to review their personnel file. If an employee is interested in reviewing his/her file, contact the CEO or the HR Officer to schedule an appointment. If an employee desires copies of any material in his/her personnel file, the request must be submitted in writing. Faculty/Staff members and terminated Faculty/Staff members who want previously copied items recopied will be charged a fee per page which must be paid to the Trustee treasurer at the time of receipt of the copies.

QUALITY ENVIRONMENT

Faculty/Staff/Administration/Students have the right to expect a reasonably safe environment supportive of the Seminary's mission and their own educational goals. Faculty/Staff/Administration/Students have the responsibility to protect and maintain that environment and to protect themselves from all hazards to the extent that reasonable behavior and precaution can avoid risk.

ACADEMIC PURSUITS

Faculty/Staff/Administration/Students have the right to accurate and plainly stated information relating to maintenance of acceptable academic standing, graduation requirements, and individual course objectives and requirements. Students can expect instruction from designated instructors at appointed class times and reasonable access to those instructors. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to know their appropriate academic requirements.

ACADEMIC ETHICS

Jackson Theological Seminary (JTS) trusts the students who enroll at Jackson to be honest seekers of truth and knowledge. This trust is extended to all students by other students and teachers and is manifested in a variety of forms.

Jackson Theological Seminary is committed to providing educational opportunities that promote academic, professional and personal growth in students. Students are expected to behave as responsible members of the Seminary community and to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Activities of academic dishonesty corrupt the process of acquiring the knowledge and developing the skills necessary for success in ministry; such activities are considered a violation of the Student Rules of Conduct and are therefore prohibited.

Students must be mindful that, although Jackson encourages cooperative and collaborative, learning rather than competitive, modes of learning. One's work must still be one's own work, unless explicitly assigned to a group. Giving or receiving aid inappropriately on assignments and tests or plagiarizing by using another

DISCRIMINATION FREE ENVIRONMENT:

STUDENT

Jackson Theological Seminary during admission, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics and other school-administered programs.

FACULTY/STAFF

Jackson Theological Seminary employee faculty/staff of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to employees at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its governance/administration; educational policies; admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.

PLAGIARISM:

The use of another person's work as if it were one's own is deemed as plagiarism. If the work of another is used, acknowledgement of the original source must be made using a recognized referencing practice. If another's words are borrowed in whole or in part or merely recast in the student's own words, proper acknowledgement must be made.

PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The minimum penalty for dishonesty in an interim paper or examination shall be a mark of zero. The minimum penalty for dishonesty in a research paper or final examination shall be a grade of "F" for the course. For flagrant or repeated violation of academic integrity, additional penalties may be imposed through referral of the matter to the Office of the Academic Dean. The maximum penalty for academic dishonesty is dismissal from the Seminary. Those who believe they have witnessed violations of academic integrity should feel the obligation to speak about this to the suspected offender. The witness should also feel obligated to report the suspected offender to the professor if the person fails to offer a satisfactory explanation and refuses to report him or herself.

COMPLAINTS GRIEVANCE POLICY'S:

STUDENT COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE POLICY

CORE VALUES

The core values of Jackson Theological Seminary embrace:

1. Excellence
2. Tolerance
3. Servant Leadership
4. Spiritual Formation,
5. Growth and Transformation

These values are demonstrated by a passion for high standards, which include respect, honesty, justice, integrity and accountability. Tolerance is demonstrated through an unreserved acceptance of the concepts of love, justice, forgiveness and a capacity for openness to difference. Further, Jackson believes in a servant leadership that is lived out through being a responsible steward who serves with care, humility and strength of boldness as he/she articulates his/her vision and inspires others. We are committed to an on-going process of spiritual formation, growth and transformation through honest self-reflection and prayer.

It is recognized that disagreements and misunderstandings will occur within the human community. Therefore, this grievance policy is guided by the above values and behaviors and a desire for conflict resolution within a spirit and atmosphere of love and tolerance. This policy covers all student grievances, except those infractions covered by law, such as sexual harassment and gender and age discrimination, which apply to the whole

community. These areas are covered in a different policy and will require a different process. Student Rules and Code Conduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner supportive of the educational mission of the institution. Integrity, respect for the person and property of others, and a commitment to intellectual and personal growth in a diverse population are values deemed fundamental to membership in this Seminary community. Jackson Theological Seminary considers the following behavior, or attempts thereof, by a student or student organization, whether acting alone or with any other persons, to violate the rules of conduct for JTS.

STUDENT RULES and code OF CONDUCT

The student, by enrollment, assumes submission to these Student Rules and Code of Conduct.

1. Physical harm or threat of physical harm or general conduct that threatens the mental health of any person or persons.
2. Physical, verbal, oral, or written harassment that is beyond the bounds of protected free speech.
3. Disorderly conduct, including but not limited to, public intoxication, lewd, indecent or obscene behavior, or intentional disruption of lawful activities of the Seminary.
4. Theft, damage to personal/Seminary property, or unauthorized entry, use or occupation of Seminary facilities.
5. Forgery, alteration, fabrication, or misuse of records, grades, diplomas, Seminary documents, and identification cards.
6. Illegal purchase, use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances on Seminary property.
7. Non-compliance with directives of Seminary officials on safety and security issues.
8. Possession of firearms, explosive devices, fireworks, dangerous or illegal weapons, or hazardous materials.
9. Interference with or misuse of fire alarms, or other safety and security equipment or programs.
10. Violation of any federal, state, or local law that has a negative impact on the wellbeing of the Seminary or its individual members.
11. Violation of Seminary policies, rules, or regulations that are published in the catalog or any other official Seminary publications or agreements. Failure to abide by these rules can lead to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the Seminary.

DUE PROCESS

Students have the right to due process before formal disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the Seminary for violations of the Student Rules of Conduct. Students have the right to written notification and the opportunity for a hearing before any change in status is incurred for disciplinary reasons, unless a significant threat to persons or property exists.

If a student has a disagreement with a faculty member, another student, staff member, or a member of the administration, he/she will follow the following process:

Step 1

Complete the first section of the Complaint/Grievance Form and try to resolve the issue with the individual. If the issue is resolved here, the two parties sign the form that the issue is resolved, and the grievance stops here. If it is not resolved here, the parties will sign (only the aggrieved party needs to sign) that the issue is not resolved and the reasons it is not resolved.

Step 2

The second section of the form must be completed and sent to the Chief Academic Officer. The CAO will meet with the aggrieved parties and attempt to resolve the issue. If the issue is resolved here, both parties and the CAO will sign and date the form and state the resolution. The process stops here. If the issue is not resolved here, the parties will sign and date that the issue is not resolved, and the reason it was not resolved.

Step 3

The third section of the form will be completed by the aggrieved party: A petition to the Grievance Committee. This petition is addressed in a hearing held by the Grievance Committee. The decision of the Grievance Committee is final. The petition is signed and dated by the chair of the Grievance Committee and a letter sent to the aggrieved party stating the decision and the rationale for the decision. A copy of the letter is attached to the Grievance Form, which is filed in the Grievance File by the chair of the Grievance Committee.

It is recognized that some students may not be satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Committee. In this case, the petition and attached decision of the Grievance Committee can be appealed to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO will decide based upon the documentation and write a letter to the aggrieved party informing her/him of the decision. A copy of the letter will be attached to the previous papers and placed in the Grievance File.

If a student has an issue with a member of the Grievance Committee, that person should remove himself/herself from the committee for the hearing and be replaced by another person from his/ her area. A Grievance Form can be obtained in Academic Services.

COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

A standing student grievance committee consists of the following representatives:

1. Two student representatives
2. One faculty representative
3. One staff representative
4. One administration representative

The committee representatives will be selected by the groups they represent: for example, students will be selected by the student government; the faculty member will be selected by the faculty; the staff representative will be selected by the staff; and the administration representative will be selected by the administration.

The Chief Academic Officer shall appoint all members of the Grievance committee. The faculty, staff and administration representatives on the grievance committee will be selected at the beginning of the academic year and will serve for one year: August 1 through July 31.

The student representatives will be selected during the spring of an academic year and will serve through the fall of the following academic year.

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH TRACS

Students may contact TRACS Accrediting Agency by completing the TRACS Complaint Form found on https://tracs.org/Documents/3.TRACSComplaintForm-AgainstInstitution_000.pdf Complaints are submitted in writing on the TRACS Complaint Processing Form (Link above) and in accordance with the provisions detailed on the TRACS Complaint Information Sheet. • A printed copy of all materials is sent to: President, Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, 15935 Forest Rd., Forest VA 24551. • TRACS will not consider complaints submitted on behalf of another individual, Forest, VA 24551

FILING A COMPLAINT WITH STATE AGENCY

Students must follow the institution's published student grievance process before contacting the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). Grievance policies can usually be found in the academic catalog, student handbook, or institution's website. Grievances regarding student grades or conduct violations are governed entirely by institutional policy and Arkansas law and will not be considered by ADHE. If a student must report an unresolved grievance, the student may contact ADHE at ADHE_Info@adhe.edu. Resolutions by ADHE are final. Students must submit a written grievance to ADHE. The grievant also must provide written documentation from the college/university verifying that the institution's appeal process has been followed."

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY & STAFF COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE POLICY

CORE VALUES

The core values of Jackson Theological Seminary embrace:

1. Excellence
2. Tolerance
3. Servant Leadership
4. Spiritual Formation, Growth, and Transformation

These values are demonstrated by a passion for high standards, which include respect, honesty, justice, integrity, and accountability. Tolerance is demonstrated through an unreserved acceptance of the concepts of love, justice, forgiveness, and a capacity for openness to difference. Further, Jackson believes in a servant leadership that is lived out through being a responsible steward who serves with care, humility, and strength of boldness as he/she articulates his/her vision and inspires others. With this in mind, we are committed to an on-going process of spiritual formation, growth, and transformation through honest self-reflection and prayer.

It is recognized that disagreements and misunderstandings will occur within the human community. Therefore, this grievance policy is guided by the above values and behaviors and a desire for conflict resolution within a

spirit and atmosphere of love and tolerance.

This policy covers all faculty/staff/ admirations/student grievances, except those infractions covered by the law, such as sexual harassment and gender and age discrimination, which apply to the whole community. These areas are covered in the different policy and will require a different process.

DUE PROCESS

If a faculty member has a disagreement with a faculty member, a staff member or a member of the administration, the first hope is that the issue is resolved amicably. If not, at least one of the parties does have the option to make a written statement that an issue exists, has not been resolved and they should state the facts of the incident(s) in truth as they remember it. If the grievance is with an employee of Jackson Theological Seminary, the statement should be submitted to the CEO or, if necessary, to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. He/she will follow the following process:

Step 1: Try to resolve the issue with the individual.

Step 2: A written statement shall be sent to the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO will apprise the CAO of the situation if it involves their direct report(s).

Step 3: The officer who received the Grievance will schedule to meet with all parties to investigate and seek an amicable resolution. If the issue is resolved here, both the matter will be documented and considered closed., and the reason it was not resolved.

Step 4: If the issue is not resolved here, either individual can petition the Grievance Committee to hear the situation and bring it to the most logical, amicable conclusion up to and including dismissal of the individual found to be at fault.

PETITIONING THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

This petition is heard by the Grievance Committee who may meet as often as necessary to come to a final decision to the matter. The composition of the Committee will be at least two Board of Trustee member and one Administrator of the Institution. This will not be considered as a legal hearing.

Once a decision is reached, the petition is signed and dated by the chair of the Grievance Committee and a letter will be sent to the aggrieved party, and those directly involved stating the decision and the rationale for the decision. A copy of all documents pertaining to the matter will be filed with the Board of Trustees and (when applicable) the CEO.

It is recognized that some may not be satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Committee. In this case, the petition and attached decision of the Grievance Committee can be appealed to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, who is encouraged to be in consultation with the CEO and CAO (when applicable). The Chairperson has the right to resolve the issue based upon the documentation, evidence and the Chairperson's judgment.

The Chairperson will respond by letter to the aggrieved party informing her/him of their final decision. A copy of the letter will be attached to the previous papers and filed.

Administration, faculty and staff must follow the institution's published grievance process before they file complaints with the Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Education as listed in the process for Grievance in SD 20-XX Employee Conduct Standards and Discipline (Attachment 2). <https://doc.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SD-2022-02-Employee-Grievance-Procedures-1.pdf>

ADMINISTRATION/FACULTY/STAFF FILING A COMPLAINT WITH TRACS:

Students/Faculty/Staff may contact TRACS Accrediting Agency by completing the TRACS Complaint Form found on https://tracs.org/Documents/3.TRACSComplaintForm-AgainstInstitution_000.pdf Complaints are submitted in writing on the TRACS Complaint Processing Form (Link above) and in accordance with the provisions detailed on the TRACS

Complaint Information Sheet.

- A printed copy of all materials is sent to: President, Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, 15935 Forest Rd., Forest VA 24551.
- TRACS will not consider complaints submitted on behalf of another individual.

ADMINISTRATION FACULTY/STAFF (EMPLOYEE) COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

A faculty staff grievance committee consists of the following:

Three to five members of the Board of Trustees appointed by the Chair of the Board.

Once appointed by the Chair, the committee will organize to select the president, the secretary and the parliamentarian. The committee representatives will be selected by the groups they represent, for example; Board members will be selected by the Chairman of the Board.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' SELECTION TIME AND TERM OF OFFICE:

The Chief Academic Officer shall appoint all members of the Grievance committee. The faculty, staff and administration representatives on the grievance committee will be selected at the beginning of the academic year and will serve for one year: August 1 through July 31.

The representatives will be selected during the spring of an academic year and will serve through the fall of the following academic year.

GOVERNANCE / PARTICIPATION:

Faculty/Staff/Administration/Students have the right to establish representative governmental bodies and to

participate in Seminary governance in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Seminary. Students who accept representative roles in the governance of the Seminary have the obligation to participate responsibly.

PROCEDURAL POLICY OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

1. The Faculty Council will once a semester, and more frequently, if necessary. A simple majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum.
2. Faculty Council will forward resolutions and reports to the Jackson Theological Seminary President, who forwards them to the Board of Trustees as appropriate. Certain routine matters, however, may be forwarded at the discretion of the Council to an appropriate administrator through the Office of the President.
3. The Faculty Council, at its discretion, may refer matters under consideration to referendum by either the full-time faculty, the College faculties, or such other groups as it deems appropriate. Such referenda shall be binding on the Council, provided that at least two-thirds of those eligible shall have participated in the voting.
4. Students, staff, and administrators may attend sessions of the Faculty Council, but will not be permitted to vote.
5. At all sessions of the Council the floor may be yielded by any member of the Council to a non-Council member unless this procedure is expressly suspended by a simple majority vote. Yielding the floor to a non-Council Member shall not be construed as in any way limiting the right of debate of the yielding Council.
6. The Faculty Council, through its authorized committees or representatives, shall receive information that it needs for its studies from the staff offices of JTS.
7. The rules or procedures in Council meetings, except as otherwise specified, shall be those presented in the most recent revision of Robert's Rules of Order.
8. The Faculty Council may adopt rules and regulations for its own operation not inconsistent with the bylaws of JTS or the bylaws of the Council as set forth above.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Ad Hoc Committees may be established at the discretion of the faculty council president.

FACULTY COUNCIL

The Faculty Council will meet in plenary session at least once per semester, and more frequently, if necessary. A simple majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum.

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Arkansas is a "Right-To-Work" State; therefore, the Seminary and the Employee recognize that either party may terminate the employment relationship at any time for any reason regardless of the date of final compensation or regardless of any language contained herein to the contrary. Neither is bound by any contractual agreement, except for:

Faculty/Staff member classified as “contract Faculty/Staff member”.

Contracted employee's terminations are based on the conditions included in their contract.

RESIGNATION

Faculty/Staff member wishing to leave the Seminary’s service in good standing shall file with the Department Head a written resignation at least ten (10) working days prior to leaving the Seminary’s service. The Department Head may authorize the employee to leave sooner.

All resignations from Faculty/Staff member should contain the reasons for the resignation to assist the Seminary in meeting unemployment compensation restrictions.

Written notice of intent to resign should be given to the employee’s supervisor or Department Head. Proper notice generally allows enough time to calculate all accrued overtime (if applicable) as well as other monies to which the employee may be entitled and to include such monies except pension refunds in the final paycheck when possible.

FACULTY/STAFF (EMPLOYEE) ETHICS CODE

1. GIFTS, GRATUITIES, REWARDS

No employee will accept tips, gifts, rewards or other forms of remuneration (payment) in addition to regular compensation from any source for the performance of academic services for which one is regularly employed.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Seminary Faculty/Staff member shall not be hired, promoted, retained, reduced, suspended or discharged based on their political activity. Faculty/Staff member are expected and encouraged to exercise their legal right to vote.

Faculty/Staff member shall ensure that all their activities with students of the Seminary are above board and proper. Fraternalization with students is forbidden (Dating, Unaccompanied Social Events or any other activity that can be construed and or misconstrued to be improper).

No employee in any department shall engage in the solicitation of any subscription funds or assessments for contributions while at work. No employee may use seminary time or property for political purposes. Failure to follow the above policies may result in disciplinary action.

ATTENDANCE:

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. Students will be expected to attend all classes unless prevented by illness or emergency. To obtain credit for the course, a student must attend at least 75% of the class sessions (ex: a student cannot miss more than 12 hours for a 3-credit course or 4 class sessions). The student is expected to notify the instructor if a class session will be missed and is responsible for any information, activities, evaluations, or assignments missed because of the absence. Students who miss class due to a university-related activity or documented illness will be marked absent, but students should not be penalized. Instead, the student can make up any missed work or exams. Instructors will clearly define in the syllabus the make-up policy for the course. The instructor may use attendance to calculate course grades, which will be defined and documented in the course syllabus.

Instructors are required to monitor attendance and keep accurate records. The names of students who miss three consecutive class sessions will be reported to the CAO. When a student has missed 25% of the class, the instructor should assign the student a failing grade and report this to the CAO.

EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE:

Staff/faculty is required to be at work on time and as scheduled, unless authorized or unless an emergency exists. Staff/faculty are required to attend designated training unless excused by the CEO.

EMPLOYEE ABANDONMENT OF JOB

An employee remaining absent from the Seminary for any reason for a period of three (3) consecutive workdays without notifying the Seminary, is considered to have abandoned his or her job and the member shall be terminated.

EMPLOYEE OFFICE HOURS

Each employee's office hours are set by the CAO and or times listed in employee contracts. Changes in hours can be made due to inclement weather and other emergency situations. These changes must be coordinated with the CAO.

GRADES:

In cases concerning grades, the student should discuss the situation with the faculty member. If the situation is unresolved then the student may make an appeal to the Chief Academic Officer. The decision of the Academic Officer shall be considered final in cases involving grades.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADING SYSTEM

Description: The grade scale goes from 0 to 100. The pass grade to get the credits of a course is a "C" with 69 "C-" up to 79 "C+" At the end of the academic semester, the student receives a grade based on the compilation of various learning activities and the weight given to each. If a student fails to make a passing grade, they will be allowed to retake the course when it comes available again.

CREDIT HOURS DEFINED

To earn one **credit hour**, a student must attend a class for one classroom **hour** (usually 50 minutes) per week for the whole semester (usually 16 weeks). Classes are offered in 1 - 5 **credit hour** increments, and sometimes larger amounts.

GRADING SCALE

Student proficiency is recorded in terms of the following symbols: (per 3 credit hour class)		
GRADE	PERCENTAGE VALUE	CREDIT
A+	97-100	4.0
A	93 - 96	4.0
A-	90 - 92	3.7
B+	87 - 89	3.3
B	83 - 86	3.0
B-	80 - 82	2.7
C+	77 - 79	2.3
C	73 - 76	2.0
C-	70 - 72	1.7
D+	67 - 69	1.3
D	60 - 66	1.0
F	59 and below	
Other Grades (do not affect GPA)		
P	Pass (not counted toward grade point average)	
T	Transfer Credit	
W	Withdrawal	
I	Incomplete	
X	Audit	

ACADEMIC PROGRESS-STANDINGS

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is checked at the conclusion of each semester. In order to meet the requirements of SAP, a Bachelors/M.Div. student must achieve a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA.

If a student meets or exceeds the minimum of 2.5 GPA, the student will be listed as in “Good Standing”. If a student fails to meet SAP requirements, the student will be placed on academic warning for the coming semester. If a student fails to meet satisfactory progress during the academic warning period, the student will be placed on academic probation.

Students on academic warning and/or academic probation may only take up to nine (9) credits per semester. Students on academic probation must work with the to develop an academic plan in an effort to meet satisfactory progress in an efficient and timely manner. In addition, probation students will be placed on registration hold and must consult with the registrar in order to have the classes approved and the hold released.

There are times in which a semester’s worth of hours may not be enough to increase the cumulative GPA to a minimum 2.5. In these instances, so long as the student receives a minimum 2.5 GPA for the semester in which they are on academic warning or probation, the respective status will continue into the future semester until satisfactory academic progress is made.

Students that fail to meet the requirements of academic probation may be subject to suspension from the program and/or dismissal from the institution.

Students who have been suspended from the program may appeal for re-entry at the beginning of the next semester. To appeal, the student must provide a written letter with evidence to the Dean and Registrar that the problems causing the unsatisfactory progress to have been resolved.

ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATIONS

BA and M.Div.: Students are classified according to the number of credit hours completed. The required credit hours for each classification are as follows:

BA STUDENTS	
Sophomore	30-69 credit hours
Junior	60-89 credit hours
Senior	90 + credit hours
MDIV STUDENTS	
Junior	1-29 credit hours
Mid (Middler)	30-59 credit hours
Senior	60 + credit hours

RUBRIC:

A scoring **rubric** is a method to communicate expectations of quality around a task. In many cases, scoring **rubrics** are **used to** delineate consistent criteria for grading. A scoring **rubric** allows teachers and students alike to evaluate criteria, which can be complex and subjective.

INCOMPLETE WORK:

In exceptional cases, such as illness or family emergency, a student may request an incomplete grade from an instructor no later than the last day of class. Thereafter, an incomplete must be requested from the Academic Dean. If approved, the instructor and Dean provide written acknowledgement and guidelines on an Incomplete Form and the form is sent to the Director of Administration and Records (DAR) to be entered in the official grading. Course work for an approved incomplete must be completed and submitted no later than 21 days after the last day of the session for the BABS/MDiv. and special students. Students who fail to submit required course work by the deadline will receive the earned grade for the course.

The instructor is required to submit the grade change upon receiving and grading the completed work from the student, and no later than 10-days after receipt of said work. An Incomplete is not considered as completed credit hours which may affect the students financial aid status (when applicable). Students with at least one incomplete that are one semester old are placed on Registration Hold until the incomplete is resolved. Students on Registration Hold will have limited access in the student information system (SIS), including the inability to register for upcoming courses.

For intensive courses, such as those offered during the summer term, requests for an incomplete must be made directly to the instructor by the due date of the last class session for the course.

DROP ADD POLICY

Classes may be dropped during the first two weeks of the session. Intensives may be dropped up to the day before the start of the class. BA students and MDIV students are eligible for refunds on funds paid to the school as follows:

DROP/WITHDRAWAL PRIOR TO CLASS

Drop/withdrawal prior to the student's attendance of classes in which they have registered.

DROP/WITHDRAWAL WHILE ATTENDING

Drop/withdrawal after midterms will not receive a refund. The funds could be held over and credited for another course date with an agreed upon return date. If the student does not return within that agreed upon time frame, the offer will be forfeited, and the funds will not be made available for courses in the future.

EMPLOYEE ACADEMIC ADVISING PROCEDURES

The CAO will serve as the primary Academic Advisor and due to the Seminary's size will authorize other instructors to advise students as well. The CAO or his or her designee, will ensure that all instructors provide an adequate amount of time to meet with the students on an as-needed basis. The staff will provide enough time for students already enrolled in classes to receive adequate counsel for their stated academic goals while meeting school standards. Students may request for advisement from their instructors who will notify the CAO. The CAO will set up and appointment for advisement with the student.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL

Performance appraisals are used to document job performance, and successful completion of probationary periods (periodic performance appraisals). It should be noted that a performance evaluation does not necessarily mean a salary adjustment. It is important that an employee be recognized for good performance and that the member receives appropriate suggestions for improvement when necessary. Consistent with this goal, the member's performance, conduct and attendance will be observed, documented and evaluated by the supervisor on an ongoing basis. The member may also receive periodic written evaluations.

Annual performance appraisals shall be conducted on all full-time Faculty/Staff member members who have been employed as a full-time employee for three (3) months as of October each year.

If a member is transferred to a new position, he/she will receive a periodic evaluation after the member has been in the new job for three months, but this may also occur more frequently if the supervisor or department head feels it is necessary. The releasing supervisor will provide a complete performance appraisal. This appraisal will be averaged with the new position if the employee meets requirements for an annual appraisal. All written performance reviews will be based on the employee's overall performance in relation to the job responsibilities and will also consider conduct, demeanor, and record of attendance and punctuality.

When a supervisor is aware of a problem concerning a subordinate member's job performance, conduct, attendance or other problems, it is the supervisor's responsibility to privately counsel the employee regarding the problem(s), advising the employee of the standards that must be met, setting time limits in which to meet them if necessary, and the consequences for not meeting them. Any members who refuse to, or otherwise does not, perform the duties of his or her assigned position, in a manner acceptable to the seminary is subject to disciplinary action, including termination. This applies to faculty/staff's conduct and attendance as well.

When a supervisor completes any type of an evaluation on an employee, the employee is asked to sign the form. The purpose for this is to assure the Chairman of the Board that the employee has been counseled, has been informed of the contents of the evaluation and that the employee has received a copy. The signature of the employee is in no way an indication of approval or disapproval of the contents of the evaluation.

Periodically the Chairman of the Board will undertake specific, targeted instruction in such matters regarding equal employment. All training should be documented, and the original forwarded to DAR's office. All Faculty/Staff member should avail themselves to outside training opportunities. Job related training opportunities can be supplemented by the Seminary if they are job related and approved by the Board.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION

In an effort to understand the attitudes and perceptions about the Seminary and determine initiatives for improving leadership performance and effectiveness, the Board of Trustees are invited to annually complete a Board Self-Evaluation Assessment. The Board evaluate itself by assessing the following areas:

- **Leadership.** This evaluates the effectiveness of Board leadership, including the Officers and Members. It examines how the leaders were chosen, the skills and experiences the individual brings to bear, their leadership style, and their areas of knowledge and expertise.
- **Effectiveness and Involvement.** This evaluates how the board meetings are conducted. They should note whether the meetings are organized for maximum productivity and the effective exchange of ideas. This includes which Trustees participate and how decisions are made and whether the Trustees encourage the full participation of all members.
- **Professionalism.** This evaluates how board members interact, including who participates and how decisions are made. It is important to note the manner in which the Trustees contribute. In particular, the evaluation process should review the behaviors that Trustees adopt in interacting with others. Encouraged are positive behaviors, which include asking the right questions, building on others' points of view, framing content in a constructive fashion, and staying engaged.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Jackson Theological Seminary affirms that this institution of higher education is conducted for the common good and not to further the interests of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its exposition.

Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to all disciplines. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in all disciplines is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty and the student. It carries with it duties correlative with rights, regardless of employment status.

LIBRARY BORROWING PRIVILEGES

Per our Memorandum of Agreement with Shorter College, borrowing privileges with the Shorter College's, A.W. Young library is extended to current students, faculty and staff only upon registration with

the library and issuance of a valid Library Card. A separate memorandum of Agreement allows the same internet access to the Payne Theological Seminary system. Registration forms will be furnished to all students completing enrollment each term. Faculty and staff members will receive a registration form during the fall Faculty/Staff Institute or whenever convenient. Upon the first visit of a registered person to the library, a borrower's card will be issued. This card will have a unique patron number and the corresponding barcode which will be used to identify the patron). This card must be presented each time the patron checks out any materials. Each term a student must renew his card by showing proof of enrollment for the new term. Faculty members will be automatically renewed if currently on the teaching schedule. No person with an outstanding balance for fines or lost books will be allowed to renew his card until the balance has been paid.

COMPLYING WITH APPLICABLE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHTS

COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE POLICY:

The purpose of the Jackson Theological Seminary Copyright Compliance Policy for the Library and the Classroom is to provide a summary of United States Copyright Law as it relates to the use of copyright protected works in the classroom and library at Jackson Theological Seminary. This policy covers copyright issues including but not limited to photocopying, traditional and online classrooms, print and electronic holdings, Interlibrary loans, and document deliveries. This policy is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice.

Specific rights are granted to students and faculty for their individual creative work. U.S. Copyright Act (Title 17, U.S. Code). Among the exclusive rights granted to "authors" are the rights to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and publicly display their works. These works may include books, magazines, journals, newsletters, maps, charts, photographs, other printed materials, and non- printed materials.

These rights provide copyright holders control over the use of their creations and an ability to benefit monetarily and otherwise, from the use of their works. Non-copyright holders, as determined by the law, must generally obtain copyright permission prior to using or reproducing that work. Exceptions in the Copyright Act are for certain academic uses; for example, permission is not required for actions such as reading or borrowing original literary works or photographs from a library collection. See Fair Use Provision (Copyright Act, Section 107).

FAIR USE PROVISION

Under the Fair Use Provision, a reproduction of someone else's copyright-protected work is likely to be considered fair if it is used for one of the following purposes: criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship and research. If the reproduction is for one of these purposes, a determination as to whether the reproduction is fair use must be made based upon these four factors:

1. Purpose and character of the use
2. Nature of the copyright – protected work
3. Amount and substantiality of work used

4. Effect of the use on the market or potential market value of the work.
5. To minimize the risk of copyright infringement, Jackson interprets the following as fair use of copyrighted works:
6. Quotation of short passages in a scholarly or technical work for illustration or clarification of the author's observations.
7. Spontaneous one-time use of reproduction of material for classroom use.
8. Use in parody of short portions of the work itself.
9. A summary of an address or article, which may include quotations of short passages.

If the use does not meet the above criteria and the work is protected by copyright, permission from the copyright holder or agent needs to be obtained.

Classroom Handouts fall into two categories; one that requires permission and one that does not. If the handout is spontaneous and a new work that permission could not be obtained in a timely manner, the work may be used without obtaining permission. The handout is planned in advance, repeated from semester to semester, or involves works that have existed long enough to obtain permission in advance; the work cannot be used without permission.

Copies of a publication that the Library owns may be placed on reserve in the library without obtaining copyright permission. However, the library cannot reproduce additional copies and place them on reserve for students to review, in either paper or electronic format, without obtaining copyright permission.

Photocopying by students is subject to a fair use analysis as well. Photocopying all the assignments from a book recommended for purchase by the professor, making multiple copies of articles or book chapters for distribution to classmates, or copying material from consumable workbooks, all require copyright permission.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

Intellectual property is a broad term that includes, but is not limited to, inventions, discoveries, copyrightable material, works, patents, trademarks and trade secrets.

"Works" as used herein are original works of authorship that have been fixed in a tangible medium of expression, including but not limited to, master syllabi, books, articles, artwork, music, software, traditional or electronic correspondence, and instructional materials that are likely to be subject to protection under United States copyright law. "Jackson Theological Seminary resources usually and customarily provided" as used herein includes, but is not limited to, such support as salary or compensation, office space, library facilities, ordinary access to computers and networks, including Internet access, course syllabi, packets, or pages, and other resources that permit Seminary employees to perform tasks defined in their job descriptions. Unless approved in writing as an exception, this does not include use of students, contractors, or employees as support staff, or substantial use of specialized or unique facilities and equipment, or other special support provided by Jackson Theological Seminary.

PHOTOCOPYING IN JACKSON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Photocopying in the Jackson Library is permissible without obtaining permission from the copyright owner, under the following circumstances:

1. Library user requests one copy of an article from a periodical or short excerpt of any other work.
2. The reproduction must become the property of the library user.
3. The library staff must have no reason to believe that the reproduction will be used for purposes other than private study, scholarship and research.
4. The library must display: The Copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproduction of copyright material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction.
5. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not “used for any purposes other than private study, scholarship, or research.” If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.
6. Up to three reproductions of any unpublished work owned by the library may be made for preservation, security or for deposit for research use in another library or archives, including digital reproductions, of a published work that is lost, stolen, damaged, deteriorating or stored in an obsolete format.

ANTI-FRAUD POLICIES

This policy is established to provide increased protection to the assets and financial interests of Jackson Theological Seminary, to provide a coordinated approach to the identification, investigation and resolution of fraudulent activities, and to increase the overall awareness of the responsibility to report fraud and reasonably suspected fraudulent activity to the appropriate administrators.

This policy applies to any situation of fraud or suspected fraud involving Seminary employees, students, vendors, contractors, consultants, outside agencies, and/or any other parties with a business relationship with Jackson Theological Seminary. Any investigative activity conducted will be done without regard to the suspected wrongdoer’s title/position, past performance, or length of service to the Seminary.

For purposes of this policy, fraud includes any willful or deliberate act committed with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit, such as money or property, by misrepresentation, deception, or other unethical means.

Fraud and financial impropriety may include, but are not limited to the following actions:

- Embezzlement or other financial irregularities
- Forgery, alteration, or falsification of documents (including checks, time sheets, travel expense reports, contractor agreements, purchase orders, other financial documents, student academic or financial records, electronic files)

- Misappropriation, misuse, theft, removal, or destruction of Seminary resources (including funds, securities, supplies, inventory, furniture, fixtures, equipment, intellectual property, or any other asset)
- Improprieties in the handling or reporting of money or financial transactions.
- Misuse of facilities (including telephones, computers, and e-mail system)
- False claims by student, employees, vendors, or other associated with Jackson Theological Seminary.
- Receiving or offering bribes, rebates, or kickbacks
- Personal use of Seminary property in commercial business activities
- Accepting or seeking anything of material value from contractors, vendors or persons providing or seeking to provide services/materials to the Seminary
- Conflict of interest
- Misrepresentation of facts
- Any similar or related irregularity

At all levels of management are accountable for setting the appropriate tone of intolerance for fraudulent acts by displaying the proper attitude toward complying with laws, rules, regulations, and policies. Managing administrators are responsible for identifying and assessing the level of the risks and exposures to fraudulent activity inherent in his or her area of responsibility. Additionally, managing administrators shall establish and maintain proper internal controls which will provide for the security and accountability of the resources within his or her department. All Seminary employees are responsible for safeguarding Seminary resources and ensuring that they are used only for authorized purposes, in accordance with Seminary rules, policies, and applicable law.

The following, though non-exclusive, may indicate fraudulent financial activities:

- Excessive number of missing or voided documents
- Alterations of documents
- Questionable handwriting or approval
- Documents not numerically controlled
- Duplicate payments
- Unusual billing addresses or arrangements
- Vendor’s billing address is the same as employee’s
- Duplicate or photocopied invoices

Employees, students, and other individuals associated with the Seminary who become aware of, or have a reasonable basis for believing that fraud, defalcation, misappropriation, or other fiscal irregularities has occurred shall promptly report the suspected activity.

PROMOTION AND TENURE:

The Board shall be responsible for developing and awarding promotions and Tenure. At present there are no opportunities available for any employees.

BUDGETING PROCESS

During the February timeframe, the process begins by soliciting the needs of the staff/faculty. Budget request worksheets are sent to staff/faculty and upon completion, forwarded to their department manager for their approval. All approved requests will receive any necessary adjustments and final approval by the CEO in consultation with the CFO. The CAO is primarily responsible for enrollment forecast, in consultation with faculty staff. The CFO is responsible for projecting all fixed/variable operational costs, with approval by the CEO. During the March timeframe, a final review of the budget will be held with the CEO, CAO, and CFO, and a preliminary budget will be developed for the upcoming fiscal year. The preliminary budget will be presented to the JTS Board of Trustees during their Spring (April) meeting.

As the new fiscal year begins, additional information obtained may require necessary adjustments to the preliminary budget (i.e., student enrollment). As such, adjustments will be made for a final budget to be presented at the Fall (October) JTS Trustee Board meeting for approval. Any substantial expense requests in the budget needed subsequently may require a called meeting of the Board of Trustees for additional approval.

Task	Person(s) Responsible	Month
1. Discuss next fiscal year's enrollment projections	CEO, CAO, CFO	March
2. Review and update Strategic Plan for respective fiscal allocations.	CEO, CAO, CFO	March
3. Budget worksheets are disseminated to each unit for submission.	CFO	March
4. Budget worksheets are reviewed by the CEO, CAO, and CFO.	CEO, CAI, CFO	March
5. Preliminary Budget presented for Board Approval.	CFO	April
6. Preliminary Budget is shared and disseminated to all units.	CFO	May
7. Final Budget submitted to the Board for approval.	CFO	October
8. Final budget is shared and disseminated to all units.	CFO	November

PROCEDURE FOR PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES:

All requests for equipment and supplies shall be submitted in writing to the CEO. Purchases and/or the promise to purchase items shall not be made without prior approval. Request for heavy ticket items should be submitted as a part of your annual budget.

FACULTY WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS:

Faculty and Staff's workload will be conducted per each individual contract. JTS reserves the right to temporarily modify the workloads on "as needed" basis.

POLICY ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:

The following expectations of Students/Faculty/Staff member are intended to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all individuals associated with the Seminary: the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is prohibited on campus or at Seminary activities off campus; the use of a controlled substance shall be permitted if use of the particular drug is permitted by law and has been authorized as a use for medicinal purposes; the Seminary prohibits the use of alcohol at all Seminary sponsored student events, and on campus grounds, defined as Seminary-owned property and facilities, and including Seminary- owned student housing. The Seminary does not seek to regulate the personal use of alcohol or legal drugs off campus by faculty, students, and staff of legal drinking age.

Violations of the alcohol/drug policy may result in judicial action by the Seminary and/or criminal prosecution.

SMOKING/TOBACCO PRODUCTS:

In order to maintain a safe, clean, healthy and comfortable working environment for nonsmoking Students/Faculty/Staff members, and to ensure their right to clean air, and to comply with applicable Arkansas OSHA laws and city ordinances, the North Little Rock City Council Enacted Ordinance 6288 dated 1/23/89.

As such, smoking in the Seminary is prohibited.

FALSE STATEMENTS:

False statements made by any Seminary employee pertaining to obtaining employment, obtaining benefits, use of leave, absences or tardiness, or during any lawful, duly-authorized investigation of theft, wrong-doing or criminal activity relating to the workplace is prohibited.

Falsification of any Seminary document, computer tape, computer entry, or other record, written or taped, is prohibited.

Any student/employee found to have violated this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including discharge.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

Jackson Theological Seminary provides students, faculty and staff with access to technology resources. This includes but is not limited to computers, telephones, printers, fax machines, PDAs, digital cameras, copiers, TV/VCRs, DVD/CDROM, flash drives, video and audio cassettes, scanners and access to information via the Internet and the Seminary network. These technologies are intended for instructional, research, and administrative activities of the institution and are designed to facilitate communication and learning.

Members of the Jackson community, i.e., all employees, students and Board members, are expected to use technology in a manner consistent with state and federal laws, the mission of the Seminary and other official Seminary documents such as the policy and procedures of the Seminary, the Seminary Catalog, the Student Handbook, etc.

USERS OF THE SEMINARY'S TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AGREE TO

1. Comply with all federal, state, other applicable laws, and Seminary policies and procedures *Use resources responsibly
2. Protect the integrity of the physical and software facilities
3. Respect the rights and privacy of other users
4. Respect data belonging to others
5. Use only those technology resources that they are authorized to use and only in a manner and to the extent authorized
6. Protect the integrity of their own user accounts

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED

1. Acquiring, uploading, downloading or possessing any material that is considered child pornography
2. Harassment

3. Libel
4. Any act that violates copyright laws
5. Unauthorized access to the network (“hacking”)
6. Impersonating other individuals
7. Creating, using or distributing virus programs or programs that attempt to scan or exploit network security and/or other vulnerabilities

FAILURE TO COMPLY:

Violation of any of the Jackson Responsible Use of Technology Policies and Procedures may result in disciplinary action. Violators of these regulations may be ejected from Jackson owned or controlled property, and subject to criminal prosecution and/or Seminary discipline.

INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES

This Jackson Theological Seminary policy is intended to allow for the proper use of online computing and network resources and other electronic devices. Effective protection of individual users, equitable access, and proper management of those resources.

ACCEPTABLE USES POLICY

The use of Jackson Theological Seminary’s online Computing resources and other electronic devices and access to the Online Learning System is a privilege, not a right. All Seminary students, faculty and staff are responsible for using these resources in an effective, ethical, and lawful manner. The Seminary’s Computing resources and other electronic devices (software and hardware) are to be used to advance the Seminary’s mission in an atmosphere that encourages access to knowledge and sharing of information. The Seminary provides many computing networks resources for use by students, faculty, and staff. All are encouraged to use electronic mail, or e-mail and other social networks for Seminary related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful information. Access to emails and other social networks is accompanied by user responsibilities.

Users are expected to be ethical and responsible in their use. The use of the Seminary’s online resources for commercial purposes is permitted only by arrangement with the Seminary. This policy is to assure that the technology provided for the students, faculty and staff use is always available for everyone, and that no single individual will prevent, interrupt, or deter another individual from equal opportunity, nor violate another individual’s rights to the online use.

Throughout this policy, an “individual” refers to the Seminary’s students, faculty and staff. “Network” refers to the entire online learning system of the Seminary.

UNACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

LEGAL USE

Computing resources and other electronic devices may only be used for legal purposes. Examples of unacceptable purposes include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Harassment of other users
- b. Libeling or slandering other users
- c. Destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the Seminary or other users
- d. Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications
- e. Unauthorized copying of copyright-protected material
- f. Sending, receiving or viewing inappropriate communications, i.e. Pornography, profanity, vulgarity etc.
- g. Concealing or misrepresenting your name or affiliation in e-mail messages.

ETHICAL USE

Computing resources and other electronic devices and other electronic devices should be used in accordance with the ethical standards of the Seminary's community. Examples of unacceptable use (some of which may also have legal consequences) include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Violation of network security, hacking, pirating, etc.
- b. Setting up servers and software that are against the Seminary's policies or which invite an exceptional amount of network access traffic
- c. Unauthorized use of computer accounts, access codes, or network identification numbers assigned to others
- d. Use of computer communications in ways that unnecessarily impede the computing activities of others (such as randomly initiating interactive electronic communications or e-mail exchanges, overuse of interactive network utilities, etc.)
- e. Use of computing network for private business purposes unrelated to the mission of the Seminary
- f. Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, copy/paste others works, etc.)
- g. Violation of network usage policies and regulations
- h. Violation of another user's privacy
- i. Display or distribution of materials (text, audio, or video) which are obscene, sexist, or racist on any network location where it may be deemed offensive to other individuals
- j. Use of profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to other individuals.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The right to privacy of all individuals is also to be upheld. Jackson Theological Seminary will do everything within its power to protect the confidentiality of the network and its users. However, individuals must also do their part to assist in this process. Electronic data of any type on the network, including e-mail, is not confidential. While the Seminary does everything in its power to keep data confidential, the Seminary cannot make guarantees. Individuals are expected to abide by the security

restrictions on all systems and information to which they have access. All equipment and the data it contain are the property of Jackson Theological Seminary, but due to the nature of the Internet, no guarantees can be made.

COOPERATIVE USE

Computing resource users can facilitate computing at the Seminary in many ways by:

- a. Regular deletion of unneeded files from one’s accounts on computing resources and other electronic devices
- b. Refraining from overuse of connect time, information storage space, printing, or processing capacity
- c. Refraining from overuse of interactive network utilities (Chat). Refraining from use of sounds and visuals which might be disruptive to others.
- d. Refraining from use of any computing resource in an irresponsible manner. Refraining from initiating or forwarding e-mail “chain letters” or “broadcast” and spam messages.

CONSEQUENCES

Violation of any of the Jackson Responsible Use of Technology Policies and Procedures may result in disciplinary action. Violators of these regulations may be ejected from Jackson owned or controlled property, and subject to criminal prosecution and/or Seminary discipline.

<u>DISCRIMINATION FREE ENVIRONMENT:</u>
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STUDENTS

Jackson Theological Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

FACULTY STAFF

Jackson Theological Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

HARASSMENT/BULLYING POLICY:

The Seminary prohibits harassment/bullying for any reason [“protected class”] including, but not limited to

veteran status, uniform service member status or any other protected class under federal, state, or local law. Harassment of third parties by Jackson faculty/staff or students is also prohibited. Harassment/bullying through all social forms of social media is also considered a part of this policy.

In Arkansas the following are protected classes: race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, national origin, disability, age (40 or over), ancestry, political affiliation or sexual orientation. The purpose of this policy is not to regulate the morality of the Seminary. It is to ensure that in any environment, staff, student, or professors not be harassed for any reason or in any manner. The conduct prohibited by this policy includes conduct in any form, including but not limited to e-mail, voicemail, chat rooms, Internet use or history, text messages, pictures, images, writings, words or gestures. While it is not easy to define precisely what harassment is, it includes: slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments or visual depictions, unwelcome jokes, and teasing.

Any member that feels he/she is a victim of such harassment should immediately report the matter to the following member of management who has been designated to receive such complaints: **Dr. Ron Lindo**

The Seminary will investigate all such reports as confidentially as possible. Adverse action will not be taken against the offender because he/she, in good faith, reports or participates in the investigation of a violation of this policy. Violations of this policy are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the Seminary.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY:

Jackson Theological seminary has a policy that prohibits sexual harassment or sexual discrimination against any staff, faculty, and student of the college on the basis of sex. Actions related to sexual harassment or discrimination based on sex is also prohibited by law, Section 703, Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1963 and Title IX of the Educational Amendment Act of 1972.

Any member of the Jackson community who violates any of these Acts faces disciplinary action and potential legal consequences.

Sexual harassment is defined as an unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct. The following non-exhaustive list contains forms of sexual harassment:

1. Submission to such conduct is, explicitly or implicitly, made a term or condition of an individual's employment or classroom evaluation.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting the status of the individual.

Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or classroom performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment.

Jackson Theological Seminary shall take necessary steps to maintain a college environment that is free of sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex through programs and workshops developed to prevent such acts. Members of the college are encouraged to report any violation of this policy against an individual on or outside the college campus to the appropriate college authority. Appropriate administrative departmental action(s) will be taken through either informal or formal procedures.

DRESS CODE:

The Board of Trustee's may require a, reasonable dress code for their Faculty/Staff members depending on the needs of the seminary for appropriate public image and safety.

Student/Faculty/Staff member are expected to obey the dress code set by the board. If no dress code is in place, the member is expected to use good judgment in grooming and in choosing the type of clothing appropriate for the job site and job duties they are required to perform (Business Casual).

Student/Faculty/Staff member are always expected to practice acceptable standards of personal hygiene. Failure to follow normal standards of hygiene or reporting to work in an unacceptable condition of personal hygiene may result in disciplinary actions.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Faculty/Staff members have the responsibility and the authority to instruct, counsel, correct and (if necessary) to take disciplinary action for any and all matters relating to the workplace. Disciplinary action is intended to be corrective, not punitive, and shall be administered in a fair, consistent, non-discriminatory manner.

Disciplinary action may consist of discharge, suspension without pay, demotion, reduction in pay, written warning, or oral warning, depending on the circumstances. Progressive disciplinary actions should be considered in most cases. However, certain offenses, events, incidents, or acts of incompetence considered serious enough by the CEO shall result in immediate suspension or discharge and immediate removal from the workplace.

Full-time, regular Faculty/Staff members who have completed a six-month period of probation, in the case of promotion (after the initial six-month probationary period has been successfully completed), have the right to appeal reduction in pay, demotion or suspension to the Chairman of the Board within ten days from the date of receipt of such action. Appeals must be filed in writing, stating the reasons why the reduction in pay, demotion or suspension should not have been imposed. Such written appeal must be filed with the Chairman of the Board.

An Oral or Written Warning/Reprimand is not subject to appeal; however, the employee may attach a written rebuttal. Full-time, regular Faculty/Staff members who have not completed the required period of probation for appointment or promotion do not have appeal rights regarding the above matters.

BOARD MEMBERS SELECTION TIME AND TERM OF OFFICE:

The Chair shall appoint all member of the Grievance committee on an annual basis.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:

The Seminary may close for inclement weather conditions or for conditions at the Seminary that are beyond our control. In the event of a weather-related closing, the, students and staff may check local TV and radio stations for pertinent information regarding closings. In case of other events that may require the seminary to close, the staff and students will be notified via Text message and or email. Students/staff and faculty may also check their dashboard on “Populi” <https://jtseminary.populiweb.com/> (Web Based College Management System).

EMERGENCY SAFETY AREAS ON CAMPUS:

In case of a fire in the building all students will exit from the nearest exit and meet in the parking lot out front. In case of an emergency where the students must take refuge in the Seminary (Weather etc. all students will move to rear classrooms on either side of the building to avoid the windows in the front classrooms. If a staff member determines that staying near the Seminary is unsafe, all will evacuate to the Shorter College campus.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

Jackson aspires to be an inclusive community. Striving for inclusion of all people is based upon Jackson's educational ideals. Our vision of good education involves community members learning about other members within an everyday context that mirrors the pluralistic world around us. This ideal applies equally to students of the Seminary who may have disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations. To this end, Jackson Seminary is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Academic Services Office offers a variety of services to Jackson students who have documented physical, mental, or learning disabilities:

1. Assistance with registration
2. Academic advising/counseling
3. Physical accommodations
4. Assistance with notetaking
5. Extended time
6. Large print

7. Testing accommodations
8. Oral tests
9. Distraction-free environment

It is important for students with documented disabilities to identify themselves to the Academic Services Office and their respective professors prior to the beginning of the semester. This will allow arrangements to be made to assure student success and to meet individual needs. Examples of physical disabilities include mobility limitations, sight, hearing, etc.

Instructors will work individually with students who have learning disabilities.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A Bachelors/M.Div. student may request a leave of absence due to extenuating circumstances. Students should return a completed Leave of Absence Request Form and copies of official documentation (if required) to the Registrar. If approved, the Registrar will then place the student on Leave Status. The Maximum Length of time for a Leave of Absence is one Calendar Year. Those who do not return by the next semester (Fall or Spring) after one year will need to reapply.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Voluntary Withdrawal from Jackson Theological Seminary requires the submission of an official Notice of Intent to Withdraw to the Registrar. Until an official withdrawal form has been submitted to the Registrar, the student is not considered officially withdrawn from the seminary, which may adversely affect the student's grade point average, academic standing, and financial aid or tuition refunds. A student who received financial aid funds at the Seminary and withdraws from the Seminary during the semester (for any reason) must consult the Financial Aid Officer to have a withdrawal calculation performed.

INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL:

Involuntary Withdrawal is issued when the Seminary is forced to ask a student to leave because of a violation of seminary rules and regulations, conduct deemed unacceptable, or when the student misses several classes without notification. No adjustment is made to student charges. The official date of withdrawal is determined by the Registrar.

WEAPONS POLICY:

It is the Policy of Jackson Theological Seminary that no weapons of any kind be allowed in the buildings of Jackson Theological Seminary premises except in the possession of law enforcement authorities, security officers specifically hired by Jackson Theological Seminary or Shorter College, or others approved by the President. This policy covers all weapons whether concealed or unconcealed, and whether on the person of the possessor. Exceptions to this law is Arkansas Carry permits etc.

This policy applies to persons who would otherwise be licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Arkansas law pursuant to Arkansas Act 226 of 2013. Jackson Theological Seminary administrative officials shall maintain appropriate signage and other notice on the campus in the buildings and on the grounds, pursuant to Arkansas Act 226 of 2013, and Arkansas Code 5-73-30(19) to give public notice that Jackson Theological Seminary has specifically elected to prohibit all firearms in its buildings including persons who are licensed to carry concealed weapons. Per Arkansas Parking Lot Laws, all weapons in privately owned vehicles must always be kept in your locked personal vehicles. This Policy was adopted by the Jackson Theological Seminary Board of Trustees April 2022. Any faculty, staff or student found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY:

Public Information provided by Jackson Theological Seminary in its publications and web site are open directly to the public.

1. Request for Student information is governed by FERPA.
2. Request from any Media should be forwarded to the CEO
3. Freedom of Information Act request should also be referred to the CEO. Please note: The Freedom of Information Act only applies to citizens of Arkansas.
 - a. Some public records and specific types of information are exempt from disclosure.
 - b. Records gathered by the Jackson in response to an Arkansas FOIA request are reviewed for possible exemptions including personal email or home addresses, non-published telephone numbers and similar information that would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
4. Exemptions
 - a. **Educational Records**- the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ([FERPA](#)) defines these as records that are directly related to a student and maintained by the seminary or a party acting for the seminary.
 - b. **Personnel Records** - Applied on a case-by-case basis, the Arkansas FOIA exempts these to the extent that their disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Most records relating to current or former employees are personnel records, whether or not they are kept in a personnel file.
 - c. **Employee Evaluation and Job Performance Records** - The Arkansas FOIA maintains these records are not available for public inspection unless there has been a final administrative resolution of a proceeding to suspend or terminate an employee, the records formed a basis for the decision, and there is a compelling public interest in disclosure.

- d. **Law Enforcement Records** - With the exception of routine police records such as arrest reports, records related to ongoing criminal investigations are exempt.

ADVERTISING AND RECRUITMENT:

ADVERTISEMENT:

All seminary advertising should be coordinated with the Director of Admissions and Records (DAR) and approved by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

FORMS OF ADVERTISEMENTS:

This includes all forms of paid and free advertising, including print (newspaper, magazine, etc.), broadcast (radio and television), web, billboards, direct mail, movie theatre screens and signage. No advertising commitment should be executed without consultation with the CEO or DAR. The CEO has the responsibility to ensure that consistent seminary design and copy standards are met.

ADVERTISING BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Any and all proposed uses of the Jackson Theological Seminary name/or logo in advertising by outside agencies/companies should be coordinated with the CEO.

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Items such as hats, shirts, badges, coffee mugs etc. should be approved by the CEO. Items to be sold must also be approved by the CEO.

EXCLUSIONS

Items being used for recruitment and employment purposes are excluded. The sites are considered as previously reviewed by the CEO and or DAR.

RECRUITMENT

All recruitment and employment activities for Jackson Theological Seminary are to be conducted in accordance with the seminary's guidelines, and, stat/federal laws, regulations and polices concerning equal employment opportunity and affirmative actions.

EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources and hiring authorities on the board (if necessary) will work together to develop recruitment and selection strategies for job positions. Human in order to ensure compliance. Human Resources is also responsible for ensuring that position announcements comply with established policies and for announcing openings to appropriate community and governmental agencies.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (PRESIDENT) RECRUITMENT – HIRING

The CEO is responsible for hiring from the selection of candidates. Documentation as to the purpose and reason for selection must be provide.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

As the Seminary seeks to increase nonresident enrollments, we are more and more aware of the complex legal and ethical issues associated with nonresident recruitment. It is important for the Seminary to maintain a single document addressing the legal and ethical treatment of students in the outreach, recruitment and admissions process for matriculation into undergraduate and master's degree programs.

MEETING RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENT

Only students meeting the requirements described in the Academic Catalog should be recruited. The use of newspaper ads, Facebook ads, student referrals, flyers are among the few that should be used to recruit students. No actions shall be taken that will cause a conflict of interest between students and Jackson.

BONUS

No bonus will be paid for students recruited.