



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

Student Handbook 2025-2026

Seminary of the Southwest
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2025-2026 Official Calendar

August 2025

4-15 Asynchronous online NSO class (all programs)
16 NSO Orientation (All programs)
16-21 Registration for all new students
16-21 New Student Orientation class (MDIV, DAS, programs)
17-21 New Student Retreat (MDIV, DAS programs)
24 Matriculation Service and Dinner
25 Fall classes begin

September 2025

1 Labor Day Holiday – offices closed

October 2025

7 Board of Trustees Meeting
7 John Hines Day
13-17 Fall Break

November 2025

10-14 Spring Registration
25-28 Thanksgiving Break – no classes
27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays – offices closed

December 2025

12 Classes end
15 Christmas Holidays through January 1– offices closed

January 2026

5, 6, 8 General Ordination Examination
5-22 January Term
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – offices closed
26 Spring classes begin

February 2026

3 Board of Trustees Meeting

March 2026

2 Summer Registration
16-20 Spring Break

April 2026

3 Good Friday - offices closed
5 Easter
6 Easter Monday – offices closed
6 Reading Day
13-17 Fall and January term registration

May 2026

8 Classes end
19-20 Board of Trustees Meeting
19 Commencement Eucharist
20 75th Commencement
25 Memorial Day Holiday – offices closed

June 2026

1 Summer classes begin
19 Juneteenth Holiday - offices closed

July 2026

3 Independence Day Holiday – offices closed

31 Summer classes end

MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in the reconciling ministry of Christ, the mission of Seminary of the Southwest is to form people for vocations of ministry, service, and healing.

CONVERSATION COVENANT

A seminary community is a school of inquiry and interpretation: inquiry into the mystery of God in Jesus Christ and interpretation, in both action and reflection, of God's creative and redemptive love. Frank, confident, and trustful conversation is an essential part of our common learning. Often, though, we are led into difficult, even disturbing, conversations as we bring the length and breadth of our assumptions, hopes, opinions, and certainties, into the formative power of Christian faith. Avoiding the issues around which passion and disagreement reside might well be an easier path, but commitment to remaining in conversation with one another despite our differences is part of our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In order to mark both our commitment to conversation and our recognition of the challenges, we affirm...

that we are all made in the image of God and must, therefore, treat one another with respect and dignity; that we are free to explore different ideas and beliefs as well as to grow and change theologically;
that we share a common sinfulness and, therefore, will understand only partially and be mistaken frequently; that we do not have to agree in order to love one another; that our conversations, even our most passionate disagreements, take place in the Spirit whom we seek not to grieve.

and we strive...

to approach conversation with a willingness to listen and learn, acknowledging the value of opposing views; to treat one another as honest inquirers, attempting to discern God's truth in a complex world;
to engage ideas without attacking or dismissing those that hold them;
to acknowledge the limited perspective of our own experience and opinions, and be open to the possibility of our views changing; to consider the possibility that we might be mistaken, secure in the knowledge of the love and forgiveness we have all received in Christ;
to challenge one another while seeking not to give offense;
to consider challenges from others while striving not to take offense too readily;
to serve reconciliation by sharing when we have been offended;
to acknowledge stereotypes, ask for clarification in order to avoid misunderstandings, and make room for complexity.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

The basic structure of chapel worship is that of three services a day, as follows.

Christ Chapel Schedule - Weekly

Monday

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
11:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist and weekly assembly
5:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer, Spanish

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
11:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, emphasizing Latinx and Hispanic language and culture
5:00 p.m. – Evensong, Sung Evening Prayer

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. – Choral Morning Prayer
11:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

Thursday

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer, Spanish
11:45 a.m. – Noonday Prayer
5:30 p.m. – Community Worship Service: Holy Eucharist with an Order of Worship for Evening

Friday

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
11:45 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer

As an Episcopal community of formation, we gather regularly to share our life of prayer. Though corporate prayer occurs several times a day, we do not intend that everyone will be present for each service. However, all students are expected to develop a personal pattern of attendance at Chapel, keep that pattern faithfully, and adjust it when necessary. We have found that the most successful patterns include attending at least one worship service each day that one is provided including the Monday service with assembly.

Students preparing for or intending to return to ordained service in the Church should expect that their pattern of worship and its role in their formation will be a topic of conversation with their advisers and be a significant source of material for annual reviews.

PRAYER REQUESTS

You may email prayer requests to the chapel sacristans at sacristans@ssw.edu.

EVENTS

September 15 - October 15

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Each year the seminary highlights some aspect of the history, national backgrounds and cultures of U.S. Latinos, some of whom represent family generations going back to Spanish colonization of the Southwest. Given that Latinos represent twenty-one countries of Latin America and reflect a varied racial and ethnic background composed of European, indigenous people and African roots, the Latino heritage celebrations at SSW are always lively, colorful and informative. Hispanic Heritage Month culminates with All Saints Day and All Souls Day on November 1st and 2nd, including a community celebration of Dia de los Muertos.

November

BLANDY LECTURES AND ALUMNI CONVOCATION

The Alumni Association established the Gray M. Blandy Lectures in 1967 in appreciation and honor of the Very Reverend Gray M. Blandy for his 15 years of ministry and work as the first dean of Seminary of the Southwest. These lectures are scheduled annually in the fall and are coordinated by the Alumni Association and Steering Committee with assistance from the Seminary's Institutional Advancement Office.

As the first dean of the Seminary of the Southwest, from 1951 to 1967, Gray Blandy was a visionary, builder, and innovator. The Blandy Lectures have featured scholars, theologians, and pastors from throughout the Church.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

There's a community Thanksgiving dinner for those staying in Austin who wish to participate. The seminary provides the turkey. Participants provide the sides and desserts.

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

The liturgical observance of Los Dias de Los Muertos takes place annually in Christ Chapel and provides a conclusion for Hispanic Heritage month. There is an *Ofrenda*, an altar dedicated to the memory of the dead in the Weeks Center where all members of the community are invited to add photos or mementos of loved ones.

POLITY BOWL

The Polity Bowl is an annual flag-football game between Southwest and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The game is followed by a social gathering with both teams and their supporters.

February

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is a time for the seminary and surrounding Austin community to celebrate and honor African diaspora cultures and engage in educational and life-giving conversations around diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging. The Black History Month planning committee comprises a chair, seminarians, faculty, staff, alums, trustees, local Union of Black Episcopalian representatives, and religious leaders and partners from the community. The committee sets goals and objectives for Black History Month events and programming every year and seeks to increase its reach annually by adding programs throughout the academic year.

March

PAYNE-HARVEY LECTURES

Hosted by Seminary of the Southwest's Board of Trustees and supported by student leadership, the Payne-Harvey Lecture series remains a cornerstone of the seminary's commitment to bringing timely, diverse, and visionary voices to its campus. Named in honor of the Rt. Rev. Claude E. Payne—former bishop of the Diocese of Texas and longtime chair of the seminary's board—and the late Dean Hudnall Harvey, who served as Southwest's dean until his untimely death in 1972, the lecture series focuses on mission, leadership, and contemporary issues facing the church

May

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

The seminary celebrates the Asian American and Pacific Islander culture, contributions and successes during a special community Eucharist. A community meal follows featuring Asian or Pacific Island cuisine.

LAST GATHERING

Held on the Friday night in May before Commencement, Last Gathering includes a community Eucharist, dinner and entertainment, including comedy skits to roast the graduating seniors, faculty, and staff. Spouses or partners are presented with honorary degrees in appreciation of their support.

COMMENCEMENT

Commencement activities take place over two days in May and include a graduate rehearsal, Evensong at Christ Chapel followed by a reception honoring the graduates, and on Commencement day photographs, breakfast, commencement, and a reception.

On-Going

COMMUNITY HOURS

Community Hour is scheduled on Monday afternoons from 4:00 pm to 4:50 pm. There are a variety of forms that this takes, from socializing, to formal presentations, to times to visit with guests on the campus. It is an opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to share time together. Refreshments are served.

WHO TO SEE AND WHERE TO GO

OFFICE OF THE DEAN AND PRESIDENT

Dr. Scott Bader-Saye is Dean and President of the seminary. Lesley Wilder is Chief of Staff to the Dean and President.

ACADEMIC DEAN

The Rev. Benjamin King, Ph.D. is Academic Dean. The Academic Dean is responsible for the coordination and oversight of all academic programs. The Academic Dean's office also maintains student files, and writes student evaluation letters. Laurel Schlueder is Executive Assistant to the Academic Dean.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Mr. Fred Clement, Executive Vice President and CFO, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the seminary. He oversees the work of the Accounting Office, the Bookstore, the physical plant, and Facilities Management. In consultation with the. Brynn Deger, the Associate Director of Operations, supports the Executive Vice President and CFO.

ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Eric Scott is Vice President for Advancement and Communications. April Kerwin is Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. The Rev. Lecia Brannon is Director of Alumni Relations. Tatiana Suggs-Perea is Director of Communications. Donna Benson is Database Manager. Emily Tumbusch is Coordinator for Stewardship and Hospitality.

The office implements all fundraising initiatives. It collaborates with academic and other departments to seek external funding for specific projects and initiatives. It is also responsible for stewardship activities that acknowledge and recognize donors' generosity.

The office has oversight of all internal and external communications including oversight of press relations with religious and secular media on the local, regional, and national levels. It markets the seminary's degree programs, protects and manages the seminary's brand and identity through the seminary's website, social media and email campaigns.

The office is responsible for all formally printed seminary materials, including annual issues of the seminary's magazine, Ratherview, the advent meditations booklet, promotional event materials and orders of service for the seminary's elevated chapel services.

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Audio-visual equipment may be reserved by sending an email to "helpdesk@ssw.edu" in the seminary's global contacts list. Please submit all requests 5 business days prior to the event to ensure requests can be accommodated.

AUDITING COURSES

Any course may be audited, subject to class availability and consent of the instructor and whatever conditions the instructor may impose. Auditors earn no academic credit, and their participation in classroom discussion, as well as the evaluation of their work, is at the discretion of the instructor. Full-time students and their spouses or partners may audit one course without charge with the permission of the instructor and the Academic Dean. All auditors must register. To do so, you must present the instructor's and Academic Dean's permission to the Registrar.

CENTER FOR WRITING AND THE ARTS

The Center for Writing and the Arts at Southwest (CWA) offers space and support for writing tasks and projects of all kinds. Its support services include one-on-one consultations, long-term writing partnerships, and occasional topical workshops. Consultations and partnerships are tailored to each student's needs and can support the completion of assignments for coursework as well as longer, more sustained personal or creative writing projects. The writing center also encourages creative expression and conversation around spirituality and the arts through special programs and publications. It is staffed by student work-study consultants, with the assistance of resource librarians, under the supervision of Dr. Claire Colombo, Director of the CWA. Consultants are chosen based on previous teaching or writing experience and upon recommendation by the faculty. Members of the CWA staff can be reached at writing.center@ssw.edu.

DEAN OF CHAPEL

The Rev. Sarah Mast is Dean of Chapel. She will oversee chapel worship planning and will serve as chaplain to the community.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT SERVICES

Beth Jordan is Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Services. Enrollment Manager, Grayson Dail and Administrative Assistant, Deanna Sadek make up the department. The office is responsible for recruiting efforts and the admissions process in addition to student services including work-study, housing, and financial aid.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Tigh Walters is Director of Facilities Management and leads the seminary's facilities services team. Team members include: Alfredo Perez, Marcos DeLeon, Warrick Walker-Williams, and Adrian Contreras. The team is responsible for maintaining the central campus and College Courts grounds, the physical plant, and all seminary-owned buildings. The team maintains the daily cleanliness of classrooms, shared spaces, and guest quarters. They also support special events setup and perform the final make-ready of all seminary-owned housing prior to move-in. Facilities Services requests should be directed to Facilities Management by emailing maintenancerequest@ssw.edu. The team offices in College Courts Apartment, 103-South and the direct office phone number is (512) 472-2472. For maintenance emergencies please contact Tigh Walters on his cell phone by call or text at (512) 838-1699.

FACULTY ADVISORS

Faculty advisors provide academic and formational oversight to their advisees and play an important role in the preparation of individual students for their ministry and vocation. The advising role encompasses academic, personal, spiritual, vocational, and community life. MDiv and DAS advisors prepare canonical evaluations to be sent to bishops in consultation with the theology faculty and the student. Advisors do not serve as spiritual directors, therapists, or confessors, but will assist students with referrals.

FINANCIAL AID

In administering financial aid, Seminary of the Southwest seeks to practice good stewardship of our resources and we encourage students to do the same. Financial assistance is available to students in all degree programs.

Full details about Financial Aid may be found in the Academic Catalog, available both through Populi at: Files > Academic Resource > Manuals/Handbooks/Catalogs > 2025-2026 > 25-26 SSW Course Catalog.pdf and on the seminary's website at <https://ssw.edu/academics/catalog/>.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

The Finance Department, located on the 3rd floor of Rather House, handles nearly all of the financial transactions, such as: student billing, student health insurance, and the disbursement of scholarship, federal student loan, and work-study funds. Payments for Bookstore accounts are generally made at the Bookstore. The finance team consists of Susan Versluys, Controller, Deirdre Nelson, Accounting Manager and Miccaa Brown, Accounting Clerk.

GENERAL ORDINATION EXAMINATIONS AND CANONICAL EXAMS

The General Ordination Examinations (GOEs) are administered by the Episcopal Church through the General Board of Examining Chaplains. Canonical Examinations are administered by individual diocese. Candidates for Episcopal ordination take either the GOE or a specialized canonical examination at the choosing of the candidate's diocese.

HOUSING

Southwest owns a variety of properties immediately adjacent to the campus. These vary from apartments to large single family homes. Pets are welcome in all seminary housing. One distinctive feature of our campus is the "Episcpool", the center of student social life in summer months.

Housing is reserved for currently enrolled eligible students and their immediate family members. Students are assigned a student housing unit subject to availability. The cost of on-campus student housing is subsidized by the seminary and as such is a form of institutional financial aid for student lease holders.

LOST AND FOUND

Found personal items are held at the Reception Desk at Rather House.

MAILBOXES

Staff and faculty mailboxes are located in the Rather House mailroom.

MASTER'S PROGRAMS IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING and SPIRITUAL

DIRECTION The classes required for obtaining the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MHC) and the Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction (MSD) meet on weeknights during the academic year and during the summer. For more information see **THE LOISE HENDERSON WESSENDORFF CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND VOCATION** section in this handbook.

MEAL PROGRAM

The seminary meal program details will be announced as each term begins.

NOTARY PUBLIC

Laurel Schlueder and Brynn Deger are Notaries Public.

PARKING PERMITS

All students, staff, faculty, and others authorized to use seminary parking areas must obtain a seminary parking permit. Seminary parking permits are in the form of a decal and are available at no charge by contacting the front desk in Rather House at frontdesk@ssw.edu Parking decals are to be placed in the upper left, upper right, or center (under rear view mirror) locations on the front windshield of automobiles and trucks and in a visible place on motorcycles.

Parking permits allow parking in specified areas. Students may park in the lower parking lot at Duval Street and 32nd but not in spaces assigned to staff or faculty. There are specific parking decals for residents of College Courts to park in the College Court parking lot. Vehicles without permits parked on seminary property are subject to being towed. Should you sell or trade a vehicle, please inform the front desk so that changes to records can be made and new permits issued.

Street parking near the seminary is restricted to those with special residential parking permits. Parking in the street without the designated street parking permit, during a restricted time, may result in a parking ticket from the City of Austin.

REGISTRAR AND DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT

Madelyn Snodgrass serves as Registrar and Director of Assessment. The Registrar's Office maintains student academic records, coordinates registration, creates the class schedule and the Academic Calendar, assists students with tracking their program of study, and handles Veterans Administration paperwork.

Transcripts are ordered through the National Student Clearinghouse and are ordered through the SSW website.

ROOM RESERVATIONS

Please contact Brynn Deger, the Associate Director of Operations for all classroom, meeting room, Weeks Center, Christ Chapel, and common space reservations. Space reserved for events and for groups external to the seminary are subject to approval. Please contact the front desk at frontdesk@ssw.edu for guest room reservations and pricing information.

SECURITY

All criminal activity or other emergencies occurring on the seminary campus should be reported to either the Dean and President or the Executive Vice President and CFO. Criminal activity or emergencies in progress should be reported directly to the police by dialing 911.

TECHNOLOGY

Erik Morrow, the Director of Information Technology and David Waldo, the Assistant Director of Information Technology together are responsible for the purchase, inventory and maintenance of seminary networks, computers, software programs, and A/V equipment. They oversee the seminary's network, email system, computer hardware and software issues, the seminary computer servers and the seminary phone system.

WORK-STUDY

Work-study assignments for students receiving financial aid are made by the Office of Enrollment Management and Student Services.

AROUND CAMPUS

BOOKSTORE

The Bookstore is a student-operated business. Hours of operation are posted at the bookstore. For more information about the Bookstore please see the “Bookstore” section in this handbook.

CHRIST CHAPEL

The chapel was designed by award-winning Austin architect Arthur Fehr. With its glass walls and the cross located outside the chapel itself, the building serves as a reminder that Christ died outside the city and that worship is never a retreat from the world.

COLLEGE COURT APARTMENTS

College Court efficiency apartments are available across from the seminary on Duval Street. The pool between the north and south buildings at College Court is for the use of all seminary students and families. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent. There are student managers for each building to answer questions and assist with minor problems. Only College Court residents may park at College Court, and residents are limited to one car per unit. All other cars must be on the street or in the parking lot in front of Rather House.

DIOCESE OF TEXAS

The Diocese of Texas, headquartered in Houston, maintains the Austin Diocesan Center (ADC) on campus for the administration of the West Region of the diocese. The building is located between Christ Chapel and the McDonald building. The Rt. Rev. Kathryn “Kai” M. Ryan, Bishop Suffragan of Texas, serves as the Regional Executive for the West region. In addition to Bishop Ryan, the office houses Haley Townsend Trujillo, Executive Assistant to Bp. Ryan and Ana Gonzales, assistant to the Commission on Ministry. Also operating out of the ADC is the diocesan Wellness and Care Ministries/Safeguarding. Their staff lead by The Rev. Sarah Gaventa, Canon for Wellness & Pastoral Care/Safeguarding Minister, includes Marty Brickley, Manager of Safeguarding Certification, Danielle Tatro, Assistant to Wellness and Care & Safeguarding, and Safeguarding Assistant and Master Trainer, Katherine Muhlenbruch and Safeguarding Assistant and Liaison to Hispanic Communities, Tracy Cramer. The ADC also provides hospitality space for various visitors to the campus as well as conference room space for area congregation evening meetings and weekend Vestry Retreats.

THE CYNTHIA BRIGGS KITTREDGE MOTTE

The tree covered green space at the center of Southwest’s campus known colloquially as “the motte” was dedicated and named as the Cynthia Briggs Kittredge Motte in May 2024, honoring 25 years of distinguished service on the faculty and simultaneously a final eleven years as Southwest’s eighth Dean and President.

THE SCOTT FIELD BAILEY CENTER AT RATHER HOUSE

The family of Charles and Ella Rather gave their 1910-era home and its five acres to establish the seminary campus in 1952. Both Rather daughters, Ethel and Alma, attended the University of Texas and eventually married professors. Alma and Frederic Duncalf and Ethel and Ernest Villavaso and son Ernest “Bebe” Villavaso, Jr., lived in the family house. Bebe died in 1947 after a tragic accident. The property was given in his memory. A Wayman Adams portrait of Bebe Villavaso hangs over the mantel in the All Saints Room on the first floor. Nicholas R. Brewer portraits of Charles and Ella Rather hang in the Georgia Lucas Room, also on the first floor. The Rather House became Southwest’s administrative center in 2008 and has since borne Bishop Scott Field Bailey’s name.

THE MARTA WEEKS CAMPUS CENTER

The Weeks Center, which houses the Knapp Auditorium, Howell Dining Hall, and the Maddux Lounge, was made possible by a gift from Marta S. Weeks, MDiv, 1991. Many other persons and congregations also contributed to the building of the center.

Howell Dining Hall is named in honor of Paul W. Howell. Paul was a life-long member of the Church of St. John the Divine in Houston and a leader in Diocese of Texas affairs. He also served on the Development Board of Seminary of the Southwest. The gift for the dining hall was given by John and Dela White of San Antonio, family friends of the Howells. The Dining Hall is available for social functions and can be scheduled through Brynn Deger, the Associate Director of Operations .

Knapp Auditorium is named in honor of Alfred Knapp and Doris Hebard Knapp and was the gift of David and Lynda Knapp Underwood of Houston. The auditorium is used as a classroom and as a venue for campus events such

as the Blandy and the Payne-Harvey Lectures.

Maddux Lounge bears the name of Elizabeth H. Maddux of San Antonio, who provided the gift for the lounge. The lounge is an informal gathering place for students. It serves as the student lounge and is also the venue for the weekly Community Hour.

BISHOP DENA A. HARRISON LIBRARY

Librarians

Alison Poage, Library Director
Duane Carter, Assistant Director and Electronic Resources Librarian
Marlon Patterson, Access Services Librarian

Contact Information

Phone: 512-478-5212 Fax: 512-472-4620
Email: library@ssw.edu Webpage: <https://ssw.edu/library/>

HARRISON LIBRARY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The library is a study and meeting space, a collection of information resources, and a central point of library instructional services for the people being formed through Southwest for vocations of ministry, service, and healing.

LIBRARY POLICIES

The librarians request that all students read the [Library Policies](#). The policy sections include:

- 1.00 Seminary of the Southwest Mission and Vision
- 2.00 Harrison Library Statement of Purpose
- 3.00 Acronyms and Definitions
- 4.00 Library Accounts
- 5.00 Library Items: Circulation Rules
- 6.00 Library Collection Development and Access
- 7.00 Library Guest Policy
- 8.00 Library Environment

LIBRARY FACILITY

The Bishop Dena A. Harrison library and learning complex is a modern space that opened in fall of 2023. The library features study rooms, conference rooms, video recording equipment, and a variety of seating space for both collaborative learning and quiet reading. The library has a controlled access system and your Seminary of the Southwest student ID card is needed to swipe into the building.

LIBRARY CARDS

Seminary of the Southwest ID cards also serve as student library cards and swipe cards to enter the library building. Please do not transfer Southwest ID cards to another person. Report lost ID cards to helpdesk@ssw.edu.

LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Hours of operation are posted on the [library's Google calendar](#). Typically, if there is class in session on campus, the library is open to Southwest students. Hours vary throughout the year when class is not in session.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

The library collects information resources supporting the academic and formational work of its students and faculty. The library offers a growing number of electronic resources, including ebooks, *ATLASerials PLUS*, *ATLA Scripture Search*, *JSTOR Journals*; *Mango Languages*, *PsycBooks*, *PsycTests* and *PsycArticles*. For a full list, visit the library's [Electronic Resources page](#).

SEARCHING THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS (AND MORE)

Students can search and access the full breadth of the library's resources through [Seeker, the library's search engine](#). *Seeker* even shows you results from journals and collections the library currently does not subscribe to. In those cases, you can request these resources for your research. Please be sure to do so in advance of your due dates, because obtaining the resources takes time. Please refer to the [Accessing e-Resources LibGuide](#) for instructions on

accessing e-resources with a Seminary of the Southwest student Google Account. The librarians highly recommend attending the *Research for Writing Workshop* offered by the library and the writing center every September.

[Koha is the library's online catalog](#), or OPAC (Online Patron Access Catalog). Think of *Koha* as an index of everything that resides physically in both the Harrison Library and the Wright Center (the nearby library at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary). To quickly see if we have a book, use *Koha*. For a more robust search of e-resources for a research project, Seeker remains the best option.

The librarians have created many [LibGuides](#) to help students discover information resources and library instructional material. Several pre-recorded library tutorials are available on the library's [webpage](#).

The Course Reserves Collection includes the current semester's items assigned for reading or viewing. Physical items are shelved in the library and ebooks are linked from the [Course Reserves LibGuide](#).

COMPUTERS AND PRINTING

The library has PCs, printers, and scanners available for student use. The KIC Bookeye 4 scanner is a specialized book-scanning device that quickly creates OCR PDFs. Wireless internet and printing from mobile devices is also available. The wireless password is posted on the library's bulletin boards. Read more about the library's printers on the [Guide to the Library for Southwest Students](#).

All printing and scanning must comply with the Seminary of the Southwest's [Copyright and License Agreement Compliance Policy](#).

THE LIBRARY STAFF

The [librarians](#) are available to assist with in-depth reference inquiries. For help with research, review the options on the [Guide to the Library for Southwest Students](#). During the evenings and on the weekends, the library is staffed by student workers trained to assist students with accessing library resources.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Bishop Harrison Library collaborates closely with the Wright Learning and Information Center at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS), just a few blocks away. Students and faculty of each seminary enjoy full borrowing privileges at both libraries. Bishop Harrison Library also participates in TexShare, a program which allows students to get a library card at the UT Austin Libraries, Austin Public Library, and many more Texas libraries. Read more about these options on the [Guide to Austin Libraries](#).

SUGGESTIONS

The library staff wishes to hear from Southwest students! Suggestions about any aspect of the library's space, resources, or services, including suggestions for book purchases, may be emailed to the librarians at library@ssw.edu, or made anonymously in the fall library survey emailed to all Southwest students every November.

BOOKSTORE

- The Bookstore can be reached at bookstore@ssw.edu.
- The Bookstore is non-profit and student-operated. Business hours vary and will be published at the beginning of each semester.
- The Bookstore sells course books, community interest and community authored books, and seminary branded merchandise.
- The Bookstore accepts checks, MC, Visa, Discover, and charges to student accounts. Cash is not accepted.
- Except for special orders, refunds and exchanges are possible only within the first thirty days of purchase, with the receipt.
- The bookstore issues statements of individual charge accounts periodically. Payment in full is expected prior to registration for the next semester and/or prior to graduation. If the bookstore is closed, payments may be delivered to the Accounting Office.
- No further charges to an account shall be made when the balance exceeds \$750. For questions please contact the Executive Vice President and CFO.
- The Bookstore “holds” books for one week only.
- The Bookstore welcomes suggestions for books to stock. Please leave suggestions with any Bookstore team member or email them to bookstore@ssw.edu.

COUNCILS & COMMITTEES OF THE SEMINARY

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (FAC)

The Faculty and Administrative Council serves as the seminary's principal decision-making body. The committee defines charters and assigns resources for ad-hoc committees, task forces, or projects; considers matters of policy affecting the whole community; maintains policies and standards for faculty and administration; receives reports from the Academic Affairs, Assessment and Evaluation, Community Life, Safety, and Worship committees; and discusses the needs of particular students.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AAC)

The Academic Affairs Committee oversees all academic programming, maintains and modifies the curriculum, maintains academic code, receives reports from the Theological Faculty and MHC Team meetings, approves modifications to individual study programs, and conducts required student evaluations.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (A & E)

The Assessment and Evaluation Committee oversees all assessment and evaluation for the seminary.

COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE (CLC)

The Community Life Committee oversees the cultural and social life of the seminary community. Its purpose is to foster communication concerning campus life and to promote community. The committee schedules both regular and special community events, including Community Hour.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Committed to the seminary's core value of hospitality, the Diversity Committee works to make the seminary a place of greater welcome. The committee oversees the seminary's diversity and inclusion efforts, being attentive to issues of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrations are overseen by this committee. The Diversity Committee reports to the Community Life Committee.

GREEN TEAM

The green team discusses topics and suggests initiatives around ways the seminary community may become and live into being more environmentally friendly. Recyclables, compostables, compost, waste reduction, a community garden and purchasing products from green-minded businesses are among the committee's interests. The green team reports to the FAC Committee.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Safety Committee discusses safety concerns on campus and coordinates evaluations and trainings on campus.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee oversees the worship life of the seminary community, organizes chapel services, provides guidance to sacristans, and functions as the decision-making body regarding worship practices.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

The existence of student organizations depends on interest and need and therefore may vary from year to year. Participation is open to all.

HARVEY LECTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Harvey Lecture Committee has the duty to plan, organize, and facilitate all activities in connection with the Harvey Lecture Series in the Spring semester. The Harvey Lecture Committee is comprised of Southwest students.

SOUL BY SOUTHWEST

In the spirit of fostering communal artistic expression, seminary students created *Soul by Southwest*, the seminary's literary and visual arts journal, in 2013. The journal has been published annually by the Center for Writing and the Arts since that year. Each year, the works of contributing artists and writers are celebrated at a festive launch party that includes an art gallery, live music, readings, and an open mic. All community members and those in their networks are invited to submit works to the journal. To learn more, email soulbysouthwest@ssw.edu or writing.center@ssw.edu.

SPOUSES AND PARTNERS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

Spouses and Partners of Theological Students (SPOTS) is made up of the spouses and partners of seminarians. SPOTS purpose is to provide support to one another as they explore their personal callings in relation to their spouses' vocations. SPOTS offer a variety of opportunities for community-building from small gatherings to community-wide events. The events cover a range of topics and interests, based on what current SPOTS are interested in. Current SPOTS look forward to welcoming all new SPOTS.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is made up of two representatives from each MDiv class and two representatives from the Center programs. Class representatives are elected as specified in the Constitution of the Student Body. The role and structure of the Student Council are presented during New Student Orientation. The Student Council approves the use of student activity funds for social and charitable events on a case by case basis. Annual student activity fees are \$113 for MDiv, MAR, DAS, and SPEC students and \$59 for MACMHC and MSD students.

WELLNESS PROGRAMMING

Wellness Programming strives to promote seminarian health and wellness emphasizing the connection of body, mind and spirit. Offerings include flu shots, a periodic blood drive, yoga, chair massages, promotion of local 5K races and communication of health tips. If you have ideas for a student wellness activity or event please contact Dr. Steven Tomlinson.

LOISE HENDERSON WESSENDORFF CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND VOCATION

The Loise Henderson Wessendorff Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation (the Center) at Seminary of the Southwest equips students for vocations in professional counseling and spiritual direction.

The mission of the Loise Henderson Wessendorff Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation at Seminary of the Southwest is to support students from any faith background (or no affiliation) to respond faithfully to ever-changing needs in the larger community. Through its programs and degrees, the Center seeks to form students capable of serving diverse clients, directees, and communities in a culturally-responsive manner.

The Center offers the following degrees and programs:

Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MHC) - 60 credit hours

Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction (MSD) - 39 credit hours

Students in the Center programs come from a variety of backgrounds; in fact, part of the richness of the learning experience is the diversity of perspectives they bring to the classroom and to our community. Courses are taught by full-time seminary faculty as well as by adjunct instructors who are experts in their fields.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

BRAND GUIDELINES

You must obtain approval from Seminary of the Southwest's Office of Advancement and Communications prior to the use of the seminary's logo for promotional usage and/or advertising in any medium.

No part of the elements of the logo may be graphically modified at any time. The Seminary of the Southwest logo may not be combined with any other feature, including but not limited to other logos, words, graphics, photos, slogans, numbers, design features or symbols.

Typography: Berkeley Oldstyle (including Berkeley Oldstyle Book, Medium and Bold) is the official font for Seminary of the Southwest. If not available, Times New Roman should be used in its place.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURE

In the event of medical emergencies or safety concerns, please dial 911.

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact campus chaplain The Rev. Sarah Mast.

The Rev. Sarah Mast, Dean of Chapel
(512) 656-3163 (mobile)

In the event of a facilities emergency, please contact Mr. Fred Clement.

Mr. Fred Clement, The Executive Vice President and CFO
(512) 439-0339 (work), (512) 619-3648 (mobile)

For any campus emergencies, after contacting the designated respondent, you may contact:

Dr. Scott Bader-Saye, Dean and President
(512) 439-0335 (work), (770) 356-7573 (mobile)

Dr. Gena St. David, Director for the Loise Henderson Wessendorff Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation (512) 439- 0329 (work), (512) 520-7820 (mobile)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

See the Emergency Management Plan for procedural instruction for on-campus emergencies.

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.)

These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Seminary of the Southwest (SSW) receives a request for access.

A student should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the school to amend a record should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student’s right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the university discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The school discloses education records without a student’s prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by SSW in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of SSW who performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for SSW.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by SSW to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Memorandum Regarding Directory Information

To: All Students Academic Year 2025-2026

Release of student record information is generally not done at Seminary of the Southwest without the expressed, written consent of the student. There are, however, some exceptions.

For example, directory information includes the following, and may be released without the student's consent: name, address, telephone number, email address, dates of attendance, class and degree, photograph. Please note that you have the right to withhold the release of directory information. To do so, you must complete a "Request for Non-Disclosure of Directory Information" form, which is available from the Registrar's office. Please note two important details regarding placing a "No Release" on your record:

1. SSW receives many inquiries for directory information from a variety of sources outside the institution, including friends, relatives, prospective employers, and degree verification. Having a "No Release" on your record will preclude release of such information, even to those people.
2. A "No Release" applies to all elements of directory information on your record. SSW does not apply a "No Release" differentially to the various directory information data elements. The institution will honor your request to withhold any of the categories listed above but cannot assume responsibility to contact you for subsequent permission to release them. Regardless of the effect upon you, SSW assumes no liability for honoring your instructions that such information be withheld.

Please contact the Registrar's office for the "Request for Non-Disclosure of Directory Information form.

GRADUATION DECLARATION PROCEDURE

Students intending to graduate must declare their intent to graduate by completing and submitting the Graduation Declaration Form to the Registrar's office by the beginning of the academic year in which they intend to graduate. The Graduation Declaration Form can be found in Populi: Files > Academic Resource > Forms.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In the event of severe inclement weather, the executive vice president of the seminary will issue notification to all students, faculty, and staff about any change in campus operations, including late opening, early closing, or other impacts to the campus community. The executive vice president's notification is issued via email to all registered users @ssw.edu and also via text message.

SENIOR CLASS GIFT PROCEDURE

Often in the spring the Senior Class decides to give the Seminary a gift in thanksgiving for their education and formation. After the class agrees on a particular gift, the class representatives should consult with the Dean and President before making final plans to purchase and to present the gift.

STUDENT HANDBOOK POLICIES LIST

Students should familiarize themselves with the following policies. All current policies may be found on the Google Drive under [Resources} SSW Official Resources - Policies, Handbooks, Guidelines, Safety, Campus Info > Policies for Students, Faculty and Staff

Alcoholic Beverage Service Policy
Assignment of On-Campus Housing to Students Policy
Attendance Policy
Business Expense Accountable Reimbursement Plan Policy
Drug Abuse Prevention Policy
Email Utilization Policy
Emergency Contact Policy
Fundraising and Solicitation on Campus Policy
Grading Policy
Information Technology Use Policy
Institutional Financial Aid Policy
Letters of Recommendation Policy
Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Harassment and Abuse of a Child
Non-Discrimination in Admissions Policy
Pet Policy
Release of Academic Records Policy
Required Questionnaire Policy
Return of Title IV Funds Policy
Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy
Sexual Harassment Policy
Student Academic Grievance Policy
Student Disability Accommodation Policy
Student Non-Academic Grievance Policy
Student Payment of Tuition, Fees, and Auxiliary Services Policy
Student Projects Involving Human Participants Policy
Student Records Policy
Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy
Student Teaching Policy
Therapeutic Counseling Policy
Tobacco-Free Campus Policy
Tuition Refund Policy
Vaccination Policy
Weapons Prohibition Policy
Whistleblower Protection for Suspected Financial Misconduct, Unlawful Activity, Dishonesty, Abuse, and Harassment Policy

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY

Seminary of the Southwest

Organizational Bylaws
Seminary of the Southwest Student Council

Article I. Name

The organization serves the community of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest (Seminary of the Southwest [or “SSW”]) and is named The Student Council of the Seminary of the Southwest (“the Student Council”).

Article II. Membership and Definitions

II a. The Student Body is comprised of all students registered with SSW for at least one course for credit, either a daytime or evening/weekend course, in the academic year.

II b. The academic year is defined as beginning with New Student Orientation in the August prior to the Fall semester and continuing until the following May 15th.

II c. A Senior student is any student (other than a student described in II f or II g) who, prior to the end of the academic year, anticipates receiving either a degree from SSW. Collectively, such students constitute the Senior class.

II d. A Middler student is any student (other than a student described in II c, II d, or II f or II g) who anticipates receiving a degree from SSW. Collectively, such students constitute the Middler class.

II e. A Junior student is any student (other than a student described in II c or II f or II g) who is in his/her first academic year, and who anticipates receiving a degree from SSW at the completion of his/her studies. Collectively, such students constitute the Junior class.

II f. Students who are registered in The Loise Henderson Wessendorff Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation (Center) are full members of the Student Body and may select three representatives to the Student Council as provided in Article III.

II g. Students who are registered in the Master of Arts in Religion (“MAR”) and Diploma of Anglican Studies (“DAS”) programs are full members of the Student Body and may select one representative to the Student Council as provided in Article III.

II h. Student Council Convenor will be voting member of the Community Life Committee as set forth in the Student Handbook.

Article III. Student Council

III a. The Student Council will be comprised of up to eleven (11) members of equal voice and vote. These members will consist of two (2) Junior representatives, two (2) Middler representatives and two (2) Senior representatives from the M.Div program, three (3) Center representatives, one (1) representative each from the MAR and DAS, programs. The failure of the Center, MAR or DAS, cohorts or any of the M.Div classes to select one or more representatives will not affect the operations of the Student Council.

III b. The election of Center representatives will be conducted as outlined in section III (c) 5 below. III b (1). The election of the MAR and DAS representative will be conducted as outlined in section III (c) 5.1 below. III c.

Election of Representatives from the Junior, Middler and Senior M.Div classes:

III c (1). Each M.Div. class will elect two representatives.

III c (2). The Senior representatives are elected by the Rising Senior class in the Spring semester of the academic

year preceding the term of office, during the week of preregistration for the Fall semester. Nominations will be solicited from class members

through announcements made by the current Middler representatives when the students are gathered for a core curriculum class and may also be solicited by email announcement. Nominations for the Senior representative are to be made in writing (and only with the consent of the nominee) to a current Middler representative in the five-day class week most immediately preceding the week of the election. The Middler representatives will present all nominees to the Middler class for election.

III c (3). The Middler representatives are elected by the Rising Middler class in the Spring semester of the academic year preceding the term of office, during the week of preregistration for the Fall semester. Nominations will be solicited from class members through announcements made by the Junior representatives when the students are gathered for a core curriculum class and may also be solicited by email announcement. Nominations for the Middler representatives are to be made in writing (and only with the consent of the nominee) to a current Junior representative in the five-day class week most immediately preceding the week of the election. The Junior representatives will present all nominees to the Junior class for election.

III c (4). The Junior representatives are elected before the Matriculation Ceremony during New Student Orientation in August or within the first five class days of the Fall semester of the academic year, under the guidance of the Senior representatives. Nominations will be solicited from the entering Juniors by announcement at a gathering at which all are reasonably expected to be present and may also be solicited by email announcement. Elections are usually conducted while on retreat. Election results will be presented to the Senior Class representatives before the Matriculation Ceremony.

III c (5) The first two Center Representatives are elected in the spring semester of the academic year preceding the term of office, during the week of pre-registration for the Fall semester. The final Center Representative is elected during the first week of classes of the Fall semester of the academic year under the guidance of the Senior Representatives. Nominations in the spring and fall semester will be solicited from the Center students by announcement at a gathering at which all are reasonably expected to be present or may be solicited by email announcement. Elections will commence by written ballot or email where students will be instructed to select two representatives in the spring semester and one representative in the fall semester.

III c (5.1) The MAR and DAS Representative is elected during the first week of classes of the Fall semester of the academic year of the term of office. Nominations in the fall semester will be solicited from the MAR and DAS students by announcement at a gathering at which all are reasonably expected to be present or may be solicited by email announcement; the convener of the Student Council will begin this process. Elections will commence by written ballot or email where students will be instructed to select one representative each.

III c (6). All elections will be by secret ballot and are to be held immediately following a core curriculum class in the designated election week. Elections may also be held or via electronic method. Notice of the election will be given by oral class announcement at least one day in advance. Notice may also be posted or sent by email.

III c (7). A representative will be elected by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the case of a tie, a run-off election will be held within five days of the general election.

III c (8) All terms of office expire May 15th during the Spring semester. New Middler, Senior, and Center representatives will take office at that time and will constitute a quorum until the election of other members in the Fall of the academic year.

III c (9) The elected M.Div members of the Student Council will be presented to the Student Body at the Monday Assembly of the first week of the academic year. Center and MAR, DAS, DTS members of the Student Council, if unable to be present at the first Monday Assembly, may be presented to the Student Body via email.

III c (10) A vacancy in any Student Council seat is to be filled by a special election to be directed by the Student Council in a manner consistent with the provisions of this article.

III d. Organization and Duties of the Student Council

III d (1). The Student Council will hold regular monthly meetings during the Fall and Spring semesters.

III d (2). The first regular meeting of the full Student Council in an academic year occurs after the Junior, Middler and Senior M.Div representatives, MAR, DAS representative, and the Center representatives have been elected.

III d (3). At the last regular meeting of the Spring semester, after Middler and Senior representatives for the coming academic year have been elected, the Student Council will appoint one of the Senior representatives to be Convener and the other to be a non-voting representative of the Board of Trustees, and one of the new Middler representatives will be appointed to serve as Treasurer.

III d (4). At the first regular meeting of the Student Council in the Fall semester, one student representative, ideally a Junior, will be appointed to serve as Secretary.

III d (5). The duties of the Convener are to announce regular meetings, to call special sessions, to solicit agenda items, to determine the agenda for meetings of the Student Council and the Student Body (see Article IV below), and to preside over the meetings of the Student Body meetings.

III d (6). The duties of the Treasurer are to disburse Student Activity funds as provided by these bylaws and as authorized by the Student Council or Student Body and in accordance with the written policy of the council. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records. The Treasurer shall make reports at regular meetings of the Council concerning the financial position of the Student Body. Signatory capabilities of the Seminary of the Southwest Student Council account must occur before May 15th.

III d (7). The duties of the Secretary are to keep a permanent record of the proceedings of the Student Body meetings and Council, and to have charge of their official correspondence. The Secretary will forward a draft of the minutes to the Convener with copies to all representatives for review/approval. Once approved, the Convener will post minutes of Student Council meetings in a timely manner so to inform the Student Body.

III d (8). As deemed appropriate, the Student Council will appoint one or more of its members to the Standing Committees described in Article IV or to committees otherwise needed to assist in carrying out the desires of the Student Council or the Student Body.

III d (9) The Convenor will serve as an ex-officio member of the Community Life Committee of SSW.

III d (10). At the request of the Dean or Academic Dean, members of the Student Council will make recommendations for student appointments to faculty committees.

Article IV. Student Body Meetings

IV a. Meetings of the Student Body will be called as deemed appropriate by the Student Council to deliberate and vote on initiatives affecting the Student Body. Additional meetings, as needed, will be called by the Council or by a petition to the Council from a quorum of the Student body. A quorum is one third of the entire Student Body of SSW.

IV b. Should the required quorum not be present, the Student Council may, upon a unanimous vote of those students present, declare a quorum to be present.

IV c. Any member of the Student Body may vote at the Student Body meeting. Any item on the agenda for the meeting to be voted on will be passed/approved by a simple majority at any meeting at which a quorum of the Student Body is present.

Article V. Committees

V a. The Student Council will establish standing committees as needed to fulfill the purposes of the Student Body and Student Council.

V b. A member of the Student Council will serve on each standing committee and report to the Student Council on the committee's activities. Such reports will include a financial report where appropriate.

V c. The chairs of each standing committee will be chosen by the committee members.

Article VI. Financial Assessment and Fees

VI a. The Student Council will assess Activity Fees. This value may be changed by a unanimous vote of the Student Council in an amount to be determined by the Council and to be collected by the administration of SSW during registration of the Fall and Spring Academic terms and remitted to the Student Council within ten (10) business days of the start of the semester. These funds, once paid to the Student Council, will be kept by the Treasurer in a general fund. Disbursements by the Treasurer from the general fund shall be made at the direction of the Council.

VI b. Funds accruing to the Student Body from any other sources shall be noted and kept by the Treasurer in the general fund and are to be disbursed at the direction of the Council, including fundraising activities initiated by the Student Council and the offertory monies collected in Christ Chapel.

VI c. Students, student committees and/or groups who want to organize an event or activity open to all students may request funding by submitting a request form specified by Student Council. Funding requests for events or activities that are under the amount of \$20 per member of the student body will be approved by a simple majority of the Student Council. Funding requests greater than \$20 per member of the student body will be presented to the Student Body for approval.

Article VII. Ratification and Amendment

VII a. Upon ratification of these bylaws by a majority of votes cast at a Student Body Meeting at which a quorum is present these bylaws voids and replaces all previous Approved bylaws of the Student Body, regardless of how titled or amended.

VII b. Any proposed amendments to these bylaws will be submitted in writing to the Student Council for consideration.

VII c. If the Council deems a proposed amendment worthy, or if a petition signed by one third of the Student Body is presented to the Council, a meeting of the Student Body shall be called for the purpose of discussing and voting on the proposed amendment.

VII d. A proposed amendment shall be posted or submitted electronically for a period of five class days prior to the Student Body meeting.

VII e. These bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of votes cast at a Student Body Meeting at which a quorum is present.

Article VIII. Relationship between SSW and the Student Council

VIII a. The Student Council of Seminary of the Southwest is independent from and has no legal relationship with Seminary of the Southwest. Financial relationships constitute the disbursement of Student Activities Fees collected by the seminary to the Student Council General Fund each semester.

Proposed November 2021

STUDENT HANDBOOK DISCLOSURE

Seminary of the Southwest is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award master's degrees and post-baccalaureate diplomas. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Seminary of the Southwest.

Seminary of the Southwest is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada to award master's degrees. Contact the Association of Theological Schools at 10 Summit Park Drive, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15275-1103, or call 412-788-6505 for questions about the accreditation of Seminary of the Southwest.

Seminary of the Southwest's Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) accreditation. CACREP is a national accrediting body that sets educational standards with the purpose of creating uniformity between counseling graduate-level programs across the nation. Since 1987, CACREP has been a nationally recognized accrediting agency in the U.S. with the purpose of developing, implementing, and assisting in maintaining standards "for preparation for the counseling profession's graduate-level degree programs".

CACREP accreditation ensures that students are receiving the requisite curriculum necessary in order to apply for licensure for the state of Texas and beyond, as well as enhancing the program's professional identity and collegial connections with the larger counseling field. CACREP accreditation benefits the students graduating from our program in significant ways.

CACREP graduates may sit for the National Counselor Examination earlier than otherwise permitted, apply for federal loan forgiveness if working in qualified underserved areas, apply for Veterans Administration employment post-graduation, and more easily transfer licenses between states.

For additional information about CACREP please visit: <http://www.cacrep.org/>