

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT: The Carolina Theological Consortium

Columbia International University, Columbia, SC | Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC |
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC | Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, NC

Originally Affirmed: May 2007

Reaffirmed: July 2020

To Be Reviewed: July 2023*

PURPOSE: The purpose of the consortium is to advance the cause of Christ through graduate level theological education in North and South Carolina by

1. coordinating course offerings for maximum efficiency
2. coordinating deployment of faculty and staff
3. developing appropriate programs of continuing education
4. encouraging research and scholarship

COMPATIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONAL MISSION

Columbia International University, Erskine Theological Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Reformed Theological Seminary are independent legal organizations, each governed by its own board of directors. The four organizations share the mutual goal of providing graduate-level theological education and have developed this consortium agreement as a means of providing greater access to graduate theological education for their students. The four institutions will maintain the integrity of their separate programs. At CIU, the educational unit that will implement this agreement is the Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University.

The mission of CIU is to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. This mission is encapsulated in our motto, "To know Him and to make Him known." Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University is an integral part of the University division of CIU. Its mission is "to assist the Church in equipping Great Commission Christians for culturally-relevant ministry among the nations."

Definitions: The following definitions apply throughout this document.

1. Full members of the consortium hold full membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and offer the Master of Divinity degree in preparation for ordained ministry. Initially, member schools are
 - a. Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University, Columbia, SC (hereafter CIU)
 - b. Erskine Theological Seminary, Due West, SC (hereafter ETS)
 - c. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC (hereafter GCTS)
 - d. Reformed Theological Seminary-Charlotte, Charlotte, NC (hereafter RTS)

2. Affiliate members hold associate membership in the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.
3. Parent institution is the school in which a student is enrolled in pursuit of a degree.
4. Teaching institution is the school which is offering a course for which the student is registered.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT / RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Full members agree:
 - a. to advertise the courses offered by other member schools, including the instructor, the location, and the meeting schedule.
 - b. to compile and make available to students a comprehensive list of equivalent courses offered by member schools.
 - c. to coordinate course offerings with member schools in a way which minimizes duplication and market saturation in any given location.
 - d. to permit students to cross-register in any master's or doctoral degree courses offered by any member school.
 - Students who cross register must be in good standing and approved by their parent institution.
 - Certification of the student's status and approval must be transmitted in writing to the teaching institution prior to the first class session.
 - Admission of students who wish to cross-register is on a "space available" basis. In classes with limited enrollment, priority will be given to students from the teaching institution.
 - Master's level courses which lead to state licensure and GCTS-C Doctor of Ministry courses are excluded from this agreement.
 - The parent institution has the responsibility to establish limits on the number of courses its students may take at other schools.
 - e. to permit students to borrow library materials from any member school.
 - Students must provide evidence that they are enrolled in one of the member schools.
 - The parent institution is responsible for library materials which one of its students borrows from another member school and fails to return.
 - f. to permit students to pay tuition to the parent institution at the rate which that school normally charges for its courses. Additional charges or fees assessed in connection with the course will be paid to the teaching institution.
 - g. to provide the parent institution with an official record of the student's grade at the conclusion of the course.
 - The record will be transmitted by the published deadline for submitting grades of the teaching institution.
 - Grading will normally be by letter grade, except in courses where the faculty of the teaching institution deems letter grades inadvisable.
 - h. To notify the parent institution of any serious problems encountered with its students.


2. Affiliate members agree
 - a. to permit students to cross-register in any master's or doctoral degree courses offered by any member school.
 - b. to permit students to borrow library materials from any member school.
 - c. to provide the parent institution with an official record of the student's grade at the conclusion of the course.
 - d. to notify the parent institution of any serious problem encountered with its students.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM REVIEW/RENEWAL

*This agreement goes into effect on August 1, 2020 and will be reviewed biennially and may be cancelled at any time by any of the member schools with appropriate protection for students enrolled in any given semester. The agreement may also be amended with the consent of all member schools.

Authorization

	07/15/2020
R.J. Gore Dean, Erskine Theological Seminary	Date

	08/05/2020
Gerry Wheaton Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Charlotte	Date

<i>Richard P Belcher, Jr</i>	07/19/2020
Richard P. Belcher, Jr. Academic Dean, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte	Date

	07/17/2020
James E. Lanpher Provost, Columbia International University	Date

<i>John D. Harvey</i>	07/15/2020
John D. Harvey Dean, Columbia Biblical Seminary of Columbia International University	Date