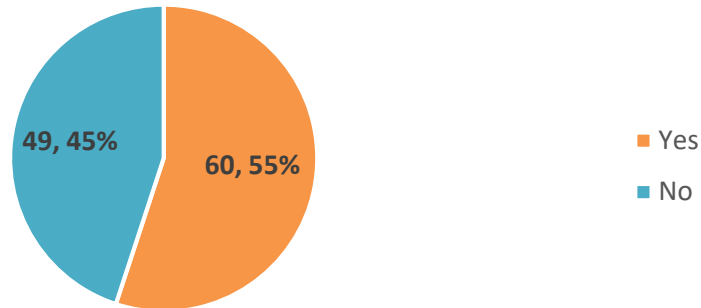


Degree Program Survey Summary

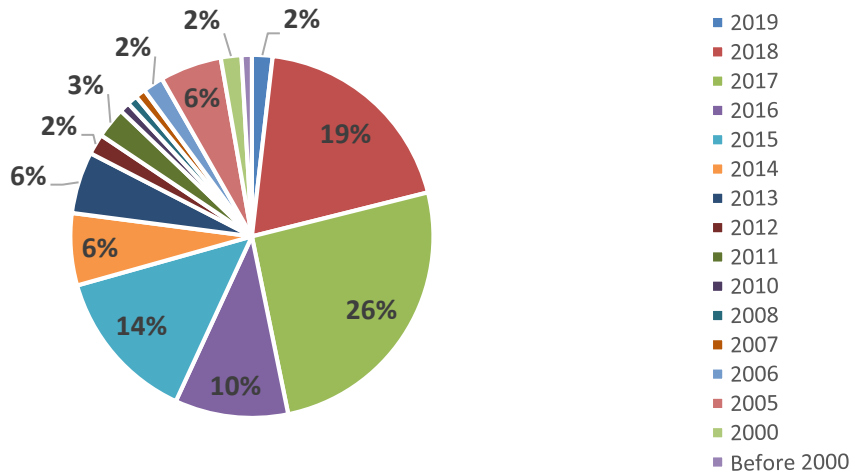
Fall 2020

109 responses

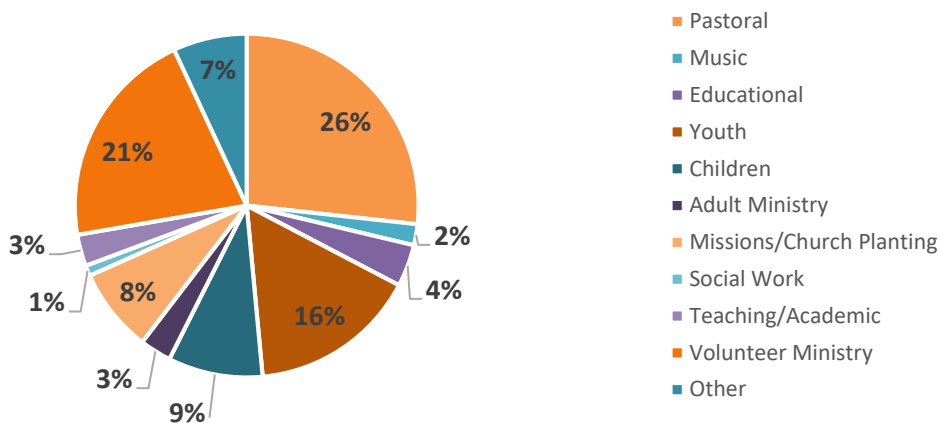
Have you studied towards an MDiv at NOBTS?



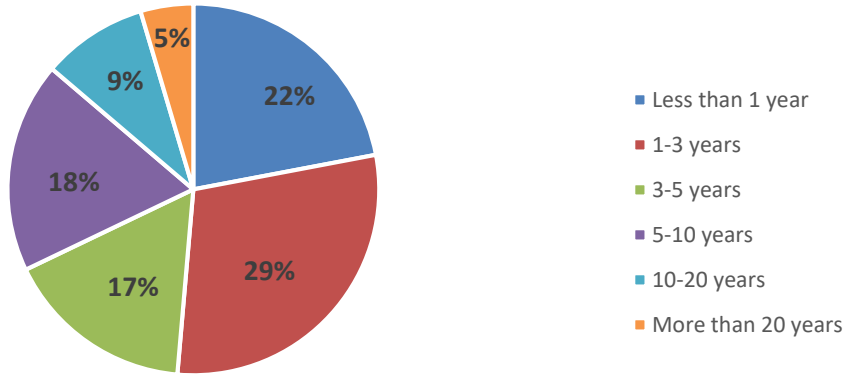
When did you begin study at NOBTS?



Please describe your current ministry service?

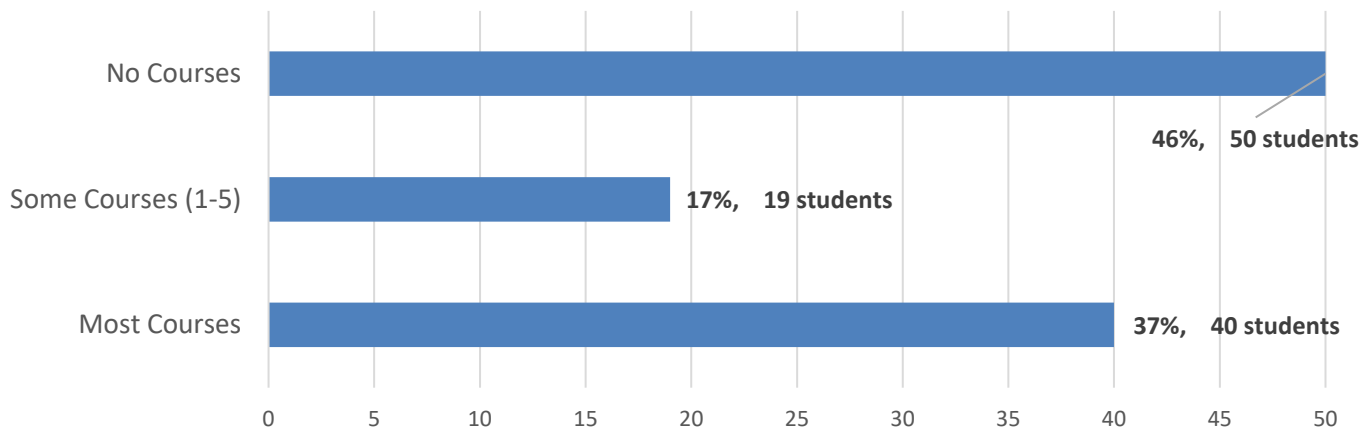


How many years have you served in your current ministry role?

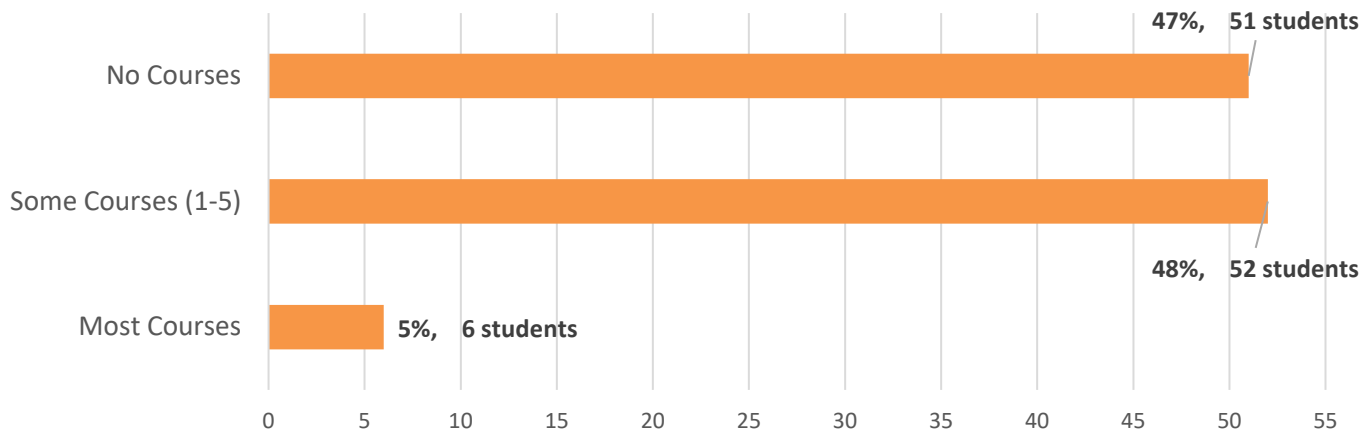


Delivery Systems

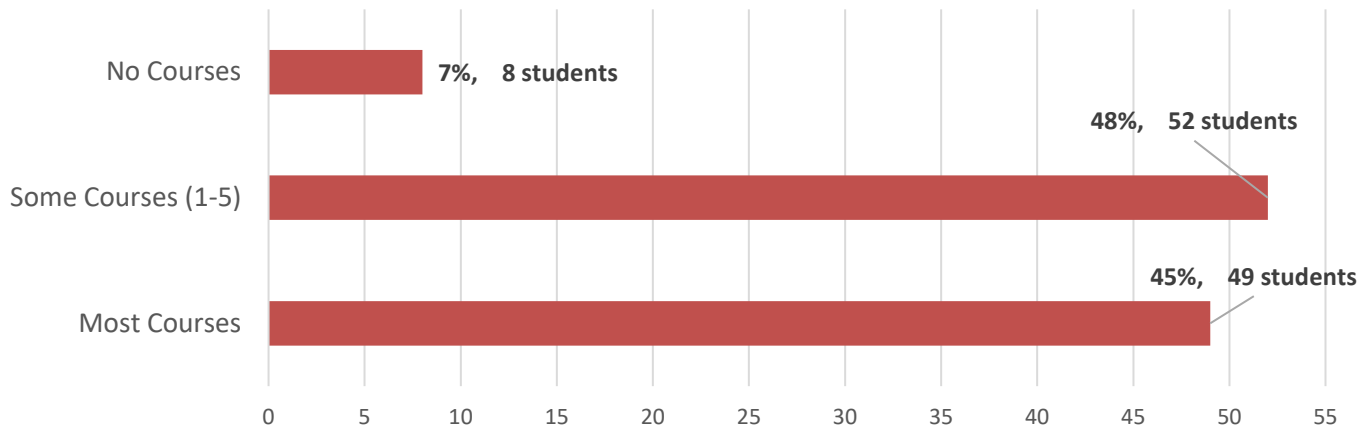
NOBTS Regular Classroom Courses



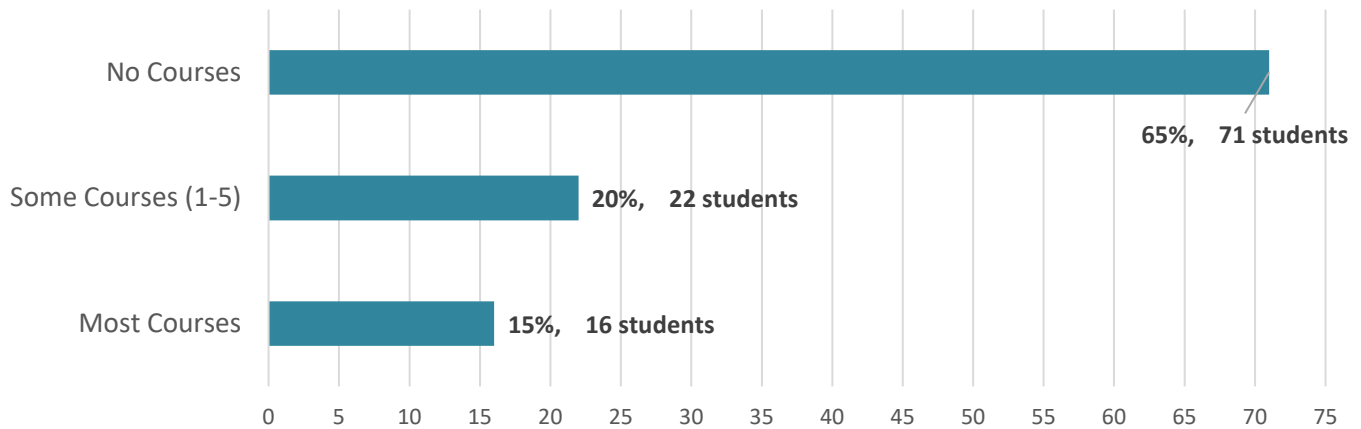
Hybrid Courses on NOBTS Campus



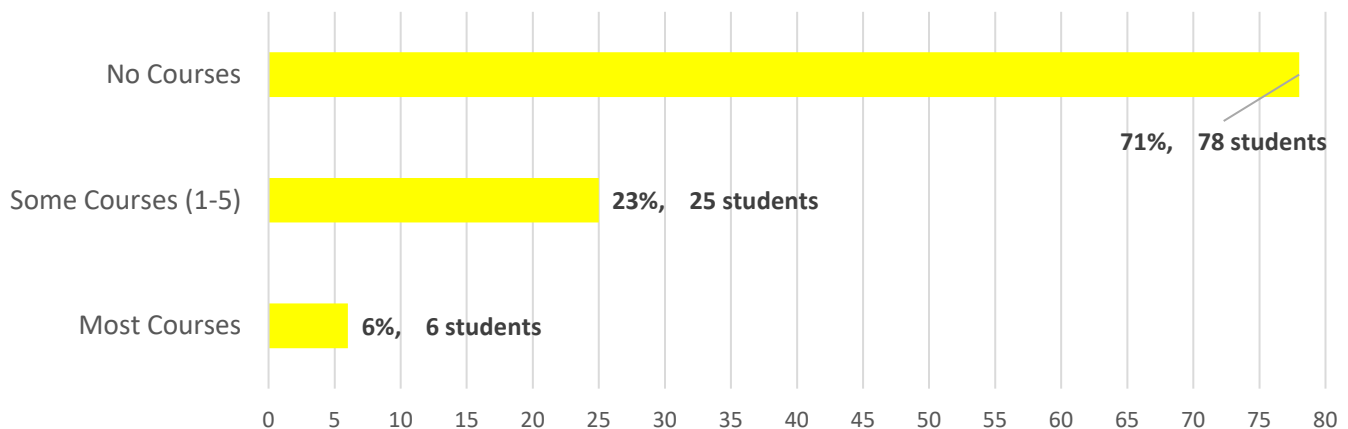
Internet Courses



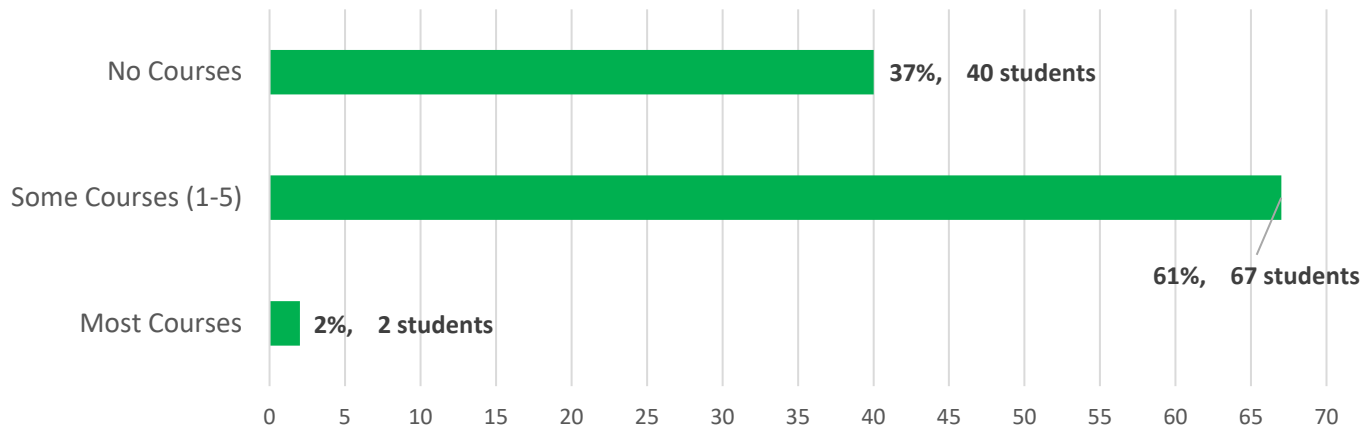
Extension Center Courses with a Local Professor



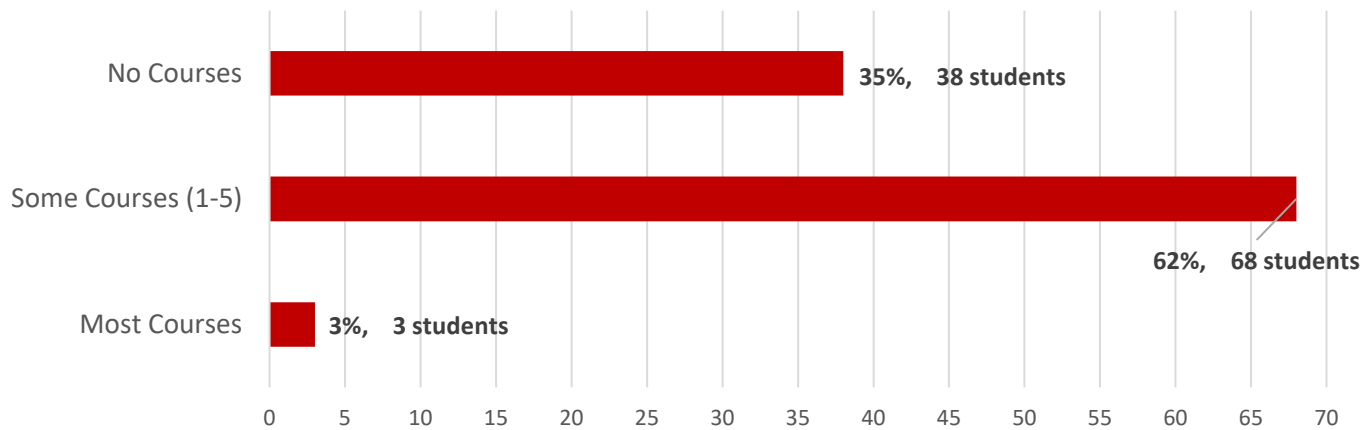
Extension Center Courses Taught by CIV



Workshop Courses

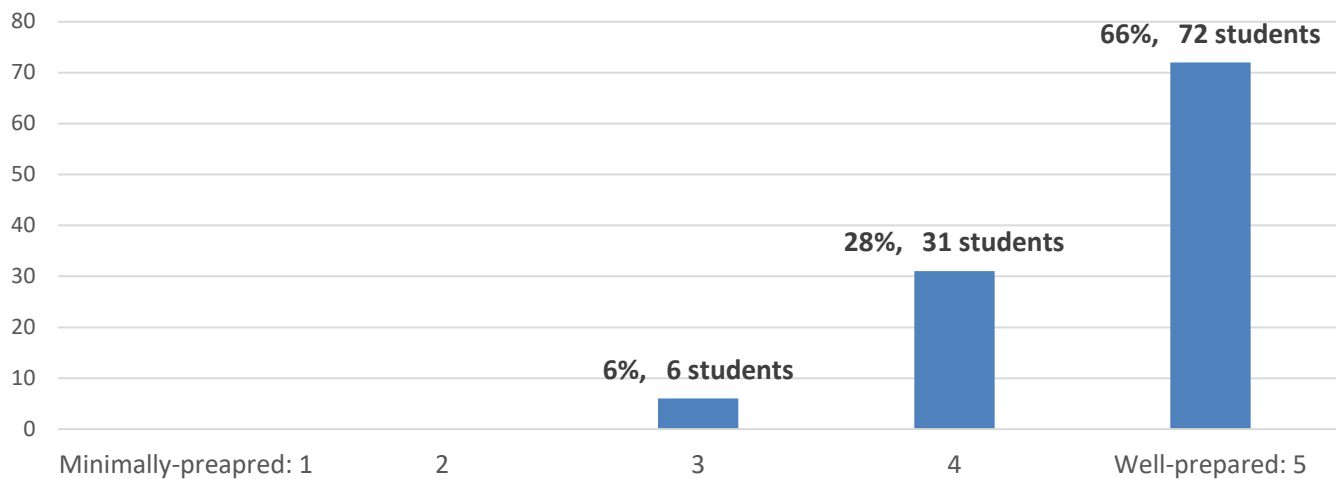


Mentoring Courses

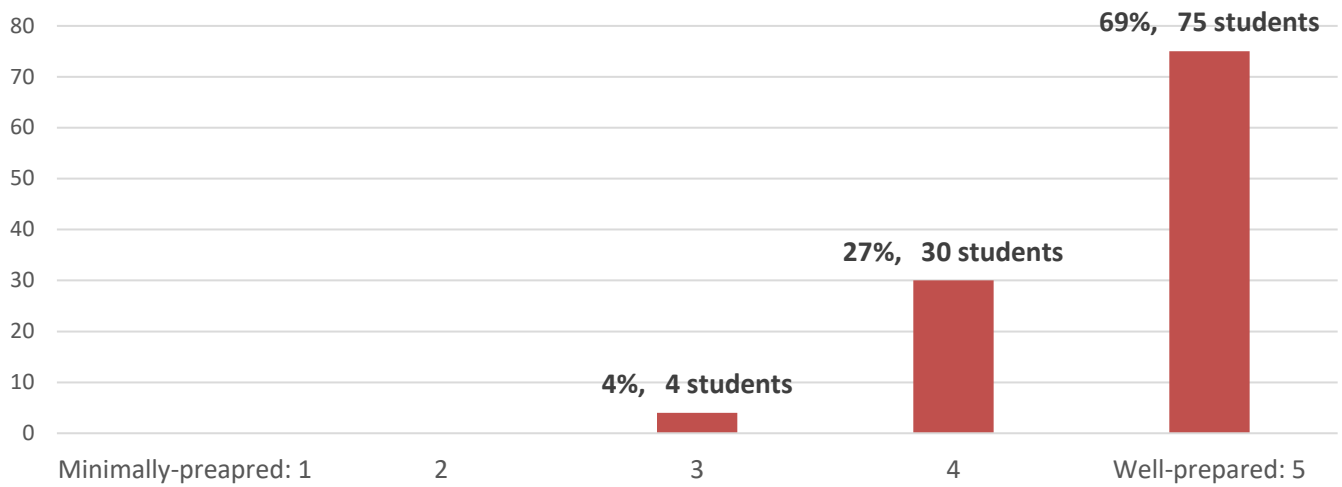


Core Competencies

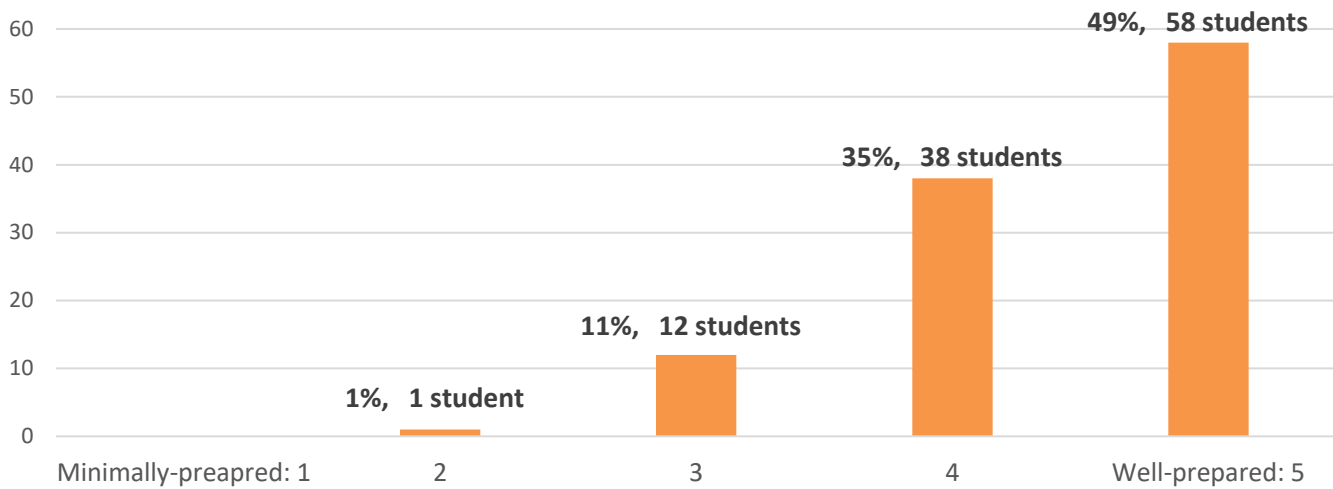
In your ministry context, how well do you feel NOBTS prepared you to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church?



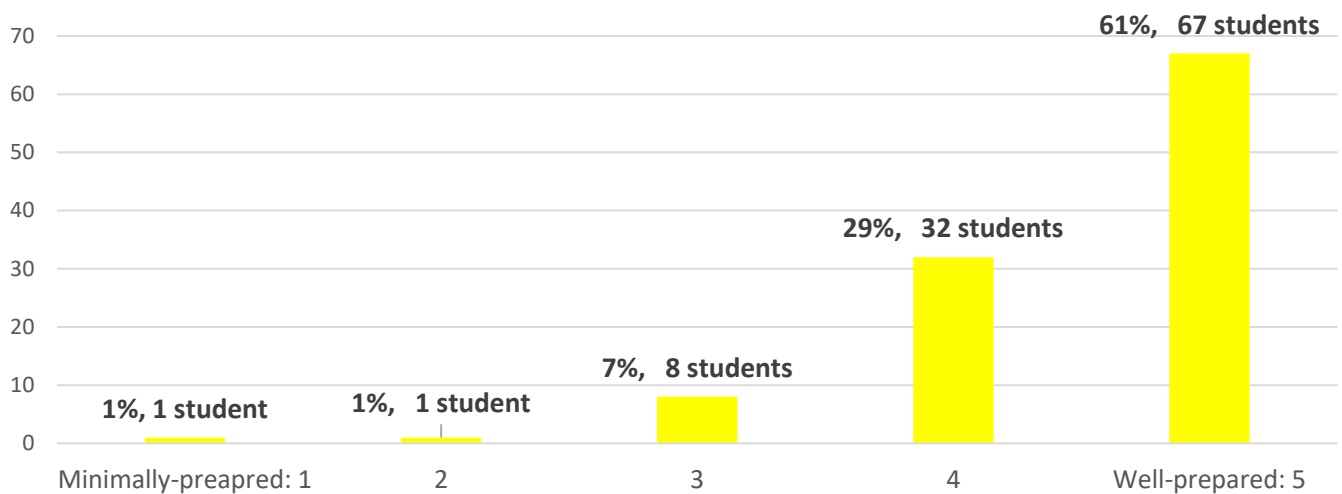
Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately



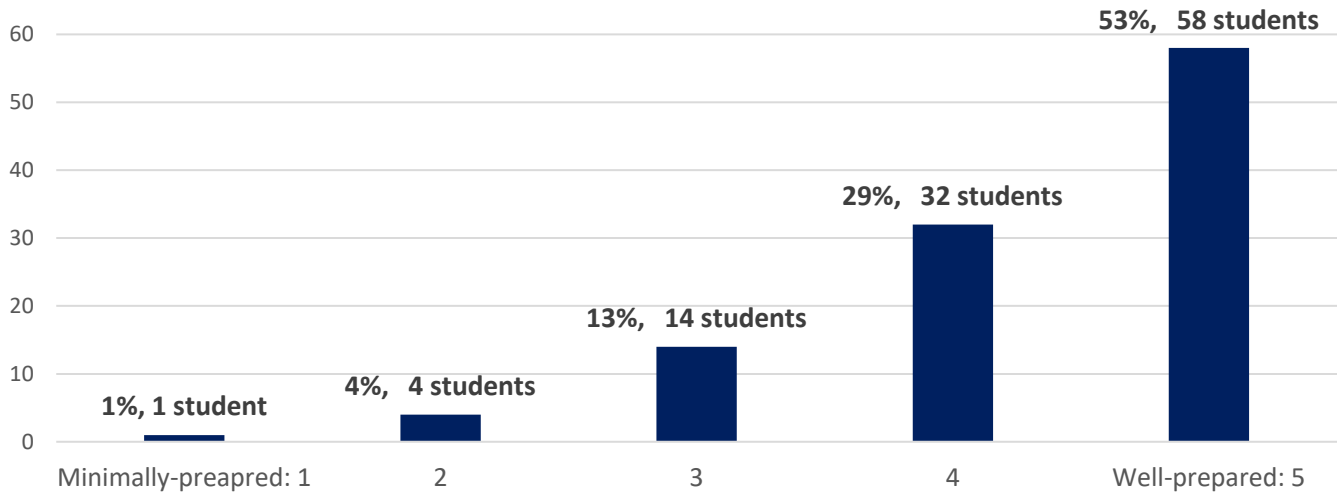
Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.



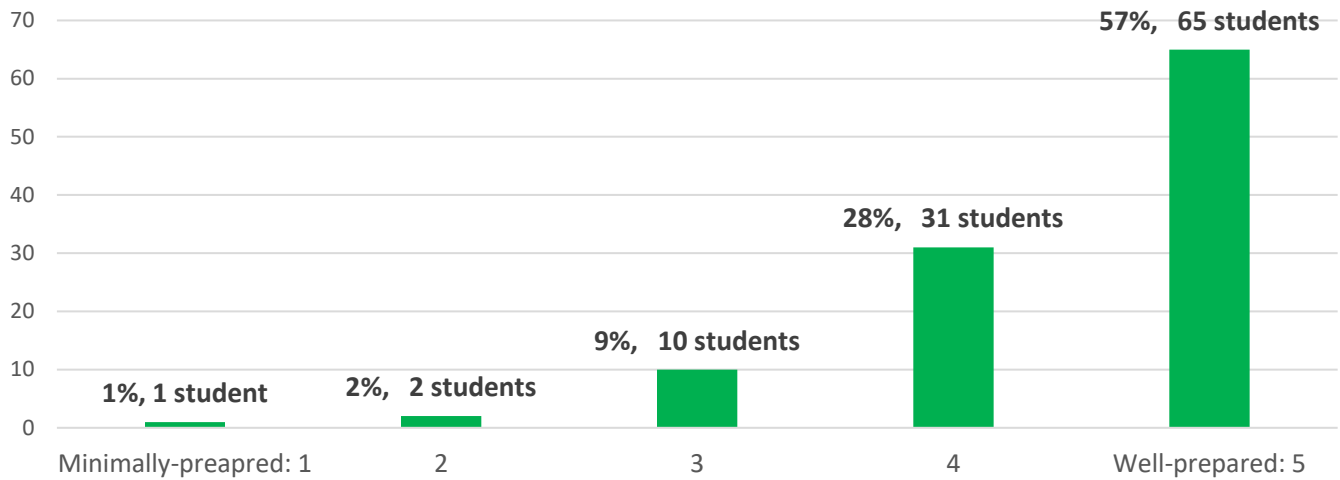
Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.



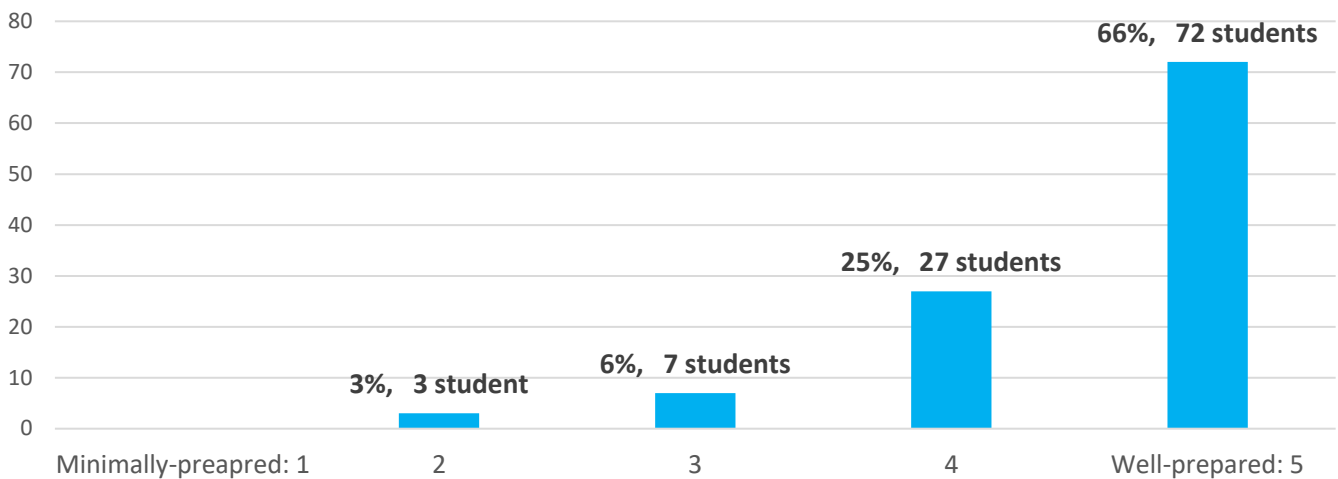
Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.



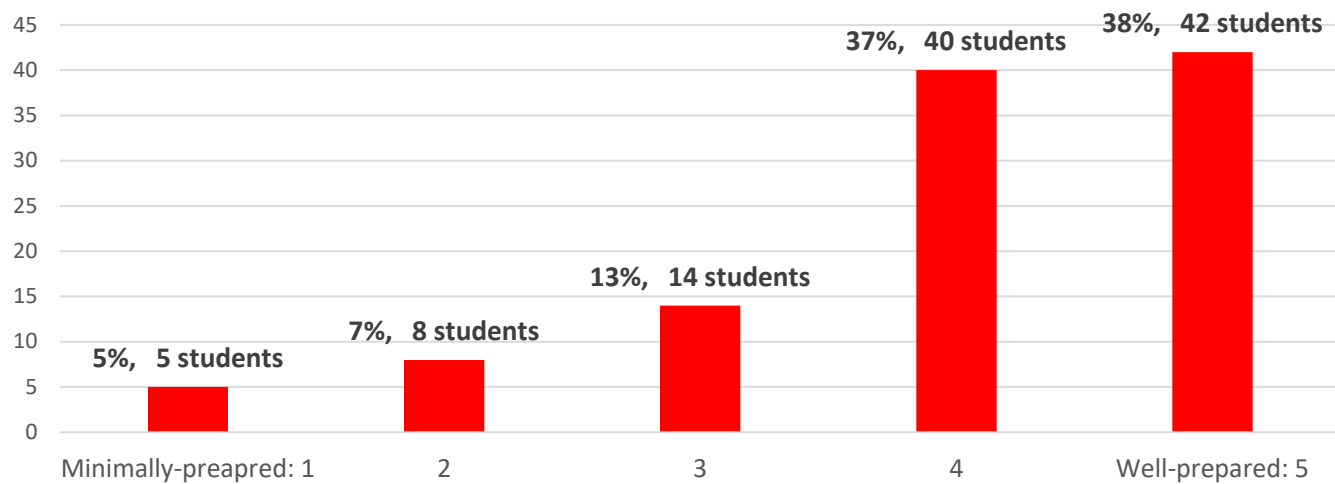
Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.



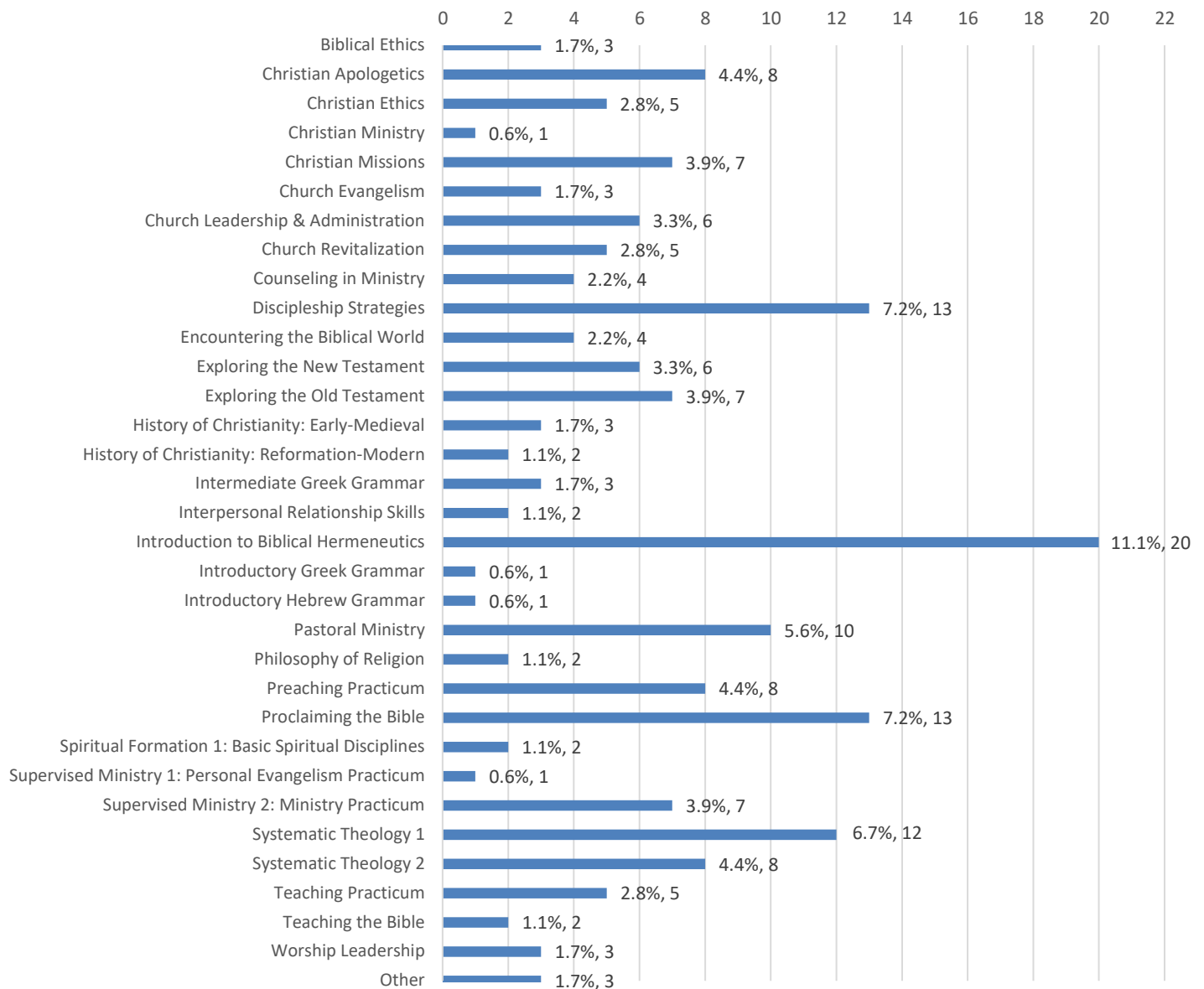
Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.



Worship Leadership: to facilitate worship effectively.



Of the courses listed below, identify the 3 courses which have MOST equipped you to fulfill your calling:

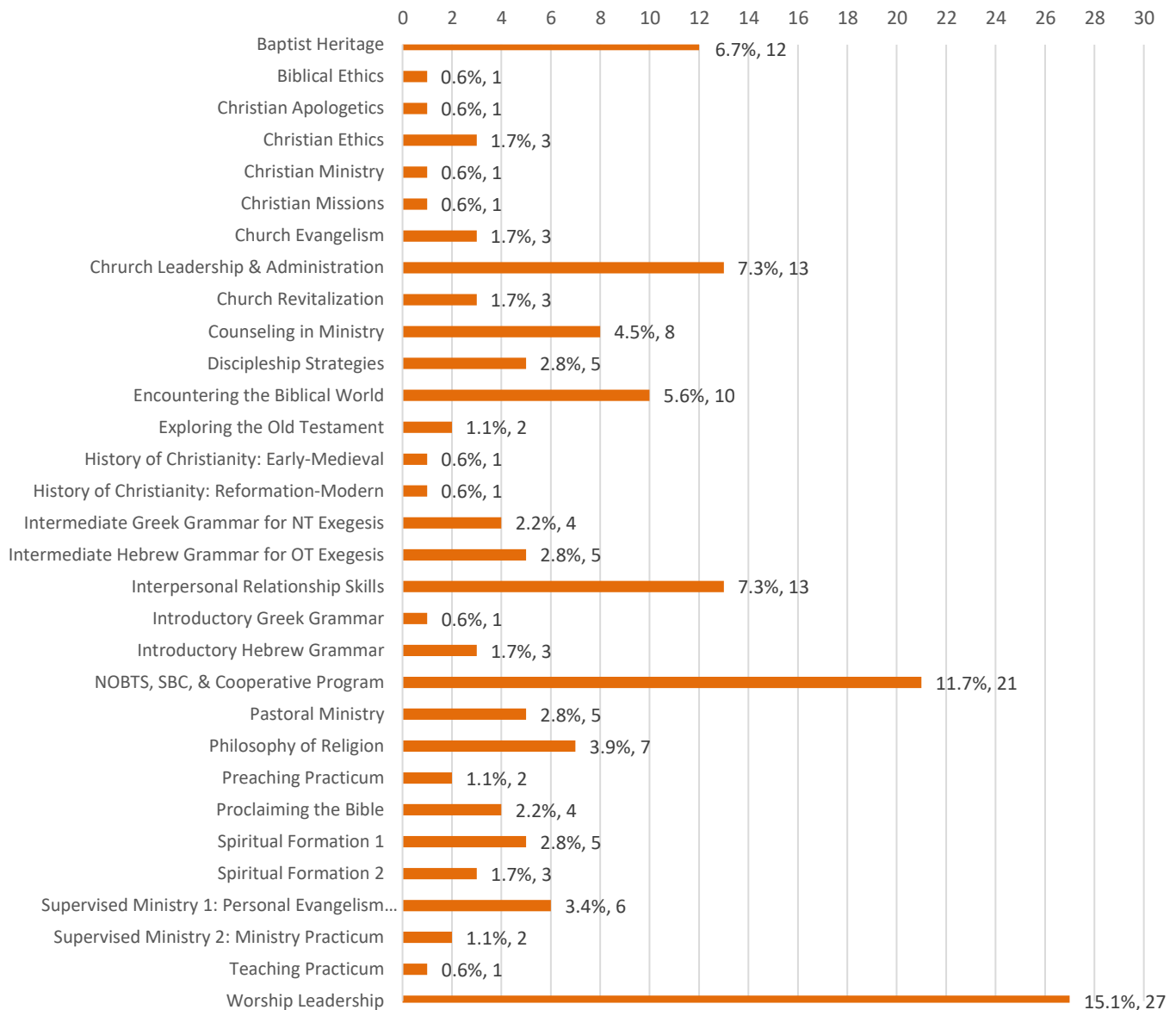


Comments:

- All my courses added something to my permanent learning. They have been vital to my overall learning and application of the material to real life situations. Because I hold a secular job, I have found my aggregate learning to be of immense import to the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission through the Great Commandments. I have been privileged to attend NOBTS and it was the exact fit needed for my success and the success of God's Gospel in the world.
- All my course were magnificent. It was truly hard to decide which ones I preferred more. I look at all the courses and essential components that have equipped me to be the pastor I can be and still become in the future.
- I would also say that Systematic Theology had a dramatic effect in my growth not only as a pastor, but more importantly as a follower of Christ as I was challenged to come to some difficult conclusions concerning the nature and character of God and His sovereignty.

- The classes that actually focused on the Bible not only accomplished the goals of that specific class, but the professors often provided better ministry instruction than courses that actually were meant to focus on ministry. Counseling in Ministry was great, but the class needs to be longer to include more good content that is useful in every sphere of ministry.
- I wish I could choose both Systematic Theology courses above because they were both essential to my spiritual development and theological sharpening. I also would combine History of Christianity 1 & 2. The best (most helpful) courses I took focused on studying and interpreting the Scriptures and theology. In addition to interpretation, the application of Biblical interpretation and theology within the church was equally important and valuable. I believe the best courses offered and those that are most necessary to prepare faithful servants of Christ are: the Systematic Theologies, Greek & Hebrew grammar and exegesis, History of Christianities, Exploring OT & NT, Biblical Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Christian Missions (although it could use some tweaking), and the Doctrine of God in Christianity & Islam (or any other class discussing theological worldviews of other religions). I was most challenged and most benefitted in the courses listed above. Also, all of these courses challenged me to see Christianity on a global scale and to think critically about how to preach, teach, and disciple diverse groups of people to accept and understand the historic Christian faith. The best courses at NOBTS focus on interpreting, applying, and teaching the Scriptures and the historic Christian practice of those three actions.
- My time with Dr. Burt, Dr. Boutwell, & Dr. Whitley at the NOBTS - Huntsville extension center was pivotal. Both of these professors shaped me deeply in my theological understanding (Boutwell) and practical leadership wisdom in ministry (Whitley & Burt).
- I took Lifespan Discipleship my first semester and it completely changed the way I looked at making disciples in the church. The other most meaningful classes were as much about the professors as the course content. Dr. Ray (II), Dr. England, and Dr. Hughes were incredible teachers that also cared for and ministered to me.
- I would also add Systematic theology 1 and 2
- I can't exactly give 3 answers on this. Most of the classes have helped me in my ministry for the church.

Of the courses listed below, identify the 3 courses which have LEAST equipped you to fulfill your calling:



Comments:

- Worship Leadership was a waste of my time, the other courses I enjoyed and benefited from, but had to choose three.
- I dislike that question. Every class was important and effective. I chose those three based on my own personal experience with the class presentation, not the effectiveness of the class material.
- I hated to say which courses "least," equipped me to fulfill my personal calling. Personally, every course was a joy to experience and I am glad for the wide variety of offerings provided by the course of MDiv studying.
- The only reason I would say that these three courses were the least instrumental in my studies and growth isn't because the course itself wasn't important, but I believe that the materials themselves

weren't deep enough. They seemed lacking in their content depth for courses being taught at a graduate level.

- all courses taken have been instrumental in my ministry
- Most of the ministry classes I took seemed to be at least fifteen years behind and often seemed void of discussion on the current state of ministry. My previous experiences in ministry did more to prepare me in a shorter time than taking these ministry classes.
- The scope of what was taught in the "practical" courses was often too narrowly focused on specific culturally "Southern Baptist" contexts. The context I am referring to covers a large amount of churches in the SBC, those that are: located in the southern United States, geographically further from urban centers, racially/ethnically/culturally homogenous, and often narrow in their doctrine (including ecclesiology and church practice) due to firm stances on traditional Southern Baptist beliefs or practices of "doing church." For example, I was challenged by a sharp & tough professor in Systematic Theology 2 who pushed his students to think critically and communicate clearly what they believed and why. However, there were still times when it felt that his convictions, leaning towards a particular sect in Baptist culture, were promoted as superior to other Biblical convictions. I love this professor and I am thankful for him, but I felt this similar pattern in courses which challenged and benefitted me exponentially less than Systematic 2. In Proclaiming the Bible, we were taught by an earnest professor who sought to introduce us to great Biblical expositors and preachers. This list of preachers included men who were white, culturally Baptist, and in some cases, were put on a pedestal in the SBC despite massive, disqualifying flaws that at the very least should have warranted our evaluating them with an asterisk next to their name (ex. Paige Patterson). The list of men that were set forth as examples contained predominately, if not entirely white men. For a school with so many black men coming to be trained or sharpened as pastors, learning about Billy Graham, W.A. Criswell, Paige Patterson, Billy Sunday, Adrian Rogers, and Steve Gaines left much to be desired. I had to go learn about the rich heritage of black protestant preachers myself, in my third year of seminary. In Pastoral Ministries, we talked about elders in the church for about 15 minutes in one class session out of the entire semester (as much as memory serves me, I do not believe this is a dramatic exaggeration either). I was part of a church plant in 2016 that is now an autonomous church that God continues to bless with spiritual health and vitality as we steadily increase in membership under the care of faithful shepherds. My Pastoral Ministries class prepared me very little for this journey. I aspire to serve as an elder in my current church and if given the opportunity, as the lead pastor in another church one day. However, my Pastoral Ministries class failed to mention so many things that apply to our context. We talked about running business meetings, how to interview with a church, and dealing with deacon boards, but in many ways did not lay solid scriptural and theological foundations for so many things that we do in our church now, most importantly biblical (aka "meaningful") church membership. I take responsibility for where I did not perform as well, but its worth noting that my grades reflect the fact that in my toughest classes were I was most engaged, I performed the best (or really well), save for a few exceptions were I still struggled in a semester. I cannot express enough how much the "practical ministry" courses were often massive disappointments that were hard to engage in or even want to prioritize with other school assignments. The final course I will list as a massive disappointment and struggle for me was Worship Leadership. It wasn't a difficult course, but it felt like so much time was poorly used, the assigned reading was culturally dated, the discussions were narrow in the applicable church context, and often catered to church cultural preferences, aka the "Worship Wars." All the classes mentioned above were not altogether lacking in what they taught students, but overall I would say I have learned exponentially more about "practical ministry" issues from doing it in the local church. Also, the Evangelism practicum was good in that it made students get out and share the Gospel, which sadly so many seminary students have found reasons not to do. However, the P.R.A.Y. outline should be filed away for good and new life breathed into how proficiency in evangelism is taught and cultivated with seminary students.

- I never had the spiritual formation 2
- I was deeply disappointed with my counseling course with Dr. Yopp at Huntsville in counseling. His teaching was extra-Biblical and at multiples times, somewhat unorthodox in doctrine.
- The methods of teaching in the history class and worship leadership were not good. The assignments felt like busy work. These classes I selected could be reevaluated to decide if they are meeting the goals they say they are seeking to meet.
- I never took the class "Worship leadership" you made me mark 3
- I really found that each class had information that would give me insight into how to serve in ministry.

Which course or subject do you wish you had taken in your studies?

- Greek/Hebrew
- More language and exegesis classes
- Contemporary Trends in Growing an Evangelistic Church
- SBC Politics
- More pastoral/exegetical courses
- Greek 2
- Both New and Old Testament exegesis classes.
- Christian Apologetics
- Church Administration/Business
- I can't think of any
- African Christianity
- More Greek and Hebrew
- More bible courses
- More Counseling courses
- More courses in theology, for certain.
- I really wish I could have taken the course on the Sermon on the Mount, but I would not have wanted to take it online.
- More Greek courses.
- n/a
- Education
- A Greek exegesis course in a specific genre or book
- more Christian Ed and Discipleship classes
- Apologetics
- More Discipleship classes
- Teaching practicum
- Preaching Old Testament Narrative
- New Testament Exegesis
- An OT English Exegesis course
- N/A
- Worship teaching and discipleship
- Teaching the Bible
- I wish I could have taken more language (Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic) courses.
- @NOBTS: Greek Exegesis of NT Book, Hebrew Exegesis of OT Book; Not @ NOBTS: Biblical Theology of OT, Biblical Theology of NT, or Applied Theology within the Church
- N/A

- More OT classes. Early to medieval theology.
- I did not have the chance to take apologetics.
- none
- more introductory level OT and NT studies
- Church Revitalization
- Advanced Hermeneutics or theology electives
- Advance Greek
- More classes on discipleship strategies
- I wish I had taken many more preaching classes. I wish I had taken Old Testament with Dr. England. I wish I had taken all of my classes on the main campus instead of taking some at the extension center. Main campus classes are so much better!
- more counseling courses
- Problem of Evil
- Spiritual Formation 2: Multiplication
- Church Revitalization
- Philosophy of Religion
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Missions
- Spiritual Formation
- Apologetics
- Course on Logos Bible Software and Military Chaplaincy
- Encountering World Religions, Christianity and the Sciences, and The Historical Jesus
- Educational ministry
- Epistemology
- I wish I would have taken more classes related to the financial structures of leading a church. A class on how to make business decisions would have been very helpful to me.

What course of study (currently non-existent at NOBTS) do you think should be offered to develop leaders in the local church and its ministries?

- Crisis Management; Business/Finance
- a second hermeneutics course
- Intergenerational Ministry or Transitioning Ministry to New Generations
- Anything Practical - How to run a sound system, photoshop...
- A focused degree of theological/ecclesiastical history that leads students through doctrinal development and its impact on the modern day.
-
- I would have loved for further study in Hermeneutics to be available.
- A course in conflict resolution within the local church.
- N/A
- More Courses focused on discipleship
- Ethnology
- More pastoral counseling
- N/A
- Introduction to Church Polity and Procedures

- Perhaps a course (1 hour) that deals with the proper skills and expertise needed to work amongst other church staffers / employees for optimal ministry.
- NOBTS would be wise to offer courses on Audio/Video and other presentation related skills due to lack of knowledge in these areas in many churches.
- Not sure.
- n/a
- Management of Church
- A class with a focus on the local church's virtual reach and engagement.
- more leadership classes
- Church curriculum development and publishing
- Technology and Ministry
- Old testament exegesis in Hebrew
- How to balance family and ministry
- I believe that theology and historical theology needs play a greater part in ones studies. From one's theology everything else flows. Plus a deeper dive into church history would be extremely beneficial. Apologetics would also be of great benefit to your seminary students. Knowing the true Gospel and being able to give sound biblical witness to the world are vital for every Christian.
- More studies in church history. Looking at Christians in the past for good and bad examples of how we should do ministry in the present.
- N/A
- Church Finance
- I can't think of one.
- I think Spiritual Formation should be transformed into a larger spiritual disciplines course that would actually give students' spiritual development the attention that it deserves, or connect students with professors that will help monitor their spiritual growth throughout their time at the seminary. Too many students are allowed to complete the program without truly developing health spiritual disciplines, which often causes them to leave the program with a heart of pride instead of one of service and humility.
- Biblical Theology of OT & NT
- Speech and their needs to be more hands on physco-motor for many of the class not just cognitive learning.
- Biblical Theology.
- NA
- none
- Exploring NT II & Exploring OT II
- I believe NOBTS covers all areas required at the moment!
- More theology electives
- More Counseling
- N/A
- I'm not sure about this one yet. I feel like my degree has been well-rounded.
- what really happens at a local church. not just theory.
- conflict resolution
- Team work and Team building Ministry
- Diverse Congregation
- Biblical Hermeneutics that is geared to children.
- N/A

- n/a
- Leadership
- Possibly more leadership development type classes
- Military Chaplaincy courses
- Christianity and Critical Race Theory, Heresy in the Modern Church
- My personal opinion from the 7 years of my experience on campus was that I wished there would be a course that needed a clearer examination of the students' calling before studying here. I have no idea what kind of course can be made, and it will be difficult, but it seems necessary to check the callings received by the students.
- Covenant Theology
- More classes on the business side of operating a church. How to hire and fire staff. How to make a budget. How to make a church debt free. Those kinds of things.