

JOHN W. RAWLINGS SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

Administration

Troy Temple, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.

Dean, School of Divinity

Professor of Theology and Family Ministries

Gabriel Etzel, B.S., M.A.R., M.Div., D.Min., Ph.D.

Online Dean, School of Divinity

Professor of Theology and Christian Leadership

Mary Lowe, B.A., M.Ed., M.A.P.M., Ed.D.

Online Associate Dean, School of Divinity

Professor of Christian Education

John Cartwright, B.S., M.A.R., M.Div., Ed.D.

Online Chair, Doctoral Programs

Professor of Christian Leadership and Education

Claudia Dempsey, B.S., M.A., D.Min.

Online Chair, Operations

Associate Professor of Religion

Lucas Farmer, B.S., M.Div., Ed.D.

Online Chair, Curriculum

Assistant Professor of Christian Leadership

Accreditation

Since June 2018, the John W. Rawlings School of Divinity has been an associate member of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Candidacy status with ATS was granted in February 2019. As of January 2020, the school is accredited by the Commission On Accrediting of the ATS.

Program Directors

A listing of program directors can be viewed at <https://www.liberty.edu/institutional-effectiveness/academic-program-directors/>.

History

The John W. Rawlings School of Divinity is an outgrowth of the vision of Dr. Jerry Falwell, the founding pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church. Dr. Falwell believed in Christian education. He believed that one of the most effective means of winning millions to Christ is by training young men and women to serve the Lord in aggressive, evangelical, soul-winning Baptist churches as pastors, staff, and members. Liberty University (then Lynchburg Baptist College) was founded in 1971 to help achieve that goal. At the heart of the college's curriculum for all students were classes in Bible. As the college grew and reached University status, the Bible Department grew into the School of Religion, providing Bible classes for students in every major and offering majors designed to prepare men and women for vocational Christian service.

Another need, however, still existed. Professional, graduate level training was needed for graduates of Liberty University and other colleges desiring graduate theological education as preparation for ministries in churches similar to Thomas Road Baptist Church. In 1973, Lynchburg Baptist Theological Seminary was created to address that need. It

began with an enrollment of 41 students with Dr. Jerry Falwell serving as President and Chancellor.

In 2015, approval was granted by Liberty University's Board of Trustees to combine the School of Religion with the Seminary into the School of Divinity. The School of Divinity provides quality, well-rounded education, based on academic excellence, emanating from the belief that Christian education should be superior, not inferior, to that provided by other schools. The School of Divinity is committed to the principle that a person's most effective ministry will be in conjunction with a local church, and the vision of the School of Divinity is to equip Christians to reach the entire world through aggressive New Testament church evangelism.

Distinctives

The John W. Rawlings School of Divinity is characterized by commitment to the core doctrines of the faith and providing significant experiences to develop practical ministry skills.

The faculty of the School of Divinity are committed to model both scholarship and practice for students. Graduates are grounded in the knowledge of God's Word, a desire to impact the world for God's kingdom, and the skills to engage the culture with the gospel.

Evangelism is a core value throughout the curriculum. Every faculty member and student is expected to manifest a compassion for the lost and a desire to see their salvation.

The School of Divinity is committed to the local church, and prepares graduates to enter into local church leadership positions. As such, experiential learning is essential to the School of Divinity's programs of study.

The Mission of the John W. Rawlings School of Divinity

The John W. Rawlings School of Divinity exists to come alongside the local church to help it fulfill the Great Commission. In accordance with the mission of Liberty University and within the historic Baptist tradition, the School of Divinity provides undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate programs that train students for traditional, Christian ministry positions. The School of Divinity offers programs designed to equip people for lay ministry, global leadership, church leadership, and advanced scholarly research.

As a Christian community, the School of Divinity seeks to cultivate spiritual growth and faithful service to Christ and His church. As an academic community, the School of Divinity seeks to impart knowledge and necessary skills to men and women for service and leadership in Christian ministry. As a service community, the School of Divinity seeks to respond to the needs of local churches and Christian ministries as they participate in worship, global evangelism, discipleship, and scholarship.

Program Goals and Objectives

In keeping with its stated mission, the School of Divinity strives to achieve the following institutional goals:

Personal Goals

Commitment

We seek to provide an environment in which students are encouraged to strengthen their commitment to Christ, certify their call to service, and develop an abiding love for God and His Word.

Lifestyle

We seek to develop a lifestyle of actively communicating the Christian faith through personal integrity, evangelistic witness, and responsible scholarship.

Social Responsibility

We seek to foster an awareness of the Christian's responsibility to be a productive member of society and to be responsive to the needs and concerns of diverse cultures.

Academic Goals

Knowledge

We seek to develop cognitive skills for ministry and scholarship through rigorous interaction with the biblical text and disciplines related to professional vocation.

Understanding

We seek to provide theological, historical, and intellectual understandings necessary for a self-conscious, critical, and Christian response to the world.

Vocational Goals

Relationships

We seek to develop communicative, administrative, and relational skills necessary for professional competence.

Ethics

We seek to provide opportunities for students to explore the moral dimensions and ethical implications of their chosen vocation.

Evangelism

We seek to cultivate sensitivity to others and a concern for world evangelization through local church ministries and vigorous defense of the gospel.

Church Growth

We seek to develop biblical and scientific expertise in establishing, developing, and sustaining growing churches and ministries.

Departments and Centers

- Center for Apologetics & Cultural Engagement
- Center for Chaplaincy
- Center for Youth Ministries
- Department of Biblical Studies
- Department of Christian Leadership & Church Ministries
- Department of Global Studies
- Department of Theological Studies
- Liberty Biblical Museum

Programs

- Doctor of Education in Christian Leadership (Ed.D.)
- Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition (Ph.D.)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Theology & Apologetics (Ph.D.)
- Graduate Certificates
- Master of Arts in Biblical Exposition (M.A.)
- Master of Arts in Biblical Languages (M.A.)
- Master of Arts in Biblical Studies (M.A.B.S.)
- Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics (M.A.)

- Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (M.A.C.M.)
- Master of Arts in Global Studies (M.A.G.S.)
- Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.)
- Master of Arts in Sports Chaplaincy (M.A.)
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.)
- Master of Divinity (M.Div.)
- Master of Divinity in Professional Chaplaincy (M.Div.)
- Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)
- Master of Theology (Th.M.)
- Post Graduate Certificates