

Charting Some Ideas:

Comparing Classical Philosophical Theoretical Core Courses with the New Great Commission Paradigm

It appears that Evangelical seminary education in the U.S. has either begun or evolved into the following pattern:

1. A traditional classical philosophical-theoretical training curriculum with one or two Great Commission classes included to “salt” the curriculum
2. The traditional classical theoretical courses are taught mainly by Evangelicals, who seek to keep from drifting into non-Evangelical thought, although they use the philosophical-theoretical forms and questions (as they have received their higher education training in that paradigm)

In that light, it would appear that a curriculum needs to be developed from a Great Commission *a priori* instead...

Area	Required “Core” Courses (3 hours each)	Old Classical Philosophical- Theoretical	New Great Commission Paradigm
NT	Introduction to NT One and Two Introduction to Greek One and Two	12	9
OT	Introduction to OT One and OT Two Introduction to Hebrew One Introduction to Hebrew Two	12	3
Other Philosophical- Theoretical	Theology One and Two History of Christianity One and Two Ethics and Philosophy of Religion Introduction to Apologetics	18	0
Other Philosophical- Practical	Personal Spiritual Disciplines Pastoral Care and Counseling Principles of Preaching Christian Education Church Administration	15	3
Number of Non-Great Commission-Focused Courses		57	15
Evangelism	Introduction to Evangelism Church Evangelism (how to use CWT, EE, etc.) Evangelistic Preaching (including giving an invitation) History of Great Commission Activity Exegetical Evangelism (OT and NT evangelistic themes) The Work of an Evangelist (revival series, preparation, etc.) Practical Follow-up and Discipleship	3	21
Missions	Introduction to Missions Applied Bible in Missions Interfaith Evangelism Cross-Cultural Church Planting Ecumenics	3	15
Gospelology and History of the Churches	Applied Bible One (focusing on the Gospel) Applied Bible Two (focusing on conversion) History of the Great Commission One and Two	0	12
Number of Great Commission-Focused Courses		6	48
Total Number of Required “Core” Courses		63	63
Number of Concentration Hours and Elective Hours		29	29
Total M.Div. Hours		92	92

The weight and emphasis of each “core” curriculum is definitely quite different, with only 7 of the 21 courses overlapping, or 1/3rd of the current classical philosophical-theoretical courses; result:

From 9.5% to 66% Great Commission-focused faculty; from 90.5% theoretical faculty to 33% theoretical faculty
From 9.5% to 66% Great Commission-focused “core” courses; from 90.5% to 33% theoretical courses.