

## Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Quality Enhancement Plan

Title: Initiation, Integration, and Innovation: Engaging Undergraduate Southwestern Students for the Purpose of Retention and Ministry

Contact: Dr. Todd Bates, Dean at Texas Baptist College, Professor, and QEP Committee Chair. (817) 921-8742 (tbates@swbts.edu)

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) developed its Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) to increase student success, integration, and retention. While the QEP has campus-wide implication and participation across the student body, its primary focus is improving first and second year retention rates (Fall to Fall) at Texas Baptist College (TBC). Guided by the QEP committee, faculty, staff, and administration from SWBTS participated in the selection of the QEP topic. The QEP committee utilized surveys, polls, and townhall meetings, along with input from other institutional stakeholders, to determine the QEP topic of student success and retention (note that 88% of faculty, for example, voted for the QEP topic).

The QEP will track each freshman class' success and retention rates from 2021-2026 (Fall to Fall). This plan features a renewed effort aimed at improving Southwestern Seminary's student experience by utilizing student performance data and advanced analytics to track and improve retention rates. In terms of improving the student experience, the QEP functions to enhance the vital "classroom teaching ...experience" and gives attention to "residence halls, student life programming, and other social activities." This "transformative student experience" will "supplement the diverse range of academic programming," "providing academic support, mentoring opportunities," and various social activities.

The QEP committee has established two goals with objective standards to evaluate the progress of the QEP plan. The goals are listed below:

**Goal 1:** Provide a campus environment that cultivates student retention from year one to year two

**Objective 1.1:** Texas Baptist College will increase its retention percentage by 5% from Fall to Fall for incoming year one to year two students

**Objective 1.2:** Texas Baptist College will be more in line with peer-institution  $\pm$  5% of student retention from year one to year two

**Objective 1.3:** Texas Baptist College expects an increase in its overall student population by 5% from 2019-2025 by virtue of our retention improvements

**Goal 2:** Provide a campus environment which supports student success through TBC's academic and supportive services

**Objective 2.1:** 90% of new Texas Baptist College students will demonstrate their satisfaction with Welcome Week activities by marking a 3 (Satisfied) or a 4 (Very Satisfied) in the New Student Questionnaire (NSQ)

**Objective 2.2:** 90% of our returning Texas Baptist College students will demonstrate their satisfaction with the school's academic and supportive activities by marking a 3 (Satisfied) or a 4 (Very Satisfied) in the Returning Student Questionnaire (RSQ)

**Objective 2.3:** 90% of our returning Texas Baptist College students will demonstrate their satisfaction by participating in 5 or more of the school's academic or supportive activities

**Objective 2.4:** 50% of all "at-risk status" Texas Baptist College students (identified by Dropout Detective) will move from red to yellow, or yellow to green

The administration and faculty designed this unique QEP for supportive human interaction coupled with academic aid to advise, mentor, and create opportunities to succeed and fulfill the academic and social goals of Southwestern Seminary.