



**BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY *at* RICHMOND**

FAQs About B TSR Ending Day-to-Day Operations in January 2019

Why is B TSR ending its daily operations January 31 instead of carrying through June as originally planned?

Since the announcement of B TSR's closing was made in November, a full, independent review of the seminary's financial position by legal counsel has led to the conclusion that B TSR does not have enough resources to carry a full program through the end of the academic year.

However, January term will be held, and students who have planned to graduate in May 2019 will be able to receive a B TSR degree by cross-registering for remaining courses.

In addition, students who qualify and apply will receive a B TSR Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. All current B TSR students will receive a B TSR towel.

What are the academic plans for the next six months?

January Term - Will proceed as planned (two courses, which are taught by adjuncts as scheduled).

Spring Term and beyond

- The 9 members of this year's graduating class will be able to pay tuition to B TSR and cross-register for their requirements at Union Presbyterian Seminary, School of Theology at Virginia Union University or Eden Seminary in St. Louis, MO.
- For students who are not graduating, Dean Tracy Hartman is available for individual consultations about transfer to other schools.

May 25, 2019 – Graduation ceremonies

What is the timeline for B TSR's faculty and staff?

Faculty and staff will be employed through January 31. After that, B TSR will retain a minimal staff to provide essential student services for spring semester, carry out graduation ceremonies and wrap up business operations.

Will faculty get severance pay?

B TSR is launching a campaign to raise funds for faculty severance. Three donors have already committed \$160,000 in matching gifts. Full-time staff also will be eligible for severance. More information about the fundraising campaign will be available after December 15 at <https://www.btsr.edu/institutional-advancement/>. A mailing about the campaign also is being sent.

What resources are available to help students who are not graduating this year?

Dean Tracy Hartman is holding individual consultations with students about transfer to other schools. Appointments can be made through Nicole Smith at Admissions@btsr.edu. The seminary can contact schools directly to help with the transfer of the maximum possible credit, and also will work with scholarship providers like the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) and others to help students take their financial aid with them.

What other resources are available to students?

Students have the opportunity to meet with a spiritual director as a companion to help them listen for God's invitation to them in this transition. Appointments can be made through Nicole Smith at Admissions@btsr.edu.

Where will students and alumni/ae get transcripts?

As previously announced, the seminary is committed, and bound by law, to house all academic transcripts in an appropriate, easily accessible setting. We have begun conversations with three specific seminaries/divinity schools about housing transcripts after BTSR closes and will share that information as soon as it is finalized. In the meantime, transcripts are available from btsr.edu/academics.

How long will BTSR stay in its current facility on Villa Park Drive?

Trustees are negotiating to attempt to end the facility lease before its term of spring 2020, so we will move out of the Villa as soon as possible. Staff has already been collecting information on items that were donated and will follow the wishes of donors regarding those items. Funds are not available to ship items. Donors may ask about specific items they gave by contacting John Fuller, Assistant to the Office of the President, at jfuller@btsr.edu.

More details about the process of bringing operations to a close will be posted on the BTSR website as they become available.

Information as of December 13, 2018