

# Seminary Cost Analysis for the Master of Divinity Degree

**Q. How can DBTS offer a quality seminary education at such an affordable price?**

A. Click [here](#), or look below, to see the straight forward answer!

| <b>AACCS Seminaries</b> <sup>1</sup>                   | Catalog        | Tuition rate <sup>2</sup> | Fees/sem. <sup>2</sup> | Cost/sem.      | Total cost, 3 yrs <sup>3</sup> |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, MI</b>        | <b>(08-09)</b> | <b>\$155</b>              | <b>\$70</b>            | <b>\$2,550</b> | <b>\$15,300</b>                |
| Heart of America Theological Seminary, MO <sup>4</sup> | (07-08)        | \$175                     | \$120                  | \$2,920        | \$17,760                       |
| Maranatha Baptist Seminary, WI <sup>5</sup>            | (08-09)        | \$240                     | \$160                  | \$4,000        | \$24,000                       |
| Bob Jones University (Seminary), SC <sup>6, 10</sup>   | (08-09)        | \$232                     | \$450                  | \$4,157        | \$24,942                       |
| Central Baptist Theological Seminary, MN               | (08-09)        | \$265                     | \$180                  | \$4,420        | \$26,520                       |
| Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary, PA               | (08-09)        | \$265                     | \$360                  | \$4,600        | \$27,600                       |
| Faith Baptist Seminary, IA <sup>10</sup>               | (07-08)        | \$320                     | \$200                  | \$5,314        | \$31,884                       |

| <b>Other Seminaries</b>                                | Catalog | Tuition rate <sup>2</sup> | Fees/sem. <sup>2</sup> | Cost/sem. | Total cost, 3 yrs <sup>3</sup> |
|--|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Temple Baptist Seminary, TN                            | (07-08) | \$200                     | \$240                  | \$3,440   | \$20,640                       |
| Central Baptist Theological Seminary, VA               | (07-08) | \$205                     | \$225                  | \$3,505   | \$21,030                       |
| The Masters Seminary, CA                               | (08-09) | \$260                     | \$255                  | \$4,415   | \$26,490                       |
| Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, KY <sup>7</sup> | (08-09) | \$346                     | \$235                  | \$5,771   | \$34,626                       |
| Baptist Bible Seminary, PA <sup>8</sup>                | (08-09) | \$380                     | \$432                  | \$6,512   | \$34,676                       |
| Dallas Theological Seminary, TX <sup>9</sup>           | (07-08) | \$360                     | \$180                  | \$5,940   | \$35,640                       |
| Westminster Theological Seminary, PA                   | (08-09) | \$385                     | \$30                   | \$6,190   | \$37,140                       |
| Denver Seminary, CO                                    | (07-08) | \$390                     | \$0                    | \$6,240   | \$37,440                       |
| Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, MI                      | (08-09) | \$405                     | \$430                  | \$6,910   | \$41,460                       |
| Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, IL <sup>10</sup>  | (08-09) | \$444                     | \$85                   | \$7,185   | \$43,110                       |
| Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, MA                | (08-09) | \$484                     | \$65                   | \$7,809   | \$46,854                       |

### **Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup> AACCS stands for the American Association of Christian Colleges and Seminaries, Inc. Additional information on this organization can be obtained at [www.aaccs.info](http://www.aaccs.info).

<sup>2</sup> All figures are based on rates posted on the institutional website as of July 17, 2008. They reflect the published rates in effect for the academic year listed above.

<sup>3</sup> These figures are based on tuition charges for a student taking sixteen (16) credits each semester for three years. The following expenses are not factored into the amounts shown: room and board charges (since many seminary students do not live in a campus setting); extra fees associated with initial application or graduation; books and syllabi; computer and software purchases; transportation; and personal living expenses.

<sup>4</sup> HOA operates on a trimester basis, requiring 24 credits per year for four years to earn the M.Div. Tuition and fees have been adjusted to a semester-based equivalent over a standard three year period.

<sup>5</sup> Maranatha recently transitioned from graduate school to seminary and will expand its program to include the M.Div. degree.

<sup>6</sup> The rate for a BJU B.A./B.S. grad to attend the seminary is \$174/hr x 16 = \$2,780 + 450 fees = \$3,230/sem x 6 = \$19,380.

<sup>7</sup> The SBTS tuition rate quoted is for non-SBC students. The rate for SBC students is ½ that amount.

<sup>8</sup> At BBS the last 22 credits for the internship program are charged at half the normal rate for tuition and fees.

<sup>9</sup> DTS does not offer the M.Div. degree. Rather they roll it into a comprehensive Th.M. consisting of 120 credit hours. The figures used show the cost to complete the first 96 credits equal to the M.Div.

<sup>10</sup> The per hour tuition rate was established by prorating the flat rate for full-time students, based on 16 credits per semester.

### **Documentation:**

This chart was updated in July 2008 and compares cost among selected seminaries. It is not intended to provide an exhaustive listing of all seminaries in the United States. The data contained here was gathered from each school's website. It is understood that schools modify and change information regularly. Students should consider many factors beyond financial costs when choosing a seminary. Other important factors to be considered when making a decision on where to attend seminary include: doctrinal position, philosophy of ministry, faculty, curriculum, library resources, and the quality of graduates produced.

**Q. How can DBTS offer a quality seminary education at such an affordable price?**

**A.** The cost to attend DBTS is remarkably low! M.Div. students may take course work during the 2008-2009 school year for only \$155 per credit hour. The rate for Th.M. students is just \$180 per credit hour.

There are two main reasons we can do this. First, we are a local church based seminary. **Inter-City Baptist Church, has demonstrated an incredible financial commitment to the seminary over the years.** As a result, every student receives an unwritten scholarship. It is just incorporated into the lower tuition level. The second reason we can keep prices so low is because of our limited overhead. Since we do not operate a college we do not need to maintain dormitories, athletic facilities or a cafeteria. Many other services are shared with our church, such as maintenance and the business office. **All of this adds up to a significant savings for our seminary students.**