

**Program of Study Learning Outcomes Assessment Report**  
Version 05.09.22

Assessment Cycle	2021-2022
Program of Study	Ministry
Department	Bible, Theology, & Ministry
Date of Departmental Approval	October 10, 2022
Name of Submitter	Joel Soza

*PLO data from the current assessment cycle (and relevant data from one or more prior years) for the program of study were distributed to departmental faculty on the date(s) below:*

**Data Distribution Date(s):** October 10, 2022

*The relevant group of instructors met on the date(s) below to discuss the data, identify strengths and challenges, formulate actions steps for responding to the challenges, and communicating strengths to relevant audiences.*

**Meeting Date(s):** October 10, 2022

**Participants** in the meeting(s) were: Joel Soza, Dave Williams, TC Ham, Drew Meziere and Marva Hoopes

**Mission Statement:** *Affiliated with the Evangelical Friends tradition, the Malone University Department of Bible, Theology, & Ministry is rooted firmly in the protestant evangelical heritage of the historic, ecumenical, and Trinitarian Christian faith. We affirm the authority of the Bible as God's Word and are committed to the saving mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. Our distinctive mission is to provide theological education to women and men, enabling them to deepen and clarify their understanding of the Christian faith, cultivate and increase their love of God, and respond obediently to Christ's call to faithfulness, discipleship, and ministry.*

**Program Goals** (these are broad goals rather than specific, measurable learning outcomes)

*Goal 1: Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of and ability to interpret and articulate the biblical story.*

*Goal 2: Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of and ability to articulate central themes in Christian history, theology, and ethics.*

*Goal 3: Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of and competence in the practice of Christian Ministry.*

*Goal 4: Students will cultivate habits of careful reading, critical thinking, research, writing, and speaking.*

**Same Program Goals, but with their Learning Objectives:**

Goal 1: Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of and ability to interpret and articulate the biblical story.

Learning Objectives: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 1A. The “grand drama” of the biblical story including key persons, events, and themes
- 1B. The historical, cultural, and literary contexts, which necessarily inform and guide biblical interpretation
- 1C. The theological unity of the Christian biblical canon.
- 1D. The ethical mandates of scripture in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ

Goal 2: Students will demonstrate a basic knowledge of and ability to articulate central themes in Christian history, theology, and ethics.

Learning Objectives: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 2A. The history and development of the classical theological tradition, including the development of the biblical canon
- 2B. Key persons, events, and theological developments associated with each of the standard divisions of Christian history (early, medieval, reformation/modern)
- 2C. The synthetic nature of the main foci of systematic theology, including the doctrines of scripture, revelation, God, creation, humanity, sin, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, Salvation, End times, etc.
- 2D. Engaging, profitably, with important thinkers and movements from the distant and more recent past when interpreting scripture, practicing theology, and promoting a distinctively Christian moral vision

Goal 3: Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of and competence in the practice of Christian Ministry.

Learning Objectives: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 3A. The Church’s mission and manifold ministries from within the context of the mission of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Additional Learning Objectives for Bible and Theology Majors: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 3B. A biblical theology acknowledging God as both subject and object of prayer and worship as foundational for the practice of Christian Ministry.
- 3C. The rudiments of either Hebrew or Greek phonology and grammar, and the ability to apply biblical language tools to research, translation, and exegesis for sermon preparation

Additional Objective for Christian Worship, Educational Ministries, Missions & Cross-Cultural Ministries, Pastoral Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Youth/Educational Ministries Majors: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 3D. The ability to develop, implement, lead, and evaluate a ministry in a specific context (depending upon the student's major) giving attention to all aspects of personhood integrating spiritual growth with social, moral, psychological, cognitive and physical development.

Goal 4: Students will cultivate habits of careful reading, critical thinking, research, writing, and speaking

Objectives: Specifically, students will demonstrate learning related to...

- 4A. Cultivating a faith that intentionally seeks understanding
- 4B. Thinking, reading, and writing critically
- 4C. Evaluating texts and other scholarly sources for their quality
- 4D. Learning to appreciate and grow through an engagement of diverse interpretive traditions and theological perspectives
- 4E. Communicating clearly in written and spoken form in order to lead, faithfully, in various Christian ministries

### **Strengths in Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

Wording of PLO for Strength #1: *4A Cultivating a faith that intentionally seeks understanding.*

*A total of 15 students were assessed with an embedded assignment that had a 9 point scale. All 15 students scored between 7-9 points, which yielded a 100% advanced scoring, while 0 were just adequate and 0 were inadequate.*

Wording of PLO for Strength #2: *1D Demonstrate the ethical mandates of scripture in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*A total of 11 students were assessed with a direct measure embedded assignment on a 9 point scale. 8 students scored advanced, 3 scored adequate, and 0 scored inadequate. The 73% advanced scoring was the departmental pre-set criteria for determining excellence in responding to*

*learning something that changed the way students understood an issue or a concept. This was reflective of the NSSE engagement indicator on reflective and integrative learning. The department met the NSSE benchmark here.*

## **Challenges in Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

*Wording of PLO for Challenge #1: 4D Learn to appreciate and grow through an engagement of diverse interpretive traditions and theological perspectives.*

*Female students have experienced some difficulty in obtaining internships and ministry positions due to many common perspectives in the church community that women do not belong in ministry, particularly where they might have pastoral responsibilities related to men. Also, some research into job opportunities in the real market has indicated that male language is often used in job postings and in assuming male leadership in primary church documents such as ministry manuals and constitutions and bylaws.*

## **Action Steps to Respond to Key Challenges**

*Bring awareness into the classroom by continuing to explore church primary documents and websites and by teaching key biblical texts which would have a supportive role of the place of women in ministry as well as provide explanations for the passages that appear to support the so-called “complementarian view.” Bring all adjunct professors up to speed on this issue.*

*A recent female student graduate has actually worked on a ministry manual to help train churches on the place of women in ministry in the local church. She may upon completion submit the manual to our department as a resource.*

*We shall continue to mentor and advise students on the status of the issue as it is experienced in the real world of ministry.*

## **Recording Strengths and Challenges for Institutional-Level Assessment**

Enter your mapping information in the [Mapping PLOs to MU Educational Goals](#) Google sheet

## **Naming and Submitting the Report**

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