

# Consumer Information Disclosure Form

(Information below represents data collected 1/1/2011 through 12/31/2011)

## Purpose of the Form:

This form provides basic information about the institution and its effectiveness. In it, you will find general information about the institution, a statement of our mission, basic program information, and statistical and testimonial data supporting our effectiveness.

## General Information:

*Name of Institution:* Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute

*Address:* 901 Commerce Street, Suite 500. Nashville, TN 37203

*Year Founded:* 1951

*First Accredited:* DETC – 1973

*Accreditation Expires:* 2013

*Executive Director:* Randal A. Williams, Ph.D.

*Accreditation(s) and Agency E-mail Contact Information:* Seminary Extension is accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council. Their address is: 1601 18<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 2, Washington, D.C. 20009-2529. Their Phone number is: 202-234-5100. Their web site address is: <http://www.detc.org>.

*State Approval and E-mail Contact Information:* We are authorized by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Their address is: 404 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243-0830. Their phone number is: 615-741-5293. Their web site is: <http://www.state.tn.us/thec>.

*Funding Programs:* Seminary Extension does not participate in any funding programs or offer any specialized funding options. Instead, we seek to keep the price as low as possible so that students can work toward their educational goals without going into debt or relying on governmental funding.

## Mission & Description:

*Institution Mission Statement:* The Mission of Seminary Extension is to provide theological education and ministry training of excellent quality to church leaders and members where they live.

*For us that means several things:* First, our courses are written by qualified Southern Baptists with doctorates and expertise related to the courses they write. Second, every course is designed to further personal spiritual development as well as provide a knowledge base and skills training for men and women who want to better serve Our Lord Jesus Christ through ministry in their local churches and communities. Finally, students may complete our courses on their own schedules and without having to leave their own homes.

*Areas of Special Focus:* Our courses focus on personal spiritual development in basic curriculum areas: Biblical Studies, Ethics/History/Theology, and Practical Ministry.

*Description of Institution:* We are a non-profit, non-degree granting institution that believes in furthering the kingdom of God through theological education and ministry training. All of our courses and programs are distance learning programs.

*Student Demographic Profile:* The oldest student to register for a course in 2011 was 92 years old. The youngest student to enroll in a course in 2011 was 17. The average student age for 2011 was 46 years old.

*Courses/Programs/Degrees:* Seminary Extension does not offer any degrees. However, we do offer students the opportunity to take individual courses or to enroll in one of our eight programs. As stated above, we do not require our students to enroll in a program. In fact, most of our students simply take individual courses, sometimes as few as one a year, as they see a need for personal development in a particular area. The following is a list of our eight programs and the approximate total costs including textbooks:

- Certificate in Church Work – 12 month program approximate total cost \$414.00
- Certificate in Bivocational Ministry – 18 month program approximate total cost \$1518.00
- Certificate in Lay Ministry Training – 18 month program approximate total costs \$1543.00
- Certificate in Women’s Ministry – 18 months program approximate total costs \$1612.00
- Diploma in Biblical Studies – 36 month program approximate total costs \$2622.00
- Diploma in Educational Ministries – 36 month program approximate total costs \$2772.00
- Diploma in Ministries/Pastoral Education – 36 month program approximate total costs \$2800.00

For more information on these programs, refer to our online catalog or contact us.

### **Success Indicators:**

#### *Course Completion Rate for Students:*

The average successful completion rate (grade of C or better) for all Seminary Extension courses for 2011 was 90% including students that were marked as Incomplete or Withdrawn. This figure does not include Non-Starts, which was .05%.

#### *Program Completion Rate for Students:*

Seminary Extension courses and programs are, in themselves, avocational in that they are NOT intended as licenses/certifications or preparation for license and certification exams. Whether our students complete one course or a program of courses, we believe that their biblical and theological knowledge, their spiritual lives and their ministry activities are enriched through the process.

The total students that were actively enrolled in a Seminary Extension program during 2011 was 94. Although most of our students were enrolled in three year programs, the total number of students that completed a program during 2011 was 47.

#### *Student responses to the following statements:*

- Achieved their learning goals: 93.57% said yes
- Would recommend the institution to a friend: 97.37% said yes
- Were satisfied with their studies: 98.54% said yes

## Other Success Indicators:

### *Student testimonies:*

If you really want to know what Seminary Extension students think about our courses and program, just ask them. The following are a few of the written testimonies we have received by email during the last few months.

Donny says: “the classes have helped me a lot to understand more about the Bible.” “I am gonna [sp] continue the classes if God is willing.”

Tommy says: “I praise God for the training I received through the Seminary Extension program & all those who made it possible. Briefly God call me to the ministry almost 10 years ago at the age of 47. At that time I had one son at Clemson and another in high school. I wanted to be obedient to God but I was torn between what to do & how to do it. Lacking college other than tech school I felt doomed as far as getting any seminary training. Personally I think the “best kept secret” of the Seminary Extension is a mistake...although I understand you don’t want to compete with the other seminaries without men like me knowing about the programs we are at a loss. True, I found out but it was accidental...my mother-in-law saw where a class was being offered at the local Baptist Association in her home town and I investigated. My pastor hadn’t even heard of the program when I asked him about it.

I wonder how many miss the opportunity to further their education by not knowing? I wish for the sake of men like me who are older and may not have the opportunity to attend one of the formal seminaries the decision would be made to ‘let the secret out.’

The training I received was excellent and a real blessing to me. Sadly men in my situation want to serve God but with churches demanding more & more education we struggle. Thankfully the Lord met my need...He always does. I’m envious of pastors who have more education than I do but God has a place for all of us.”

Dan says: “I did receive my Bi-Vocational Certificate in Pastoral Ministry about 4-5 years ago (?) It is "proudly displayed" in my office at church. Thank you for the support your Group gave me!”

The above testimonies are but a taste of what we hear on the phone, in e-mails and as we attend Southern Baptist Convention events. If you want more information, or if you would like to submit a personal testimony regarding Seminary Extension, you can contact us using the information on the home page of the website. Blessings,

Randal Williams  
Director of Seminary Extension