

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (ATS)

In accordance with the [2021 CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition](#), Procedures-B.11, this summary provides the reason(s) for the recognition decision by the CHEA Board of Directors.

Profile of Accrediting Organization

Type of Accreditor: Institutional

Number of Institutions: 259

Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation

Accredits free-standing seminaries and academic units of larger institutions in the United States and Canada that offer post-baccalaureate degrees in professional and academic theological education. (2015)

CHEA Recognition Information

History: Initial recognition by CHEA in January 2001
Recognition for up to 10 years, January 2012

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 24, 2022

Decision: The CHEA Board of Directors awarded continuing CHEA-recognition for a term of seven-years with an Interim Report due at the midpoint of the recognition term (December 1, 2025).

Summary of Prior Recognition Decisions

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 23, 2012: The CHEA Board of Directors awarded continuing recognition for the maximum term of 10 years. The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review at least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

ATS demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

Additional Determination: ATS is required to provide a report, due in one year, on the implementation of accreditation standards or policies that require institutions or programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement, as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(1), 2006 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures).