

Statement of Educational Effectiveness

Anderson University School of Theology and Christian Ministry

Fall 2024

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry (SOTCM) at Anderson University (Anderson, IN) educates students for a life of faith and service in the church and society. Toward this end, we are preparing women and men at the undergraduate and graduate levels to serve in a variety of ministry settings.

In order to stay on mission and course correct as needed along the way, the SOTCM measures a variety of factors including things like:

- Student satisfaction with both individual courses and also university and departmental processes
- Academic achievement in ministry preparation areas such as exegesis and demonstration of content area understanding (New Testament, Old Testament, Church History, etc.)
- Retention rates
- Faculty qualifications for specific teaching assignments
- Time to degree/program completion
- Job placement rate and job satisfaction (as available)

The evaluation of program effectiveness is a changing and growing process. While consistency across years is helpful for monitoring trends, measuring something simply for the sake of measurement is not a fruitful practice. The process of evaluation must shift and grow just as academic programs and university procedures should morph to meet the needs of both students and the Church.

Every May (beginning in 2024), the SOTCM faculty evaluates both the list of evaluation measures as well as the data and outcomes revealed in order to make changes and updates. This will involve both evaluating the *process* of assessing effectiveness and also considering the actual *measures* and *activities* designed to impact effectiveness positively.

This public statement is reviewed each October (starting in 2024) by the dean of the College of Christian Ministry and Music, Theatre, & Dance as well as key stakeholders like department faculty and the Seminary Committee of the Anderson University Board of Trustees. Updates are made at that time to the statement and also to practice and procedures prior to the official publication of the public statement as part of the ATS ARF process each December.

In 2025, results from some of our measures of effectiveness will be added to the university website as part of our ongoing evaluation and improvement processes.

Following this statement, there is a working list of information tracked by the SOTCM as part of its assessment process.

Working List of Data Sources for Annual Statement of Educational Effectiveness

Course Evals (SOTCM) -

- “Overall I rate this course as excellent”
- “Overall I rate this professor’s instruction as excellent”

Faculty holding terminal degree in areas of teaching

Adjuncts holding terminal degree in areas of teaching

Retention Rates - Students with “positive outcome” at term 4 (term 5 for Summer term starts) - graduation or ongoing enrollment.

Job Placement/Job Satisfaction data - graduation (ATS GSQ data to be added in 2025) and alumni (anecdotal)

SOTCM Departmental Surveys for incoming and graduating students

MTS Exam Pass Rate

Faculty Vote of Confidence on the overall effectiveness plan - starting Spring 2025

Assessment Plan Goals and Outcomes

Active terms to degree completion - by degree

ATS Strategic Information Report

ATS Peer Profile Report

Entering Student Questionnaire (ESQ) and Graduating Student Questionnaire (GSQ) data from ATS (2025)