



The Association of Theological Schools
The Commission on Accrediting

June 7, 2024

ATTN: Luz Robles Bermudez
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry in Puerto Rico, St. Albert the Great
Apartado Postal 1968
Bayamon, PR 00960-1968
via email only

Dear Director Robles Bermudez,

The Board of Commissioners met in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on June 3-4, 2024, and included on its agenda Graduate School of Theology and Ministry in Puerto Rico, St. Albert the Great's comprehensive visit and the resulting report by the evaluation committee.

After reviewing the information in light of the pertinent Commission [Standards](#) and [Policies and Procedures](#), the Board voted:

1. To reaffirm the school's accreditation for a period of ten years, until 31 July 2034, with the next comprehensive evaluation visit in spring 2034.
2. To approve the following educational offerings:
 - a. Degree programs:
 - Master of Divinity
 - Master of Arts in Biblical Studies
 - Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology
 - b. Distance education: Comprehensive
 - c. Additional locations: None
3. To affirm these distinctive strengths to be maintained during the next period of accreditation:
 - a. The clarity of the university mission that extends throughout the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
 - b. The development and implementation of a comprehensive, clear, systematic, and sustainable strategic plan that attends to institutional and educational priorities and evaluation.
 - c. The library's theological collection and archives that, through careful curation and attention to the history, theological distinctiveness, and ministry in Puerto Rico, effectively resources its students and graduates.
 - d. A qualified, competent, well-respected, deeply dedicated, and highly collegial faculty.

- e. The extraordinary way in which diversity is lived and celebrated in the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry and throughout the university.
4. To highlight the following issues needing special attention during the next period of accreditation:
- a. To ensure that supervisors of practical experiences in the school's professional degree programs are appropriately qualified, professionally developed, and regularly evaluated (see Standard 4.4).
 - b. To keep handbooks current and up to date for students, faculty, and staff (see Standards 7.6, 8.5, and 10.2).
 - c. To develop an effective enrollment strategy (see Standard 7.2).
5. To require the following reports to address areas needing improvement and/or further information:
- a. To require a report by the 1st of November 2025, regarding a core of employees sufficient in number to achieve the school's mission. The report will address the spoken need for a coordinator of the Graduate School, a role parallel to that present in each of the other schools within the College of Liberal Arts, Humanities, and Education, but which has never been appointed for the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (see Standard 10.1).
 - b. To require a report by the 1st of November 2026, demonstrating attention to all four dimensions of student learning and formation (intellectual, human, spiritual, and vocational) for lay students in the school's curricular and co-curricular offerings (see Standard 3.1).

Actions taken during the 2024 summer meeting of the Board of Commissioners are effective as of **June 4, 2024**.

Please contact me directly at mutch@ats.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mutch
Senior Director of Accreditation

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