A place like Southern Evangelical Seminary that prepares students for [apologetics] study is a valuable place to go. … You are going to need this discipline.

– RAVI ZACHARIAS, SES Advisory Board, Founder of Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
I can’t recommend SES any more highly. … There’s no better place to come to get to know God and make Him known.

– Frank Turek,
SES Alum & Adjunct Professor,
President of CrossExamined.org
EQUIPPING YOU TO ENGAGE

Why are you a Christian? Why should anyone believe the Christian world view is the only correct one? With nearly one quarter of American adults identifying as “nones” and sexual, moral, and theological confusion abounding, how do you evangelize the lost and equip the saints in a post-Christian society? Christ-followers are called to combat false ideas that stand in the way of the Gospel (2 Cor. 10:5; 1 Peter 3:15).

To effectively engage with the culture, you will need a deeply integrated understanding of theology, philosophy, and apologetics—the bedrock of a degree from Southern Evangelical Seminary (SES).

EFFECTIVE, INTEGRATED TRAINING

Co-founded in 1992 by Drs. Norman Geisler and Ross Rhoads, SES offers students something that cannot be found anywhere else—accredited resident and online education programs that take an integrated approach to theology, philosophy, and apologetics. Every class at SES, regardless of the subject, is interwoven with every other to form a complete and systematic view of reality and essential Christian doctrine that will better equip you to engage the false ideas of today’s culture with the truth of the Gospel.

Located in Charlotte, NC, the mission of SES is to train men and women, based on the inerrant and infallible written Word of God, for the evangelization of the world and defense of the historic Christian faith. Dr. Hugh Ross, SES adjunct professor and Reasons to Believe president, says, “I thank God for SES because their apologetics program is practical, is biblically based, and is balanced with evangelism.” Our deeply integrated approach will not only enable you to lovingly and persuasively proclaim and defend the Gospel in an increasingly hostile culture but will also enrich your own grasp of the “faith once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 3).

Choose from several master’s and doctoral degrees, a B.A. degree, and for-credit certificates, all offered online or on campus. You will get the preparation you need to minister in a variety of contexts from faculty and staff that tailor-fit your studies.

Over the years, it has become increasingly clear to me that the way we will spell evangelism, discipleship, missions, and Christian education in the 21st century is apologetics. Put simply, apologetics means ‘loving people enough to answer their honest questions.’ Among evangelical institutions, SES uniquely infuses classical apologetics and philosophy throughout each of our programs to serve this end.

Since its founding in 1992, SES has maintained its dual commitment to evangelism and apologetics. Hundreds of SES graduates are proclaiming and defending the Christian faith from the pulpit, the mission field, on campus, and in the business world. Will you be next?

Dr. Richard D. Land, SES President
MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN
CHURCH MINISTRY

- 60 Hour Seminary Degree
  Be prepared to engage the culture as well as progress to more advanced degrees like the Doctor of Ministry.

- Flexible Course Delivery
  Learn in a way that best fits your busy schedule whether on campus, online, or via live-stream learning.

- Be Equipped for Your Calling
  This degree is ideal for those preparing for:
  • Pastoral Ministry
  • Youth Ministry
  • Missions Work

DEGREE OBJECTIVES
1. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, including a synthetic development of each of sixty-six books of the Bible.
2. Demonstrate a general knowledge of Systematic Theology, especially in relating the major biblical doctrines to current cultural and apologetic issues.
3. Demonstrate an extensive knowledge and practice of Ministry and Missions in the context of the church in pastoral or non-pastoral capacity.
4. Demonstrate a general knowledge of Historical Theology, especially the development of each of the major doctrines from Pentecost to the present.
5. Demonstrate a basic knowledge in Christian Apologetics and New Religious Movements.
6. Do further graduate work if they so desire.
7. Evidence an increasing likeness to Christ as manifested in love for God, love for others, and evidence of the fruit of the Spirit.
8. Develop a deep commitment to reach people from widely variant socioeconomic strata with the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ.
9. Love and serve people in whatever spiritual, moral, or physical condition they meet them and to seek to show them God’s love and truth.
10. Develop a growing commitment to the local church, especially in regard to worshiping God and serving His people.
11. Communicate the truth of God effectively in an inter-cultural context, either in a pastoral or non-pastoral position.
12. Communicate the truth of God effectively in an evangelical Christian church ministry, especially in regard to leading and teaching a congregation or other group in growth, maturity, and outreach to the world.

SES provides a truly unique opportunity to examine the evidence for Christianity. It’s accessible, engaging, and relevant. If you want to become a good Christian Case Maker, SES was designed for you!

– J. WARNER WALLACE,
SES Adjunct Faculty, Cold-Case Detective, Sr. Fellow at the Colson Center
Thank you so much for putting together a program that is both intellectually challenging and applicable in the contemporary landscape. Joining SES has been the highlight of my academic career!

– KRISTEN DAVIS,
SES Ph.D. Student, Founder of DoubtlessFaith.com
SES fully understands the complex demands on our students, so we have created seminary options for busy schedules. We have also priced our degrees below the national average so our students receive an outstanding education at an exceptional value.

While we strongly encourage on-campus learning, we understand the tech-driven culture in which we live. Hence, every certificate, B.A., and M.A. degree can be completed entirely online (doctoral programs do have limited on-campus requirements). Online students have the option to take courses in a true asynchronous online format, or they can choose to live-stream the actual on-campus classes. Our live-streaming format allows students to participate in the classroom without ever stepping foot on campus; all you need is a computer or mobile device with a strong internet connection, headphones, webcam, and a microphone.

Classes are offered in traditional semester format, eight-week short terms, and week long fall, winter, spring, and summer modules. Currently, all live classes take place in the evening, making it convenient to pursue a degree while also still working a “day job.”

PURSUING TRUTH, LOVING GOD

In “The Eminence of Teaching,” Étienne Gilson says, “The good teacher then loves to teach because he loves to impart to his pupils the very best thing there is in him, namely, intellectual life, knowledge, truth. … The highest reward of teaching is the joy of making other minds similar, not indeed to ourselves, but to the truth which is in us.”

This idea aligns with the philosophy of education at SES. The goal of the SES faculty is to cause the student to discover truth in whatever context this discovery applies: biblical studies, theology, philosophy, or apologetics. The ideal student produced by SES will possess a love of the truth and the pursuit of the intellectual life, coupled with a love for God and growth in godly character. In so doing, SES will have prepared its students to defend the historic Christian faith and evangelize the lost.
SES is focused on equipping modern believers with classical Christian thinking to more effectively proclaim and defend the Gospel.

– NORMAN GEISLER, SES Co-founder & President Emeritus
SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS
In addition to our competitive tuition costs, several needs-based scholarships are offered each year. SES is also approved to enroll eligible VA students. We choose not to accept federal financial aid primarily because we encourage our students to accrue as little debt as possible.

We also have several ministry partnerships that allow students affiliated with those ministries to receive tuition discounts (see www.SES.edu for details). Those interested specifically in campus apologetics ministry may consider applying for the Ratio Christi Missionary Apologist Training Fellowship, which offers a partially scholarshipped education and specific Ratio Christi missionary training. Ratio Christi is a campus apologetics alliance that was originally birthed out of SES and focuses on establishing campus apologetics clubs on college and university campuses. Call for details, (704) 847-5600 x216, or email admissions@ses.edu.

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION
Southern Evangelical Seminary is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e–mail: info@tracs.org], having been awarded Reaffirmation II of its Accredited Status as a Category IV institution by TRACS Accreditation Commission on November 1, 2016. This status is effective for a period of ten years. TRACS is recognized by both the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).
Apologetics wasn’t a side issue. It was the actual essence of the ministry I was doing. …

I’m finding out more and more how important it is to be trained in order to pick up on these philosophical problems to answer the real question that’s at hand.

— ANTHONY MILLER, SES Student