

Reformed Theological Seminary

JACKSON



RTS

JACKSON



A person in a dark suit and backpack is walking away on a paved path that curves through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage. The trees are covered in red, orange, and yellow leaves, and some leaves have fallen onto the path. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

Preparation for a Lifetime of Gospel-Centered Ministry

**Our world is fallen.
Lives are broken.
People are hurting.
Are you called to help?**

Biblical Fidelity

Before you have a ministry, you must first have a message. Almost half a century ago, Reformed Theological Seminary was created to prepare men and women for a lifetime of Gospel-centered ministry by holding firm to the inerrancy of Scripture. Today, when many question the authority and place of Scripture, RTS continues unwaveringly to maintain that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired, authoritative Word of God, our only rule for faith and practice. As such, the Bible is at the center of our curriculum. It directs, informs, and undergirds everything that we do and teach, for it is through the written Word of God that we come to know the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.

At RTS Jackson, we teach you how to minister the truth of God's Word in a meaningful way to the downcast and brokenhearted. In the course of your studies, our prayer is that you, too, will mature in Christ—that you will find your sin more hideous, your Savior more beautiful, the Gospel more profound, and the privilege of ministry more exhilarating. Through this, you will likely find yourself becoming more and more of what it means to be a living realization of our seminary's motto: A mind for truth. A heart for God.

OUR PROGRAMS

MDIV Degree: The Master of Divinity is especially designed to prepare you for pastoral ministry in a rigorous 106 semester-hour degree typically completed in 3 or 4 years.

MFTC Degree: The Master of Arts in Marriage & Family Therapy and Counseling is a 69 semester-hour degree typically completed in 24 months to train for counseling ministry, and in the process, prepare to become professionally licensed as an LPC or LMFT. (Three-year track available.)

MA Degree: The Master of Arts is a 66 semester-hour degree typically completed in 2 years. The 36-hour core establishes a solid academic foundation in biblical, theological, and historical studies. 30 hours of electives provide maximum flexibility for students to shape their coursework to fit their needs.

DMIN Degree: The Doctor of Ministry is a 30 semester-hour post Master of Divinity degree that can be completed through periodic week-long intensive coursework while remaining in full-time ministry elsewhere.

Certificate Program: The Certificate Program is an extremely flexible 32 semester-hour program typically finished within a year. This is for those interested in building on a solid biblical foundation for the Christian Life.

Commitment to the Reformed Tradition

The Reformed Tradition is a faithful guide to what the Bible teaches in the unfolding story of redemption as God calls his people to Himself. In many ways the heart of the Reformation (thus the ‘Reformed’ in our name, Reformed Theological Seminary) can be summarized with two ideas: (1) we are saved by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone, and (2) Scripture alone is our ultimate authority.

Calvin, Luther, Knox, Spurgeon, Edwards, Owen, Hodge, and many others have shaped our understanding of the Reformed Tradition and the doctrines of grace in the past. Today, men like R.C. Sproul, John Piper, Tim Keller, Mark Dever, Al Mohler, and our own Ligon Duncan are championing these same doctrines of grace.

At Reformed Theological Seminary, all faculty members hold to the Reformed Tradition as summarized by the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechism. No matter what curriculum or class you choose—whether Genesis to Deuteronomy, Pauline Epistles, Christology, Fundamental Therapy Skills, Evangelism, or Preaching—the material will be taught from a Reformed perspective, ensuring that everything you learn fits together in a coherent, unified manner—from language classes to preaching; from exegesis to pastoral counseling.



rts.edu/jackson/faculty
rts.edu/jackson/WWIL



“We have interns in student ministry, in college and graduate school ministry, in young adults and discipleship, in Christian education, in pastoral care, in missions and outreach, and in the Senior Minister’s office. Though our interns have specific responsibilities in these different areas, we also want them to be exposed to a wide range of pastoral responsibilities. We want to equip them with knowledge, practical skills, and the opportunity to make some mistakes along the way so that they are more effective when they go into Gospel ministry.”

—Ligon Duncan, Senior Pastor,
First Presbyterian Church, PCA
RTS Jackson Faculty



“When I left Brazil, I left home. I left my friends, church, and family behind, and

I thought it would be difficult to make new friends in America.

But it wasn't; the beautiful thing about RTS is that here you have a family of worshipers that serves as a picture of the body of Christ who embraces and welcomes us in such a special way. Here we found a taste of our heavenly family.”

— Matheus Santos, MDIV '14



RTS Jackson Distinctives

GLOBAL VISION

Heaven will be full of people from every tribe, tongue, and nation. With our missional emphasis, our location in multi-cultural west Jackson, and with the many international students living and studying here at RTS Jackson, we will help you see the Gospel through global lenses. Whether you are called to do ministry in an urban setting or a rural context, across the street or around the world, you will be stretched to think about God's kingdom in new and different ways.

MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that ministry must first be modeled to those called to minister. The faculty at RTS Jackson are all first-rate scholars who, though they are well respected in their field, are here primarily because they have a calling to teach you, their student. Since seminary education is not merely an information download, but a Gospel transformation of the Truth lived out in our lives, our faculty invest themselves in you personally. Through weekly prayer groups, planned or spontaneous lunches with students at Patterson's Porch, coffee together in our bookstore or at the local Starbucks, or time in their homes—our faculty takes teaching beyond the classroom and into your lives.

DIGGING DEEP IN THE BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

One scholar has quipped that “Reading the Bible in a translation is like kissing your new bride through a veil.” At RTS, we believe that you will best understand the riches of God's Word of Truth through its original languages. To that end, students in the Master of Divinity curriculum learn Greek and Hebrew- not as some distant tool to be used occasionally, but as the vehicles through which the depths of God's Word becomes real. Though this might seem overwhelming to some, our Summer Institute of Biblical Languages becomes a learning community where we will not only teach you the languages, but will be with you and help you until you gain familiarity in them. More than a few of our students have been surprised at their own ability to grasp what had previously been so intimidating.



Community: Living, Studying, Playing, Eating, and Worshipping Together

A COHORT EXPERIENCE

Easily accessible, reasonably priced housing in a small southern city helps attract people wanting a full-time seminary experience. Unlike many seminaries in larger cities where the majority of students commute to take classes on a part-time basis, most of our students attend full-time. This gives our student body a distinct sense of unity as members of a team. In other words, at RTS Jackson you generally move through your studies as a cohort—the same group of students from beginning to end. And through the process, close friendships often form for life.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Let's face it, graduate school is hard. It's supposed to be. You'll read thousands of pages, write hundreds of pages, and be challenged to think critically in order to understand God's Word and world more comprehensively. But would you want it any other way? At seminary, you're developing tools for a lifetime of ministry. God calls us to serve him with excellence and humility, so we push you hard in order to bring out your best. Ministry is not a calling to laziness. Paul compares it to the life of a soldier, an athlete, or a farmer (2 Tim 2:3-6). Your preparation will cost much, but the payoff over a lifetime will be incalculable.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Where you live impacts the quality of your life, the people you know, and the things you do. All of our students—whether single, newly married, or married with children—have the opportunity to live together in community. And that shapes how you learn. As you live next door to others who have also moved to Jackson for ministry preparation, you will develop friendships that will last a lifetime. You will think together, play together, study together, work together, and share life with fellow believers. Seminary housing at RTS Jackson provides all of our students with an affordable place to live in a Gospel-centered community.



rts.edu/jackson/housing



“Not only are the faculty world class theologians, giving us the very best scholarship and theological training available, but they do it with a pastor’s heart and they never forget that the whole point of all of this is the glory of Christ’s Church.”

— Tom Von Stroh, MFTC '13, MDIV '15





“The faculty take time to invest in our lives—not only who we are as students, but who we are period. They ask about our lives, our struggles, our needs. They not only fill the role of professor but they come alongside you as a fellow brother or sister in Christ who truly cares about you and wants to help you grow.”

— Stephanie Hathorn, MFTC '12



GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The RTS Jackson community gathers every week in beautiful Grace Chapel for worship through singing, prayer, and most importantly, the proclamation of the Word of God. This is a continual reminder of who we are—redeemed sinners under the Lordship of the one true God. In addition, most students voluntarily gather weekly in faculty-led prayer groups. Through them, you will help anchor your soul in the midst of your studies while deepening your relationships with faculty members and your fellow students.

STUDENT CENTER

Our Student Center, Patterson’s Porch, serves a home-cooked style meal for lunch Monday through Thursday when school is in session. Here students, faculty, and staff often eat together while discussing everything from theology to the latest movies. Occasionally, the Porch hosts visiting missionaries, pastors, or other recruiters who offer a free lunch in exchange for telling our students about various ministry opportunities around the world. It is usually a lively place to relax and hang out with your family and friends.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

The Student Center also houses an area dedicated to our Women in Ministry fellowship. This student group is organized by the women on our campus for the women on our campus, whether single or married. Together with several faculty and staff wives, they meet one night a week to fellowship and grow together. It is a place open for all women students and student wives to enjoy one another as they worship, meet in small groups for discussion and prayer, and learn about the practical aspects of ministry from a woman’s perspective. Babysitting is normally provided.



rts.edu/jackson/chapel
rts.edu/jackson/WIM

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

At RTS Jackson, our athletic facilities are outstanding. Tennis courts, a racquetball court, a regulation-sized, lighted soccer field, a full-sized gym, a work-out room (complete with weights, treadmill, and an elliptical machine—all with 24-hour biometric access), as well as ping-pong, and foosball tables, encourage our students to play together when time allows. Plus there's weekly basketball and soccer, and seasonal Ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, and flag football. Sports are enjoyed regularly here and often happen spontaneously. Many of our students also enjoy running—either on campus or in the local neighborhoods. A few swim at the local YMCA or the Healthplex (at a discounted student rate), and there's an inexpensive golf course about three miles down the road. Playing together is not only fun, but helps balance the intensity of studies—all while forming strong bonds of friendship.

ON-CAMPUS CLINIC

Our Marriage & Family Therapy and Counseling students are required to complete 500 hours of face-to-face client work before graduation. These students complete the majority of their clinical hours in our on-campus, professional counseling clinic. More than 1,000 clients are served during a typical year in the clinic's fifteen counseling rooms, giving our students real-life training as they provide practical, biblical help in a hurting world.



rts.edu/jackson/athletics
rts.edu/jackson/clinic

LIBRARY

- 56,000 sq ft
- 215,000+ volumes
- Rare Book Room with 3000+ volumes
- Online services
- 230 seats
- 2 classrooms and 12 scholar's rooms
- Databases (ATLA; Am Theological Library database and Academic Journals online)



“As I’ve started clinic working with clients, it’s been a very soul baring experience. It’s brought me to a different understanding of myself and how God works in the brokenness of his people and how he uses those things to revive people and breathe life into them. And it’s been very humbling and expansive in my view of him and other people.”

— Betsy Bowers, MFTC '12, MA '13





Jackson, Mississippi, is known as
**“The Crossroads
of the South”**

Jackson is nestled halfway between Memphis and New Orleans and halfway between Dallas and Atlanta. Jackson is a family-friendly city where conservative Christian values are still the norm, and even with a population of more than 500,000, Jackson maintains the warmth and charm of a small town.

- Jackson is ranked 3rd out of America's 100 largest metro areas for the best **“Bang For Your Buck”** city according to *Forbes* magazine.
- **Cultural.** Mississippi's musical roots include Delta Blues, Gospel, and Jazz, not to mention Elvis Presley. Jackson hosts the International Ballet Competition every four years and is home to Ballet Magnificat, a world premier Christian Ballet Company. Many great writers grew up in Mississippi including William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and John Grisham. The Blues Trail and the Museum of Art are other points of cultural interest.
- **Historical.** Civil War and Civil Rights history abound in Mississippi. In Vicksburg, less than an hour to our west, the National Military Park details the Battle of Vicksburg, complete with battleships from the period. The Civil Rights Movement Driving Tour has 55 different points of interest including Medgar Evers' home and the Greyhound Bus Station associated with the famous Freedom Riders. The beautiful historical Natchez Trace Parkway that runs 444 miles between Natchez, MS and Nashville, TN runs past Jackson, and of course, the mighty Mississippi River (which is only 45 minutes away) has a history all its own.
- **Educational.** Jackson is home to five colleges: two Christian (Belhaven University, Mississippi College), two HBCUs (Jackson State University, Tougaloo College), and Millsaps. There is a strong homeschooling community in Jackson, as well as a variety of excellent Christian schools (K-12). In addition, Jackson provides many fun educational outings like the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Museum of Natural Science, the Agricultural & Forestry Museum, the Petrified Forest, the Planetarium, and the Zoo.



As one of the most affordable places in the country to live, Jackson provides a wide array of cultural, historical, and educational opportunities without the hassle and traffic of larger metropolitan areas. The greatest strength of Jackson, however, is our vibrant churches.



*“I chose RTS
Jackson, in part,
because of what
God is doing in this city.
Through Redeemer Church
and ministries like RUF at
Jackson State University and
Mission Mississippi, you can
see God redeeming the painful
history of racial injustice in
the South and bringing about
Gospel healing and reconcilia-
tion in the body of Christ.”*



— Jemar Tisby, MDIV '14





CHURCH & MINISTRY *Opportunities*

A TASTE OF JACKSON AREA CHURCHES & MINISTRIES

The area in and around Jackson is privileged to have an abundance of Bible-believing churches. Many of these embrace the work of the seminary by providing opportunities for our Master of Divinity students to complete their 400-hour field education requirement.

- **First Presbyterian Church**, one of the flagship congregations of the PCA, has been a steadfast witness to the Gospel for more than 165 years and supports more than 190 missionaries. Ligon Duncan is the Senior Pastor.
- **Redeemer Church**, planted in 2004, is a multiethnic PCA congregation vibrantly proclaiming that in the Gospel Christ reconciles us to God and also reconciles diverse people to one another. Mike Campbell is the Senior Pastor.
- **Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church** offers a service in Spanish and has a ministry to special needs children, individuals, and families. Carl Kalberkamp is the Senior Pastor.
- **Reformed University Fellowship at Jackson State University** is the first RUF at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Elbert McGowan (MDIV '08, pictured left) is the Campus Minister.
- **Mission Mississippi** encourages relational unity in the body of Christ across racial lines so that communities in Mississippi can better understand the Gospel message. Neddie Winters is the President.

INTERNSHIPS & PREACHING THE CIRCUIT

We are grateful to have such a unique setting in which to provide our students with the opportunity to develop their skills as they learn to preach, teach, and minister God's Word effectively.

- **Internships.** 18 PCA churches alone offer more than 40 paid internships, and several include manses.
- **Preaching the Circuit.** There are also many small churches within a three-hour driving radius that rely on our students to fill their pulpits weekly. And there is a much larger list of churches that invite our students to fill their pulpit on an occasional basis.



rts.edu/jackson/churches

rts.edu/jackson/circuit



“Redeemer is a community church for the city. The diversity of our community and immediate context really shapes our multi-ethnic vision. We are a Presbyterian church and we are reformed, so we emphasize the centrality of preaching and the significance of the word of God as we reach across racial and socioeconomic lines with the Gospel. Redeemer has proven that you can no longer say that black people and white people can't worship together.”

— Mike Campbell, Senior Pastor,
Redeemer Church, PCA

“One of the best things RTS Jackson affords their MDIV students is the opportunity to preach on the circuit. I preached almost 100 times in 27 different churches in Mississippi.”



— Ben Kappers, MDIV '11

Visit

RTS JACKSON

Pictures in a brochure only begin to tell the story of what God is doing in our midst. If you want a true sense of what it would be like to join our community to prepare for a lifetime of Gospel-centered ministry, come visit!

We can put you up in the White House or in campus housing and you can sit in on classes, meet professors, visit with students, and worship with us in chapel. We want you to experience first-hand what it would be like to be a student at RTS Jackson for the next season of your life. Call or email today to set up your visit.

Reformed Theological Seminary

5422 Clinton Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39209

800.543.2703
601.923.1600

rts.edu/jackson
admissions.jackson@rts.edu





REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



A mind for truth. A heart for God[®]

Reformed Theological Seminary

5422 Clinton Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39209

(800) 543.2703
(601) 923.1600

Web: rts.edu/jackson
Email: admissions.jackson@rts.edu

