



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

September 22, 2016

Daniel O. Aleshire, Executive Director
Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275-1103
ats@ats.edu

Dear Mr. Aleshire,

I am writing to inform you of my decision on the renewal of the recognition of the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Department of Education staff and the National Advisory Council on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) have each made recommendations to me. These recommendations were made under Sections 114 and 496 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, and pursuant to relevant statutory and regulatory provisions.

Both the staff and NACIQI recommended that I continue ATS' recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time for a period of five years.

As required, I considered the full record and the transcript of the agency appearance before NACIQI on June 24, 2016.


Under the applicable law and regulations, and the record before me, I am satisfied that accreditation by ATS is a required element in enabling the institutions the agency accredits to establish eligibility to participate in programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education under the HEA, and I concur with the recommendations of Department staff and NACIQI. Accordingly, I renew the Department's recognition of ATS as a nationally recognized accrediting agency with the clarified scope of recognition as detailed below for five years from the date of this letter.

Scope of recognition: The accreditation of theological schools and seminaries, as well as schools or programs that are parts of colleges or universities, in the United States, offering post baccalaureate degrees in professional and academic theological education, including delivery via distance education.

www.ed.gov

We appreciate the work of ATS to improve the quality and success of U.S. postsecondary education. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Vadehra', written in a cursive style.

Emma Vadehra
Chief of Staff