

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION

To protect Georgians by operating secure facilities and providing opportunities for offender rehabilitation.

Tyrone Oliver, Commissioner

Alan Watson, Chief of Staff

Laterra Davis, Assistant Commissioner Inmate Services Division

Chaplaincy Services is a unit of the Inmate Services Division which provides and facilitates pastoral care access for offenders and staff, as appropriate. Chaplaincy Services strive to promote and establish a community of peace, hope, safety, and mutual respect and ensure the offender's First Amendment religious rights.

CHAPLAINCY

- Coordinate and provide worship services for multi-religious and culturally diverse groups
- Provide pastoral counseling to offenders and staff
- Provide crisis intervention counseling
- Facilitate religious instruction among various faith groups
- Coordinate and facilitate behavioral change groups
- Provide consultation and training regarding the spiritual needs of offenders
- Staff recruits, trains, and coordinates community volunteers
- Assist offenders in their reentry effort by matching them with community service providers
- Provide support to correctional staff and their family members

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers make up an integral part of chaplaincy services. They often assist as mentors, educators, counselors, tutors, musicians, librarians, and ministerial leaders. The volunteers also address areas ranging from spiritual development, character building, values, parenting, worship, life skills, AA/NA, communication skills, anger management, financial planning, and career development.



APPLICATION SERVICES

To apply, please contact the chaplain at the facility where you wish to serve. You will be required to complete a volunteer application online, consent to a criminal history background check through the Georgia Crime Information System (GCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and complete the mandatory Pre-Service Orientation (PSO)/ Volunteer Certification Training. Once all steps are completed, you will coordinate your assignment with your facility chaplain.

CONNECT WITH US!



NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (NOBTS)

WHITWORTH EXTENSION CENTER

Established in 1995 at the Louisiana State Penitentiary Angola Extension Center, provides offenders the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Christian Service.

STRUCTURE

NOBTS currently offers an associate degree in a two-year cycle and will be expanding to a four-year bachelor's degree to 20 offenders per class. The classes are taught and graded on a college level; therefore, failure to maintain a C average will result in academic probation and eventual expulsion from the program.

There are four classes: Marriage and Family Counseling, Introduction to Preaching, Church History, and Evangelism. The program also consists of eight core competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Heritage, Servant Leadership, Interpersonal Relationships, Spiritual & Character Formation, Disciple Making, Life Skills, and Worship Leadership.

REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the program, offenders must have a high school diploma or GED, a minimum of five years left to serve upon completion of the program, be disciplinary free for 12 months, have a staff recommendation, and be willing to participate.

INFORMATION

All NOBTS coursework is provided through Leavell College. Students must complete 126 hours of academic study, attend eight semesters (two per year), and attend classes or study for eight hours a day. Tutor Programs are also available for advanced students to assist offenders with academic support and assist instructors with grading.



This center was established in 2006 as a part of the North Georgia Hub of NOBTS. The facility began its first class in March 2008. In December 2009, the students were awarded associates degrees in Christian Ministry, and in December 2010, 25 students graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Ministry. Graduates of the program have been assigned to 12 prisons throughout the GDC system to assist and participate in Chaplaincy, Faith and Character, and Re-entry-Based opportunities within the offender population. In August of 2020, Truett McConnell University in Cleveland, GA assumed responsibility for the seminary program to administer the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Christian Studies at Phillips State Prison. NOBTS will continue to be a partner with GDC for Whitworth Women Facility.



This center was established in 2019 at Whitworth Women's Facility as part of NOBTS. The facility began classes in April 2019. The NOBTS program at WWF offers offenders a 4-year, 126 Semester hours Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Service.

TRUETT MCCONNELL UNIVERSITY

PHILLIPS EXTENSION CENTER

Truett McConnell University (TMU) is a private Christian liberal arts and sciences university operated under the auspices of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia (DBA Georgia Baptist Mission Board). The mission of the University is to equip students to fulfill the Great Commission by fostering a Christian worldview through a biblically-centered education in a family friendly environment.

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

STRUCTURE

The Phillips State Prison site is an extension of the institutional mission. Students pursuing a BA in Christian Studies degree are being equipped as “missionaries” who will eventually be redistributed to prisons throughout the state of Georgia, essentially becoming co-laborers with the chaplains in those prisons so as to fulfill the Great Commission. The degree program emphasizes a broad general education foundation followed with classes in biblical studies, biblical languages, theology, and practical ministry. The students should expect a rigorous academic environment in which they can mature in discipleship and scholarship.

REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the program, offenders must have a high school diploma or GED, a minimum of five years left to serve upon completion of the program, be disciplinary free for 12 months, have a staff recommendation, and be willing to participate.

INFORMATION

All TMU coursework is provided through the School of Theology and Missions. Students must complete 125 hours of academic study, attend eight semesters (two per year), and attend classes or study for eight hours a day. Tutor Programs are also available for advanced students to assist offenders with academic support and assist instructors with grading.