

APPENDIX 1
Rationale for Creating Two New Prefixes for BIBD Classes
BIBH, BIBP, & BIBT—Document 13

Currently, the Department of Bible, Missions & Ministry has a “BIBD” prefix that is entitled “Theology” but that also houses the department’s Philosophy offerings. The BIBD prefix traces back historically to a time in which classes with that prefix were taught with a focus on church doctrine (or even dogma), hence the “D” in the prefix.

Two problems exist with this prefix. First, some BIBD classes are more appropriately called “Theology” rather than “Doctrine,” in that they focus on teachings of the church in a more descriptive and less prescriptive way. To wit: a key course in this prefix for Bible majors is BIBD 491, which is explicitly called “Theology.”

Second, the classes that are cross-listed with Philosophy (PHIL) are more focused on philosophy than theology (and certainly more than on prescriptive doctrine). So, the prefix BIBD does not really apply to philosophy classes. Further, there is an administrative problem, in that students who want to take philosophy courses through the Bible department can have difficulty distinguishing between BIBD courses that cross-list in PHIL and those that do not.

As a result, we propose dividing the BIBD prefix at the undergraduate level into two new prefixes: BIBP (denoting “Philosophy”) and BIBT (denoting “Theology”). The current BIBD courses will be divided between these two new prefixes, and all BIBP courses will also cross-list with PHIL.

(The course change forms in this dossier include individual requests for course number changes to these new prefixes.)