



Proposals for SBL meeting program units, whether new or seeking renewal, will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

1. Evidence of advancing biblical scholarship or the relation of that scholarship to contiguous disciplines
2. Evidence of sufficient interest to sustain the program unit for the proposed period
3. Significance of topics of program unit beyond its immediate constituency
4. Evidence of need for program unit and relationship to existing program units
5. Mechanisms for evaluation and self-criticism, including critical assessment of the program unit's own method(s), biases, and perspectives.
6. Quality, commitment, and diversity of program unit's proposed leadership.
7. Evidence of involving a diverse constituency (e.g., gender, racial and ethnic backgrounds, levels of professional status, institutional affiliations) and commitment to variation in methodological approaches
8. Plans for refereeing proposals, including student member paper proposals
9. Plans, when appropriate, for communication of steering committee between Meetings

The criteria for renewal shall generally be the same as those for establishment, though achievement (rather than promise) is relevant. The SBL Annual and International Meeting Program Committees evaluate all unit proposals and renewals collectively and comparatively.