



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Locations: ● Dallas

Hours: 35 Languages: English

PURPOSE:

The Doctor of Philosophy degree program is designed for those who are capable of doing research at the highest level, with a view to becoming scholars and educational leaders in various fields of Christian ministry.

Goals

Educational Goals

To enable students to:

- develop skills of critical thinking and reflection;
- acquire a suitable mastery of the content of their chosen field of study;
- evaluate major issues and scholarly views within their academic discipline;
- engage in reliable independent research, using relevant primary and secondary sources; and
- contribute to biblical and theological research.

Spiritual Goal

To enable students to:

- manifest traits of personal integrity, character, and spirituality.

Ministry Goals

To enable students to:

- communicate effectively through writing and teaching; and
- demonstrate ability and acceptability for Christian ministry.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must (1) hold or be completing the final term of coursework for the Master of Divinity degree (MDiv), Master of Theology degree (ThM), Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree, or a qualifying Master of Arts (MA) degree; (2) have an academic record that demonstrates superior ability; (3) complete the psychological assessment (arranged with the director of Counseling Services); (4) satisfactorily pass a written examination in the field of their intended major and an oral examination of their Christian experience, scholarship, theology, achievement, and purpose; and (5) show evidence that they:

- have saving faith in Christ;
- are of proven Christian character;
- are endowed with appropriate spiritual gifts; and
- adhere to the following doctrines: the authority and inerrancy of Scripture, the Trinity, the full deity and humanity of Christ, the spiritual lostness of the human race, the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and the physical return of Christ.

Applications for the doctoral program must be received by the Admissions office by January 1 for admission in the following fall term or by September 1 for admission in the following spring term. Supporting materials (e.g., references, transcripts, completed psychological assessment) must be received by January 15 and September 15, respectively. The completed applications are then considered for preliminary acceptance by the faculty of the appropriate academic department and by the PhD Studies Committee.

Depending on their prior academic preparation, students enter the PhD program either at Stage 1 or Stage 2. Applicants entering at Stage 1 must have attained a bachelor's degree (BA, BS, etc.) and the Master of Divinity degree (MDiv), the DTS Master of Arts degree (with a major in OT, NT, or TS), or their educational equivalents. Applicants must have an academic record that demonstrates superior ability and shows promise of success in doctoral studies. In the absence of a master's thesis, applicants must provide a research paper previously written at the master's level that shows an acceptable level of competency in research and writing. After completing Stage 1, applicants must complete requirements for entrance into Stage 2.

Applicants entering at Stage 2, in addition to a bachelor's degree, must have attained the Master of Theology degree (ThM) or Master of Sacred Theology degree (STM) or their educational equivalents. For admission to Stage 2 of the PhD program, the ThM or STM degree must be a minimum of one year of full-time study (approximately 30 credit hours), or in the case of DTS graduates, the four-year ThM degree. Applicants entering at Stage 2 must give evidence, either by transcript or by examination, of at least two years of study in biblical Hebrew and two-and-a-half years of study in New Testament Greek. Any deficiencies in these areas must be made up without credit in the PhD program. Applicants must have an academic record that demonstrates superior ability and shows promise of success in doctoral studies. Applicants must also present an acceptable master's thesis, or, in lieu of a master's thesis, a research paper previously produced for a graduate-level course. This paper should demonstrate research skill in one's academic discipline, clarity of organization, logical presentation, attention to detail, and writing ability at a level suitable for entrance to a PhD program.

Course Requirements

Students in the PhD program may major in either the Division of Biblical Studies or the Division of Theological Studies. For students admitted with only the MDiv degree, the program requires two stages. Stage 1 consists of 26 credit hours of coursework, and Stage 2 requires an additional 35 hours of doctoral work. Students with the ThM or STM degree must complete only Stage 2 of the program, or 35 credit hours of coursework, involving at least three terms of study.

Qualifying exams for Stage 2 assume completion of the 26 hours of Stage 1. However, students are eligible to take the exams for Stage 2 during their final term before completion of Stage 1 if they are making satisfactory progress on the thesis. Qualifying exams for Stage 2 must be completed successfully before continuing in the doctoral program. Students may attempt the Stage 2 qualifying exams a maximum of two times.

Stage 1

Stage 1 requirements for students admitted with the MDiv degree consist of 26 hours of coursework. Students are required to pass a proficiency exam in Greek grammar and syntax, complete NT5104 and NT5105 (6 hours), pass a proficiency exam in Hebrew grammar and syntax, and complete OT5103 and OT5104 (6 hours). The student must also complete a major of 11 hours in a Biblical Studies or Theological Studies department, and complete either EML5215 or WM5410 (3 hours). After completion of the 26 hours of Stage 1, the student must pass the PhD written and oral qualifying exams.

Stage 1 courses are master's-level courses with increased requirements consistent with the demands of doctoral study.

Stage 1

Hebrew Exegesis	6
(after passing a Hebrew proficiency exam)	
OT5103 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction I (3)	
OT5104 Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament Introduction II (3)	
Greek Exegesis	6
(after passing a Greek proficiency exam)	
NT5104 Introduction to New Testament Exegesis (3)	
NT5105 Exegesis of Romans (3)	
Education Theory	3
EML5215 Teaching in Christian Higher Education (3)	
or	
WM5410 Theological Education in Intercultural Contexts (3)	
Major in Biblical Studies or Theological Studies	11

26

Stage 2

Stage 2 requirements consist of 35 hours of coursework. All Biblical Studies majors are required to take 9 hours of coursework in designated divisional courses. Students must take BS8101 Old Testament Backgrounds (3 hours), BS8102 New Testament Backgrounds (2 hours), BS8103 Hermeneutics (3 hours), and BS8104 Research Procedures (1 hour). In addition to these required divisional courses, students in Biblical Studies also must satisfy the requirements of their concentration, whether Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies, or Bible Exposition.

Stage 2—Biblical Studies Major Old Testament Concentration

For a concentration in Old Testament Studies, students must take OT8101 Old Testament Criticism (2 hours), OT8102 Historical Hebrew Grammar (3 hours), OT8103 Advanced Old Testament Biblical Theology (3 hours), and two of the following exegetical courses: OT8104 Exegesis in the Torah (3 hours), OT8105 Exegesis in the Prophets (3 hours), and OT8106 Exegesis in the Writings (3 hours). Students must also complete (1) a course in Biblical Aramaic, either prior to beginning Stage 2 of the PhD program or as an elective course in their Stage 2 program; (2) 9 hours of electives; and (3) OT8108 Old Testament Dissertation (3 hours).

Required Divisional Courses	9
BS8101 Old Testament Backgrounds (3)	
BS8102 New Testament Backgrounds (2)	
BS8103 Hermeneutics (3)	
BS8104 Research Procedures (1)	
Required OT Departmental Courses	8
OT8101 Old Testament Criticism (2)	
OT8102 Historical Hebrew Grammar (3)	
OT8103 Advanced Old Testament Biblical Theology (3)	
Select two of the following courses:	6
OT8104 Exegesis in the Torah (3)	
OT8105 Exegesis in the Prophets (3)	
OT8106 Exegesis in the Writings (3)	
Electives	9
OT8108 Old Testament Dissertation	3
	35

Stage 2—Biblical Studies Major New Testament Concentration

For a concentration in New Testament Studies, students must take NT8101 History of New Testament Interpretation and Criticism (3 hours), NT8102 New Testament Theology (3 hours), 17 hours of electives, and NT8108 New Testament Dissertation (3 hours).

Required Divisional Courses	9
BS8101 Old Testament Backgrounds (3)	
BS8102 New Testament Backgrounds (2)	
BS8103 Hermeneutics (3)	
BS8104 Research Procedures (1)	
Required NT Departmental Courses	6
NT8101 History of New Testament Interpretation and Criticism (3)	
NT8102 New Testament Theology (3)	
Electives	17
NT8108 New Testament Dissertation	3
	35

Stage 2—Biblical Studies Major Bible Exposition Concentration

For a concentration in Bible Exposition, students must take BE8101 Argument of Old Testament Books (3 hours), BE8102 Argument of New Testament Books (2 hours), BE8206 Seminar on Torah and the Former Prophets (3 hours), BE8211 Seminar on the Latter Prophets (3 hours), BE8216 Seminar on the Writings (3 hours), BE8221 Seminar on the Gospels and Acts (3 hours), BE8226 Seminar on the Pauline Epistles (3 hours), BE8231 Seminar on the General Epistles and Revelation (3 hours), and BE8108 Bible Exposition Dissertation (3 hours).

Required Divisional Courses	9
BS8101 Old Testament Backgrounds (3)	
BS8102 New Testament Backgrounds (2)	
BS8103 Hermeneutics (3)	
BS8104 Research Procedures (1)	
Required BE Departmental Courses*	23
BE8101 Argument of Old Testament Books (3)	
BE8102 Argument of New Testament Books (2)	
BE8206 Seminar on Torah and the Former Prophets (3)	
BE8211 Seminar on the Latter Prophets (3)	
BE8216 Seminar on the Writings (3)	
BE8221 Seminar on the Gospels and Acts (3)	
BE8226 Seminar on the Pauline Epistles (3)	
BE8231 Seminar on the General Epistles and Revelation (3)	
BE8108 Bible Exposition Dissertation	3
	35

*Course substitutions are available with departmental permission.

Stage 2—Theological Studies Major

Students majoring in Theological Studies must take BS8104 Research Procedures (1 hour), 18 hours in required Theological Studies courses, 13 hours of electives, and TS8108 Theological Studies Dissertation (3 hours).



Required Divisional Course	1
BS8104 Research Procedures (1)	
Required TS Departmental Courses	18
TS8101 Seminar on Hermeneutics and Historiography (3)	
TS8102 Seminar on Theological Method (3)	
TS8103 Seminar on Modern Theology and Theologians (3)	
TS8104 Seminar on Evangelicalism (3)	
TS8106 Seminar on the History of Doctrine (3)	
TS8107 Seminar on Theological Systems (3)	
Electives	13
TS8108 Theological Studies Dissertation	3
	35

Additional Requirements

All PhD students are required to demonstrate ability to read scholarly French and German. Information on the dates when the examinations in these languages must be taken is given in the Doctor of Philosophy Handbook, which is available at dts.edu/phd.

Only courses taken after receiving the prerequisite degree (MA, MDiv, ThM, or STM) can be credited toward the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Normally work done in other institutions may not be credited toward Stage 2 of the PhD degree. A minimum grade of B- must be received in every course credited toward graduation and also on the dissertation.

Residential Requirements

The program normally includes at least three years of study, a minimum of two years of which must be spent in residence in Dallas. All work leading to the PhD degree must be completed within eight years from the time of matriculation.

STM Completion

Students who fail the qualifying exams on completion of Stage 1 of the PhD program may choose to complete the STM degree by finishing any requirements that remain for that degree (please refer to the STM degree program section of this catalog for more information). In most cases, this will require only 6 more hours of coursework.

Students may transfer a maximum of 6 hours into the STM program, even if additional transfer was considered toward Stage 1 requirements of the PhD program. For questions about STM completion, please contact the Advising Center.

Admission to Candidacy

Students may be admitted to candidacy for the PhD degree by action of the faculty only after (1) completing all residence requirements leading to the degree; (2) passing written and oral examinations in the fields

within the major; (3) meeting foreign language requirements and (4) evidencing, to the satisfaction of the faculty, proven Christian character, ability, and acceptability for Christian ministry, and adherence to the following doctrines: the authority and inerrancy of Scripture, the Trinity, the full deity and humanity of Christ, the spiritual lostness of the human race, the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and the physical return of Christ.

Students in the PhD program must also provide (1) a written letter of church involvement from the local church the student has regularly attended while in seminary; and (2) a reference form completed by a pastor or spiritual overseer.

Dissertation Requirements

Students must register for and complete a dissertation of between 50,000 and 75,000 words on an approved subject. Details on the procedures and deadlines for the dissertation subject proposal, syllabus, first and final drafts, and oral defense are provided in the Doctor of Philosophy Handbook.

Graduation Requirements

Candidates in the PhD program must have completed 61 credit hours of coursework (35 for students entering with a ThM or STM degree), including the dissertation and any other requirements that may have been assigned.

The completion of minimum requirements does not automatically qualify students for the degree. They must evidence, to the satisfaction of the faculty, proven Christian character, ability and acceptability for Christian ministry, and adherence to the doctrines stated in the Admission to Candidacy section.

Diplomas will not be awarded, transcripts issued, or placement assistance provided unless all financial obligations to the seminary and/or the student loan program are current.





PHD STUDIES CHECKLIST

Admission Process

- **Stage 1**
 - Application form
 - Psychological Assessment
 - Approval by the PhD Studies Committee
- **Stage 2**
 - Application form
 - Psychological Assessment
 - Interview with the department coordinator
 - Interview with the director of PhD Studies
 - Preliminary approval by the PhD Studies Committee
 - Written qualifying exam (by third Monday of February or November)
 - Oral qualifying exam (by third Monday of March or November)
 - Approval by the PhD Studies Committee



Period of Coursework

- First language exam (must be passed before enrollment in the third term)
- Second language exam (must be passed before enrollment in the fifth term)
- Meet with the department coordinator for discussion of dissertation topic
- Meet with a Turpin Library staff consultant for discussion of dissertation topic proposal
- Dissertation topic approval by the PhD Studies Committee



Post-coursework

- Notify PhD Studies office of intention to take the written comprehensive exams (at least two weeks in advance)
- Written comprehensive exams (begin any time after September 1 and complete within 15 calendar days before March 15)
- Oral comprehensive exam (within 15 days of completion of written exams)
- Submit application for admission to candidacy to the Registrar's office

Dissertation and Graduation

All submissions of dissertation material must be registered with the PhD Studies office. The dates within the parentheses below indicate the dates of submissions in relation to graduation—the first date is for May graduation, the second is for August graduation, and the third is for December graduation.

- Register for the dissertation course
- File the syllabus
- Meet with the dissertation committee
- Submit the first two chapters (September 15, January 1, or May 1)
- Submit the entire first draft (December 1, March 15, or July 15)
- Meet with the dissertation committee for the oral defense of the dissertation (on or before February 15, May 30, or September 30)
- Submit the preliminary final draft (March 15, July 1, or November 1)
- Submit the final draft (April 15, August 1, or December 1) and pay the filing fee at the PhD Studies office
- Publish the dissertation through University Microfilms International