Doctor of Philosophy Program
(Cordova Campus)

Description of the Doctor of Philosophy Program (PhD)

The doctor of philosophy degree equips students for advanced scholarship, independent research, effective teaching and preaching, and service in church-related ministries that benefit from advanced Christian scholarship. The doctor of philosophy program involves a minimum of two years of study beyond the master of divinity degree or its equivalent. Students entering the program should be aware that three or more years are frequently needed for completion of the degree requirements, depending upon individual circumstances.

The doctor of philosophy program consists of graduate seminars, an examination covering each seminar as it is completed, comprehensive written examinations, directed reading and research, teaching under faculty supervision, the writing of a dissertation, and an oral examination covering the dissertation and related fields. The program is specifically oriented toward preparing students for teaching in universities and seminaries; for specialized church, missions, and denominational leadership; and for scholarly writing.

Educational Objectives of the Doctor of Philosophy Program

In addition to the program objectives set forth in connection with the master of divinity program, the doctor of philosophy program is designed to provide opportunity for students to develop in the following advanced disciplines:

Creative Scholarship

The doctor of philosophy program seeks to guide students to develop the capacity for critical evaluation and quality in research which produce creative scholarship and contribute to the field of theological knowledge and literature.

Independent Research and Writing

The doctor of philosophy program seeks to guide students to develop competence in principles of independent research and to achieve a proficiency in the techniques of scholarly writing.