Doctor of Ministry Program  
(Cordova Campus)

Description of the Doctor of Ministry Program (DMin)

The doctor of ministry degree is an advanced professional degree designed to enable students to practice ministry at a high level of competency. The program builds on the general theological preparation of the master of divinity, master of missiology or master of Christian education degrees and moves toward a concentration which combines theory and significant experience. The professional character of the degree is designed to prepare students to be effective in the practice of ministry rather than preparing for research and teaching vocations. There are three functional majors in the program: practical theology, missiology and Christian education. The practical theology major has three functional tracks: pastoral ministry, biblical counseling, and expository preaching. The missiology major includes two functional tracks, international missions, and North American missions.

The program of study integrates the classical disciplines of biblical, historical, theological, social, and linguistic studies with those significant tasks of one involved in the practice of ministry. It assists those whose responsibilities range broadly in pastoral, missionary, or administrative ministries by enhancing both competency and excellence in the practice of ministry.

Educational Objectives of the Doctor of Ministry Program

The doctor of ministry program is expected to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To enable participants to develop a theology of ministry which is responsive to both the leadership of God and the needs of the church, or ministry in which they serve;
2. To satisfy the demand for continuing education in ministry;
3. To renew the personal life of faith and servanthood of the participant;
4. To stimulate continued growth in biblical and theological foundations;
5. To develop skills that facilitate intellectual inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking;
6. To enable participants to communicate the truth of God's Word effectively with greater competency in the total practice of ministry;
7. To enable those serving in mission ministries to gain competence in the practice of mission ministries; and
8. To enable the participant to acquire a sensitivity for the needs of society, thus preparing the participant for excellence in ministry leadership in a complex and changing world.

**Modified Cohort System of Study**

A cohort system of study operates on the principle that groups of people who share a common goal or experience are better able to learn and to finish a course of study within a defined period. Building on that principle, the system of study employed by the DMin program at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary consists of a modified cohort system designed to take three years to finish, with a five-year maximum.

The modified cohort system will operate as follows. Prior to entry into the Program, every student must take Graduate Research & Writing (offered in January and June). Upon satisfactory completion of the course and all the prerequisites required for admission, the student will receive an acceptance letter and will begin seminar work in September of the same year. From that point on, the student will follow the prescribed curriculum according to one of three tracks, practical theology: pastoral ministry/biblical counseling/expository preaching, missions: North American/international, or Christian education.

**Cohort System Advantages**

By utilizing the modified cohort system various advantages accrue:

- Ensures interaction with teachers from various fields of study.
- Allows for interaction between students in various fields of study (core courses involve students from all three tracks).
- Serves to provide built in incentives for members to finish together.
- Promotes camaraderie and fellowship within the specialty cohort groups while still allowing for interaction with students in other tracks.
- Increased numbers in the seminars provides for a wider variety of inputs from the students, enhancing the learning environment.
- Both on-campus and online offerings for the international missions track provides flexibility and convenience for overseas students.

**Admission Requirements and Procedure for the Doctor of Ministry Program**

**Undergraduate Degree Requirements**

Applicants must have a bachelor of arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.
Seminary Degree Requirements

Applicants must have completed the master of divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Other two-year master’s programs may be considered, but the applicant must complete the master of divinity required courses of the Seminary to enter the program. In such cases, the Seminary does not grant the master of divinity degree but establishes its equivalency. An applicant must have maintained an average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 in his master of divinity or equivalent work.

Field Experience Requirements

Applicants must have two years of ministry experience. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

International Students

The DMin program does not fulfill the residential requirement of an F-1 Visa. Applicants from international seminaries offering the master of divinity or its equivalent may be admitted to the doctor of ministry program on the same basis as students from national seminaries, provided they score a minimum of six hundred on the paper-based TOEFL examination or one hundred on the internet-based TOEFL. Refer to Admission Procedure for International Students in this catalog.

The Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

An applicant must complete all procedures and requirements for approval by the Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry Committee. Applicants will receive notice of approval from the dean of the DMin program. The application must be complete and approved by May 1 to enter the program in the fall.

Applicants must perform satisfactorily on the Miller Analogies Test to demonstrate competency to function at the graduate level. The Miller Analogies Test can be taken at any of the regional testing centers. Evaluation of test results is consistent with the practice of similar educational institutions and is in conformity to performance scales published in the Miller Analogies Test Manual and corroborating research reports. The MABTS code number, 1750, must be used to report Miller Analogies Test Scores.

Essay

An applicant must submit a ten-page essay which includes the following components:

1. Three pages of autobiography;
2. One page giving a brief personality sketch;
3. Two pages describing the applicant’s vocational experience and ministry intentions; and
4. Four pages relating to the applicant’s personal view of Christian ministry.
The essay is to be written in accordance with *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed., by Kate Turabian (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

**Conditional Admission**

An applicant may be admitted on a conditional basis for the first year of study in the doctoral program at the discretion of the Doctor of Ministry Committee. The dean of the DMin program will notify the applicant of the reasons for any conditional status, specify any requirements that must be fulfilled, and state any limitations to be imposed upon the projected seminar load. Students admitted conditionally are evaluated at the conclusion of the first year of study, and the Doctor of Ministry Committee governs the student's continuance in the program. Exceptions to the published admission requirements for the doctor of ministry program must be approved by the faculty.

**Time Limit for Approved Applicants**

Applicants for the doctor of ministry program who do not enroll in a seminar within one year from the date of approval must submit a new application to the program.

**Completion Requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Program**

**Completion Time and Continuous Enrollment**

The degree requires thirty-two semester hours of doctoral-level work above the master of divinity or its equivalent. The student must complete a two hour Graduate Research & Writing seminar, 6 four-semester hour seminars, plus the major project (six-semester hours of credit). The program is designed to be completed in three years with a five year maximum. Continuous enrollment is required.

Student will take three seminars (twelve-semester hours) during a twelve month period. A load of twelve semester hours per year is considered full-time status for loan verification or for Department of Veterans Affairs purposes.

**Doctor of Ministry Courses**

Each seminar in the doctor of ministry program has the following three components:

1. Preseminar reading of a minimum of two thousand pages from a seminar bibliography provided to the student at the time of preregistration;
2. A one-week intensive seminar; and
3. A postsession project which applies the theory of the reading and seminar sessions in the student's ministry setting.

**The Major Project**

In addition to the completion of 24 semester hours of seminar work, students must complete a major project. The major project is a supervised ministry project, which
may be done in a local church or ministry setting, or it may be a research project. Details are provided in the *Doctor of Ministry Handbook*.

The student will be advanced to candidacy status after the satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examinations, all academic course work, the approval of the prospectus for the major project, and the completion of any practical missions deficiencies. Students initiate the process of advancement by submitting the prospectus for the major project to the DMin office. The dean of the DMin program will give a formal notice of advancement to candidacy when all requirements have been satisfied and the Doctor of Ministry Committee has given approval.

**Comprehensive and Oral Examinations**

After the satisfactory completion of all seminars, the student will participate in written examinations. They will cover each of the seminars taken (reading, intensive session, post-seminar written paper). Details are provided in the *Doctor of Ministry Handbook*.

In addition, after the submission and completion of the ministry project or research project, the student must present and orally defend the project. The student should discuss the inception, justification, development, implementation, evaluation, and impact of their project. This professional and creative presentation is considered a major component in the overall grade of the project.

**Overview of the Doctor of Ministry Curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Research &amp; Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Major (six seminars)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate Research & Writing**

A prospective doctor of ministry student must complete this course before beginning seminars in order to demonstrate proficiency in research and writing. Graduate Research & Writing will be taken in January or June prior to fall enrollment. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

*Graduate Research & Writing must be satisfactorily completed before other seminars are taken. Any exception must be approved by the dean of the program.*

**Cost of the Program**

Tuition and fees for the doctor of ministry program are covered in the Fees and Expenses section of the catalog and in the *Doctor of Ministry Handbook*. 
Interruption of Study

An interruption of study status may be requested when a student experiences a natural disaster or major medical problem, (i.e., death in the family, major illness, cancer treatment, etc.). Interruption status can only be granted by the Doctor of Ministry Committee. It will not be granted for minor illness.

Acceptable Grades

Only course work with a grade of B or above (3.0 on a scale of 4.0) will satisfy the requirements for this degree. If a student receives a B- in the course, the student need not retake the seminar but may be assigned remedial work by the professor that will, upon successful completion, bring the student’s grade to a B (90). If the grade in two seminars is lower than B, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

Cohort System Academic Calendar/Curriculum

The seminar schedule below provides a visual perspective of the entire DMin Program.

Seminar Schedule for September 2014 Cohort

Practical Theology Track (Pastoral Ministry)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- September 22–26, 2014: Relationships/Spiritual Formations (DM 8620)
- January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
- April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Pastoral Ministry and Care (DM 8200)
- September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
- January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Preaching (DM 8100)
- April 11–15, 2016: North American Church Growth (DM 8250)

Practical Theology Track (Expository Preaching)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
- April 13–17, 2015: History of Preaching (DM 8115)
- September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
- January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Preaching (DM 8100)
- April 11–15, 2016: Contemporary Preaching (DM 8121)

Practical Theology Track (Biblical Counseling)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- June 16–20, 2014: Theology of Counseling and Critical Stages (DM 8872)
- June 23–27, 2014: Counseling Theories and Issues (DM 8873)
• September 22–26, 2014: Relationships/Spiritual Formations (DM 8620)
• April 13–17, 2015: Change, Power, and Conflict (DM 8820)
• TBA: Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling (DM 8871)
• TBA: Marriage and Family (DM 8874)

Missions Track (North American Missions)

• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting (DM 8470)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• January 11–15, 2016: Mission Administration and Supervision (DM 8410)
• April 11–15, 2016: North American Church Growth (DM 8250)

Missions Track (International Missions)

• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting (DM 8470)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• April 11–15, 2016: Cultural Anthropology (DM 8570)

Christian Education Track

• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Change, Power, and Conflict (DM 8820)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Teaching (DM 8160)
• April 11–15, 2016: Development and Administration of Education Ministry (DM 8170)

Doctor of Ministry Seminars

Practical Theology Track

The practical theology track consists of three functional majors: pastoral ministry, biblical counseling, and expository preaching. Core courses for pastoral ministry and expository preaching include the following:

DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers.
The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

**DM 8720—Administration/Finance**
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field. This will include program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns and the issues that drive the budget.

**DM 8100—Interpretation/Preaching**
This seminar focuses on the task of preaching the Word of God. It assumes that preaching correctly comes only from understanding the Word correctly. Accordingly, the seminar has two focuses: hermeneutics and homiletics. The hermeneutics component has a threefold emphasis: a brief synopsis of the history and basic issues in interpretation, a survey of contemporary issues in interpretation, and a thorough discussion of proper principles and methodologies involved in interpretation. The goal is to preach biblical passages in a manner consistent with God’s intent. The homiletics component deals practically with sermon preparation and delivery in the light of the hermeneutical reference points. Specific texts are analyzed, and sermon guidelines are discussed. This component emphasizes the communication and application of the Word of God today.

**DM 8150—Leadership Development**
This seminar focuses on pastoral leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

The last two seminars will be individualized according to pastoral or expository preaching major.

Students who are enrolled in pastoral ministry will take the following:

**DM 8200—Advanced Pastoral Ministries and Care**
The purpose of this seminar is to provide an increased understanding in the field of pastoral care. Emphasis is given to pastoral care as a ministry of teaching, preaching, and counseling. The seminar integrates biblical, historical, and psychological perspectives in pastoral understanding and care of persons.

**DM 8250—North American Church Growth**
This seminar focuses primarily on evangelism from a church growth perspective. Methodologies which are currently producing church growth are presented and evaluated. Models of evangelistic ministry are examined.
Students who are enrolled in expository preaching will take the following:

DM 8115 – The History of Preaching
The goal of this seminar is to provide a historical overview of preachers and preaching. Particular emphasis will fall upon the spiritual lives of great preachers and their homiletical works.

DM 8121 – Contemporary Preaching
This seminar seeks to provide the student with an overview of contemporary preachers and their methods of preaching. Students will learn some of the latest means and methods of preparing and delivering sermons.

Students who are enrolled in biblical counseling will take the following six seminars:

DM 8871 – An Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling
This seminar is a foundational course dealing with the need for and the fundamentals of biblical counseling. Attention will be given to an understanding of what nouthetic counseling means and how it differs from the prominent secular and religious counseling models. In addition, the course will address the key elements of the counseling process including data gathering, questioning, homework, giving hope, methods of change, and the role of the Holy Spirit in counseling. Other topics include the sufficiency of Scripture, self-esteem, and counseling failure.

DM 8872 – The Theology of Counseling
This seminar will deal with the importance of sound theology as it relates to the counseling process. The class will survey the entire scope of theology as it relates to counseling issues and process. The importance of solid exegesis and hermeneutics will also be discussed. Additionally, students will examine the process of training others to be biblical counselors.

DM 8873 – Counseling Theories & Issues
The seminar will begin with an overview of the history and current state of the modern biblical counseling movement. Included will be a survey and critique of many Christian counseling teachers, philosophies, and organizations with a special focus on the dangers of integrating secular psychological concepts. Other topics will include legal issues in counseling, counseling in the local church, evaluating counseling resources, the value and process of certification in biblical counseling, and the critical stages in the progression of typical counseling cases.

DM 8874 – Marriage and Family Counseling
The seminar consists of an examination of the biblical concept of marriage and the specific Scripture passages that relate. The student will be challenged to lead couples to biblical solutions to marriage conflict. Specific topics include communication, the purpose of marriage, gender roles, the sexual relationship, adultery, finances, raising children, and the dynamics of counseling couples. In addition, the course will include a study of the relevant Scripture passages dealing with the issue of divorce and remarriage with the goal of leading the student to a biblical view of the issue and
an application of that view to counseling situations. The course concludes with an examination of specific counseling cases in a church setting.

**DM 8620 – Relationships/Spiritual Formations**
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

**DM 8820 – Change, Power, and Conflict**
This seminar focuses on methods and approaches for effectively managing change, power, and conflict within the context of the local church. This will include a study of the effects of change on people and the church. Ways to diffuse the negative reactions people have to change will also be discussed to help leaders make needed changes without raising resistance or conflict. The issue of power will also be explored so church leaders better understand the people dynamics within a church that drive it. biblical ways of responding to and handling conflict will also be discussed.

**Missiology Track**

There are two functional majors in the missiology track of the doctor of ministry program. One is for persons involved in international missions and the other for those involved in North American missions. Core courses for both functional majors include the following:

**DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations**
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

**DM 8720—Administration/Finance**
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field, including program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns, and the issues that drive the budget.

**DM 8470—Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting**
The first section investigates the major concepts and essential principles of church growth thinking, including multi-individual conversion, the harvest principle, sociological influences on church growth, and the movement of God in church growth. The second section examines strategies and methods of planting indigenous churches.
DM 8150—Leadership Development
This seminar focuses on leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

The last two seminars will be individualized according to North American or international missions major.

Students who are enrolled in international missions will take the following:

DM 8420—Missionary Principles and Practices/Issues in Missiology
The first section studies the elements of life and work on the mission field. Special attention is given to developing contextualized models of ministry to meet the changing paradigms of missions in the twenty-first century. The second section examines current issues and global trends that impact missions theory, methodology, and strategy.

DM 8570—Cultural Anthropology
This seminar is an introduction to the basic concepts of cultural anthropology that have practical relevance to effective missionary communication of the gospel in a culturally heterogeneous world. The course examines marriage, family, and kinship structures, authority and decision-making structures; status, role and function; the life cycle and rites of passage; and other factors relevant to meaningful public confession of Christ and church membership in traditional societies. Special attention is given to the significant features of animism and traditional folk religions, with a focus upon the manner in which traditional religious expressions underlie and permeate even the more developed formal religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. It is designed to equip practicing cross-cultural missionaries for more effective evangelism and church development among un-reached people groups.

Students who are enrolled in North American missions will take the following:

DM 8410—Missions Administration and Supervision
Designed to help students prepare for or enhance ministry in denominational missions ministry, this seminar examines principles of administration of missions programs and supervision of volunteers and missions personnel in a missions setting. It primarily addresses the role and ministry of the associational director of missions and missions leadership in a state convention. Interagency relationships, especially related to national missions agencies such as the North American Mission Board, are included in the study.

DM 8250—North American Church Growth
This seminar focuses primarily on evangelism from a church growth perspective. Methodologies which are currently producing church growth are presented and evaluated. Models of evangelistic ministry are examined.
Christian Education Track

DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

DM 8720—Administration/Finance
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field. This will include program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns and the issues that drive the budget.

DM 8820—Change, Power, and Conflict
This seminar focuses on methods and approaches for effectively managing change, power, and conflict within the context of the local church. This will include a study of the affects of change on people and the church. Ways to diffuse the negative reactions people have to change will also be discussed to help leaders make needed changes without raising resistance or conflict. The issue of power will also be explored so church leaders better understand the people dynamics within a church that drive it. biblical ways of responding to and handling conflict will also be discussed.

DM 8150—Leadership Development
This seminar focuses on pastoral leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

DM 8160—Interpretation/Teaching
This seminar focuses on the task of teaching the Word of God. It assumes that teaching correctly comes only from understanding the Word correctly. Accordingly, the seminar has two focuses: hermeneutics and homiletics. The hermeneutics component has a threefold emphasis: a brief synopsis of the history and basic issues in interpretation, a survey of contemporary issues in interpretation, and a thorough discussion of proper principles and methodologies involved in interpretation. All of this is done with a view to teaching biblical passages in a manner consistent with God’s intent. The homiletics component deals practically with lesson preparation and delivery in the light of the hermeneutical reference points. Specific texts are analyzed, and lesson guidelines are discussed. This component emphasizes the communication and application of the Word of God today.

DM 8170—Development and Administration of Education Ministry
This seminar focuses on the development and administration of educational programs within the local church. Special attention is given to the role of education leadership in promoting the growth of the church, approaches to leadership theories, roles,
ministries, and training, development of church staff, selection and development of education curriculum, and administrative organization, organization paradigms, and program implementation in the different stages of church growth. Consideration is given to qualifications and duties of staff members, to staff relationships, to the place of each staff member in carrying out the functions of the church, and to choosing curriculum that aids teachers in an effective Bible teaching ministry.
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.
Graduate-Level Teaching

The doctor of philosophy program seeks to guide students in advanced studies in a specialized field and to help them develop skills which qualify them for teaching at the graduate level in a college, university, or theological seminary.

Specialized Leadership

The doctor of philosophy program seeks to prepare students for the assumption of specialized pastoral leadership in the church, in missions, and/or in administrative leadership in the denomination.

Admission Requirements and Procedure for the Doctor of Philosophy Program

General Qualifications

The doctor of philosophy is the highest academic degree offered by the Seminary. The program is reserved for students of exceptional academic ability and promise. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the basic techniques of scholarly research and writing, as well as an ability to communicate through effective teaching. They must be committed to the program and demonstrate that they are willing to fulfill the time requirements and the disciplinary standards that are required for distinguished scholarly achievement. Students’ health, finances, and outside responsibilities must be within such a level of tolerance that they are not unduly distracted from reasonable pursuit of the demands of the program. Read the Regulations Regarding Female Students section in this catalog.

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university, including sixty semester hours of liberal arts content. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Seminary Degree Requirements

Applicants must have a master of divinity degree or its equivalent from this Seminary or from another accredited seminary which has comparable language requirements. Students must have maintained in their master of divinity work or its equivalent to a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) or better. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Biblical Language Requirements

All applicants must have completed a minimum of six semester hours of Greek and six semester hours of Hebrew. However, if the major field of study is to be in New Testament, the student is required to have completed an additional nine
semester hours of advanced Greek. If the major field of study is to be Old Testament, the student is required to have completed an additional nine semester hours of advanced Hebrew courses. The Doctor of Philosophy Committee reserves the right to administer preliminary language exams and/or require language instruction in any case in which it is deemed expedient.

**Graduate Research & Writing Course (DR 9910)**

Either before or during the first year of doctor of philosophy study, candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree must complete for credit the course designated Graduate Research & Writing (DR 9910) in order to demonstrate proficiency in research and writing. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. A prospective PhD student who is a master of divinity, master of missiology and intercultural studies, master of Christian education graduate, or last year MDiv/MMICS/MCE student may be allowed, with permission from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, to enroll in this course.

**Graduate Teaching Course (DR 9920)**

Candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree must complete for credit the course designated Graduate Teaching (DR 9920) which is designed to aid students in their proficiency in teaching. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. A prospective PhD student who is a master of divinity, master of missiology and intercultural studies, master of Christian education graduate, or last year MDiv/MMICS/MCE student may be allowed, with permission from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, to enroll in this course.

**Graduate Research Methodology (DR 9921)**

Candidates for the doctor of philosophy in education degree must complete for credit the course designated Graduate Research Methodology (DR 9921) which is designed to aid students in their proficiency in social science methodology. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. A prospective PhD student who is a master of divinity, master of missiology and intercultural studies, master of Christian education graduate, or last year MDiv/MMICS/MCE student may be allowed, with permission from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, to enroll in this course. This course may be used as a substitute for one classical or modern language requirement.

**International Students**

Students from an international seminary offering the master of divinity or its equivalent may be admitted to the doctor of philosophy program on the same basis as students from national seminaries if they meet all requirements and pass the
qualifying examinations. Refer to Admission Procedure for International Students in this catalog.

The Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy Program

Application for admission into the doctor of philosophy program is processed through the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. (Applicants must submit an application to the Doctor of Philosophy Committee on a form which may be obtained from the office of the dean of the PhD program.) A non-refundable admission fee of $50.00 must accompany the application form. The application must be submitted by February 15 in order to begin seminar work in August and by September 1 to begin seminar work in January. Students are not fully admitted into the doctor of philosophy program until written acceptance is issued by the dean of the PhD program.

Miller Analogies Test

Applicants must perform satisfactorily on the Miller Analogies Test to demonstrate competency to function at the graduate level. This test can be taken at any of the regional testing centers in the United States. The results of the test are to be in the PhD office by February 15 for August enrollment and September 1 for January enrollment. Evaluation of test results at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary is consistent with the practice of similar educational institutions and is in conformity to performance scales published in the Miller Analogies Test Manual and corroborating research reports. With the approval of the PhD Committee, the Miller Analogies Test may be waived for an applicant who has already taken the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) and made an acceptable score. The MABTS code number, 1750, must be used to report Miller Analogies Test Scores. Miller Analogies Test scores will be valid for five years.

English Language Requirement

Applicants to the doctor of philosophy degree program whose indigenous language is not English must score at least six hundred on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or one hundred on the Internet-based TOEFL. This examination must be completed not more than two years before admission to the Seminary. Exceptions to this requirement must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. International students are not required to take the Miller Analogies Test.

Major Field Research Paper

Applicants are required to write a twenty to twenty-five page research paper on a departmentally selected subject from their major field. The paper is designed to probe the student’s general theological or educational background in their area of study and to test their ability to organize their thoughts and express themselves logically, clearly, and in good English form. Applicants will write their papers in conformity to the form and style guidelines set forth in A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013). The major field research paper is due in the PhD office by February 15 for August enrollment and September 1 for January enrollment.
Written Major Field Essay Examination

Applicants must take a written essay examination covering the general scope of their major field. This examination occupies one day of no more than four hours and is designed to test the student’s overall comprehension of the major issues in his designated field. (Refer to the Schedule of Academic Dates for the doctor of philosophy program in the Seminary calendar.)

Major Department Interview

Applicants are required to have an interview with the faculty members who comprise their major department to discuss their previous academic preparation and future goals in the context of their declared field of concentration in the doctoral program. Arrangements for this interview are made by the chairman of the respective department. (Refer to the Schedule of Academic Dates for the doctor of philosophy program in the Seminary calendar.)

Doctor of Philosophy Committee Interview

Applicants who are not graduates of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary must have an interview with the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. In special circumstances, a Mid-America graduate may also be required to have an interview with the Committee. The interview discusses the applicant’s prior academic training and practical experience, their purpose for pursuing the doctor of philosophy degree, and their intended utilization of the degree in future vocational commitment. The interview must be held by May 1 prior to entry into the program in August or by October 1 for entry into the program in January. Appointments should be confirmed at the office of the dean of the PhD program.

Remedial Work in the Major Field

The Doctor of Philosophy Committee reserves the right to require any student to supplement deficiencies in preparation in their major field of study by taking for credit courses from the master of divinity curriculum, in addition to their required doctoral seminars. A student may be required to audit certain master of divinity courses as a means of maintaining awareness of current developments in their field. Doctor of philosophy students who audit or take for credit master of divinity courses are required to follow the procedure for proper registration each term.

Conditional Admission

At the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, an applicant may be admitted on a conditional basis for the first year of study in the doctoral program. The dean of the PhD program provides written notification to advise the student of the reasons for the conditional status, to specify any requirements which he must fulfill, and to state any limitations to be imposed upon his projected course load. The student is reevaluated at the conclusion of his or her first year of study, and the student’s major department makes recommendation with regard to the conditions governing his or her continuance in the program. Any exception to the published admission
requirements for the doctor of philosophy program must be approved by the faculty upon the recommendation of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Approval by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee

Applicants are considered on the basis of: (1) application form for admission to the program, (2) previous academic record, (3) performance on the Miller Analogies Test, (4) demonstration of writing skills on the major field research paper, (5) performance on the written comprehensive entrance examination, and (6) personal interview with the faculty. Although no single criterion is necessarily determinative by itself, the above stated criteria are scrutinized by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee to determine the applicant’s competency and motivation to undertake doctoral study. Only those applicants who are approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee may be admitted into the program.

Declined Admission

When an applicant is declined admission to the program, the student may choose to submit another application. One opportunity to reapply may be granted with the permission of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. Materials relative to the application are considered confidential and the Doctor of Philosophy Committee has no obligation to disclose information regarding an applicant’s being declined admission into the program.

Time Limit for Approved Applicants

If an applicant for the doctor of philosophy program does not begin advanced studies within one year from the date of approval, a new application must be submitted.

Assignment of a Major Professor

Upon admission to the doctor of philosophy program, the student requests a major professor in their major department. The major department must approve this choice or assign another professor from the department. The major advisor assists the student in planning a comprehensive program of study. Once the student's dissertation topic is approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, the major professor supervises the student's work in the writing of the dissertation. The student should initiate a meeting with their major professor at least once each term for advisement in every phase of their academic program while they are taking seminars. Upon completion of seminars, the student is expected to maintain monthly contacts with their advisor.

Completion Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Program

Continuous Enrollment Requirement

The candidate for the doctor of philosophy degree must be registered for each semester of the regular academic year during the period of time taken to earn this
degree. Continuous enrollment includes both the time spent in seminar study and the time spent in the writing of the dissertation, whether or not the student is actually on-campus. Failure to register for any semester is automatically considered as withdrawal from the program.

**Study at Other Institutions**

With the approval of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, two seminars may be taken at other institutions. No credit toward this degree is given for work done in other institutions unless it has first been approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

**Classical and Modern Language Requirements**

Candidates for the doctor of philosophy degree must have a working knowledge of two languages (in addition to the normal requirements of Greek and Hebrew) suited to their academic interests. The student and the major department will negotiate the best combination of languages for the specific student's program. The languages will be Latin, German or French. Completion of the language requirement may be certified: (1) by completing a minimum of six semester hours of study of the language at an accredited college or university, (2) by passing a standardized test administered by an accredited college or university or (3) by passing a language examination administered by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. The language requirements may be met within five years prior to admission to the doctor of philosophy program. Language examinations are administered by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee as scheduled during the academic year. If the candidate fails to make an acceptable score on a language examination, at the option of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, he or she may be permitted one additional opportunity to qualify. Both language examinations must be successfully completed prior to the beginning of the second year of doctoral study. A student will not be allowed to begin seminars during their second year unless both language requirements have been met. Students pursuing a degree in the field of education must take Graduate Research Methodology (DR 9921) to fulfill one language requirement.

**Research Methodology Requirement**

Candidates for the doctor of philosophy in education degree must have a working knowledge of empirical research methodologies. Completion of the research methodology requirements may be certified: (1) by completing a minimum of six semester hours of study of empirical research methodology at an accredited college or university, (2) by passing a standardized test administered by an accredited college or university or (3) by passing an empirical research methodology examination administered by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. This requirement may be used as a substitute for one classical or modern language requirement for PhD in education students only.
Fields of Academic Study

Graduate seminars are offered in church history, education, missions, New Testament (including Greek), Old Testament (including Hebrew and/or semitic languages), practical theology (pastoral track and counseling track), and theology. The doctor of philosophy degree may be granted in the following fields: (1) Old Testament (including Hebrew and/or semitic languages), (2) New Testament (including Greek), (3) church history, (4) missions, (5) theology, (6) practical theology and (7) education.

Mid-America offers majors in both the traditional residency and modular formats. Majors offered in residency format are church history, missions, New Testament (including Greek), Old Testament (including Hebrew and/or semitic languages), practical theology (pastoral track), and theology. Majors offered in modular format (see modular format) are church history, education, missions, and practical theology (counseling track). All fields are available as minors to residency students. Minor fields available to those only enrolled in modular courses are church history, education, missions, New Testament, Old Testament, and practical theology (counseling track). PhD students may combine modular and residency seminars to complete their degree only with permission from the PhD Committee.

Modular Format

MABTS offers some PhD majors in a modular format, which allows students to complete their degree without having to leave their current place of ministry. A degree in the modular format meets the same high academic standards expected from any MABTS PhD. Excellent faculty teach PhD courses and maintain high standards for academic excellence in these intensive classes.

Students come to campus for courses usually twice per year for about two weeks each time. Each seminar meets for one week. Exact dates for classes can be found on the PhD calendar. Prior to each seminar, students will complete pre-seminar work that typically consists of extensive reading and intensive writing assignments. The student’s major professor (see Assignment of a Major Professor) will guide them through the program. Majors offered in modular format are church history, education, missions, and practical theology (counseling track). Available minors in modular format are church history, education, missions, New Testament, Old Testament, and practical theology (counseling track). PhD students may take a combination of modular and residency courses to fulfill their seminar requirements only with permission from the PhD Committee. After completing seminars during the initial stage of the program, students take comprehensive exams that assess their learning in their areas of study. The program then culminates in the research phase as students write and defend their dissertation.

Graduate Seminars

Any faculty member in the theology or education area is qualified to offer doctor of philosophy seminars. They must, however, be recommended by the appropriate academic department and be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.
Eight graduate semester-long seminars are required in the doctor of philosophy program. Each seminar meets two hours weekly during the semester. Four of the seminars are to be in a given field of discipline and shall constitute the major field. The other four seminars are to be in two fields other than that of the major and shall constitute the two minor fields. Students also have the option of taking five seminars in their major field, two seminars in one minor field, and an elective (may be in the minor field). A maximum of two seminars per semester may be carried at any one time. Minor fields available to female students are church history, Old Testament, New Testament, practical theology (biblical counseling track), and missions. Note: Logos Bible Research Software (Silver edition or above) is required for all PhD seminars offered in the New Testament Department.

**Doctoral Colloquia**

Each student enrolled in doctor of philosophy seminars is required to attend two doctoral colloquia each academic year. One colloquium will be program-wide and held in conjunction with the annual Forum of Contemporary Theological Issues. One colloquium will be sponsored by each academic department offering a doctoral seminar for departmental majors and seminar participants. A departmental colloquium will meet for two hours and will normally consist of a presentation by a guest scholar or of discussions of trends, issues, and bibliography in the academic field. Doctor of philosophy students with candidacy status are encouraged to attend the colloquia. Modular seminars will include the colloquium during the week on-campus.

**Forum of Contemporary Theological Issues**

The purpose of this forum is to provide stimulating exposure and engagement with outstanding research scholars with divergent theological perspectives through lectures, debates, and/or dialogue on selected contemporary theological issues. This forum is available to the seminary community but designed specifically for and required of PhD students. Attendance at this forum counts as one of the required colloquia for PhD students. Students in the modular program are permitted to listen/view a recording of the forum.

**Comprehensive Examinations**

After the completion of seminars, doctoral students who have completed their seminar work will take comprehensive written examinations. These must be taken within a twelve month period of one of the scheduled dates for comprehensive examinations. Each day the examination will be a minimum of four hours and a maximum of eight hours. The examinations include: (1) general field, one day (2) major seminars one, two, three, and four, one day (3) remaining seminars, one day. A minimum grade of B is required to pass an examination. A student must pass at least five of these examinations on the first attempt. In cases of failure, the student may retake a maximum of four of the examinations. If the student fails the second attempt, he or she must retake the seminar; but no additional time in the program is allowed.
Candidacy Status

At the completion of seminar work, students are expected to qualify for candidacy status. Candidacy status means that students may officially work on their dissertations. Students are declared candidates for the degree if they complete the following: (1) successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, (2) completion of the colloquia requirements, (3) good standing in practical missions, (4) exemplary conduct, (5) dissertation subject approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, and (6) major department recommendation. Any exceptions to this procedure must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Teaching Experience (Supervised Instruction DR 9940)

After a minimum of four doctoral seminars and completion of the Graduate Research & Writing course and the Graduate Teaching course (twenty hours), students are required to teach in their major field under the guidance of their advisors. With the approval of their major department and the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, students may teach in another department if they have received credit for two semester-long doctor of philosophy seminars in that field. With approval, female Christian education majors may teach in the Church History or Missiology Departments. Students will work under the direct supervision of their major advisors in assisting in the development of a course syllabus, a teaching plan, and the assignment of course grades. A minimum of six days classroom teaching under the supervision of a professor is required. At the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, other arrangements may be made to fulfill this requirement for students in the modular program and for those whose second language is English. The academic vice president’s office will keep the PhD office informed of PhD students who fulfill this assignment by teaching a complete course.

Supervised Departmental Reading DR 9945

Each department offers a directed study which consists of intensive reading to provide students with a comprehensive exposure to the literature in their major area of study. At the discretion of the department, this work may be done during the summer.

Practical Experience

The doctor of philosophy degree is a research and teaching degree. Because Mid-America is committed to preparing persons to train others for effective ministry, we believe that it is important for those who teach to have significant ministry experience. The completion of the doctor of philosophy degree, therefore, requires two years of pastoral ministry, significant church staff service, missionary service, or significant denominational service. Final evaluation of the completed practical experience is made by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.
Dissertation Requirements

Each candidate must write a dissertation in their major field of study in accordance with directions specified by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to research a thesis in relative independence and present their research in a clear and logical manner. The dissertation must make a contribution to the scholarly literature in its field. The dissertation should consist of one hundred fifty to two hundred pages in the main body. Variations from these numbers must receive prior approval from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Each doctor of philosophy student is required to attend a dissertation orientation seminar, normally at the time of the oral defense of the prospectus. Students will follow the guidelines in A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013). The Doctor of Philosophy Committee provides a Supplement which supersedes the manual by Turabian where the latter is not precise and which provides sample pages illustrating requirements for academic writing. Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 2003) is another required resource.

The topic of the dissertation must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee with the prior recommendation of the student’s major professor and his major department. A prospectus of the dissertation must be submitted in triplicate to the PhD office to be forwarded to the major department for its approval no later than April 1 (for students anticipating graduation in December) or no later than September 15 (for students anticipating graduation in May). The prospectus must be defended orally before the department before it is submitted to the PhD office for consideration by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

Within two weeks, the major department must submit the prospectus with its written approval to the PhD office for consideration by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. The prospectus includes the title of the proposed dissertation, the thesis to be investigated, the methodology to be employed, the outline by which the research is to be organized, and a bibliography. The outline and the bibliography should correspond to the same standards of style and form as the dissertation. Any subsequent changes in the outline must be approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.

The dissertation must contain the following parts in sequence: blank page; abstract (not to exceed two pages); title page; blank page; approval sheet; table of contents; introductory chapter; the body or text of the paper consisting of two or more chapters; concluding or summary chapter; selected bibliography; and blank page. The parts mentioned in Turabian A.2.1.7–A.2.1.11 may be included (all after the table of contents and before the introductory chapter); and appendix or appendices (between the concluding chapter and the bibliography).

Students are encouraged to work carefully with their advisor and their major department at each stage in the preparation of his dissertation. The completed dissertation on standard bond paper must be presented to the PhD office to forward
to the advisor no later than July 15 for December graduation or January 6 for May graduation. The advisor will read and evaluate it with regard to content and form prior to forwarding it with his approval to the PhD office for distribution to the major department. Should the advisor find that the dissertation is not acceptable with regard to content or form, it is his prerogative to return it to the student without submission to the department.

After the advisor approves the dissertation with regard to content and form, he will forward it along with his recommendation to the PhD office for distribution to the major department no later than August 1 (for students anticipating graduation in December) or no later than January 20 (for students anticipating graduation in May). Suggested corrections and/or changes may be made during the six weeks after submission to the department.

The dissertation must be submitted to the Doctor of Philosophy Committee along with the written approval of the major department before September 1 or February 3, respectively. A student who submits a dissertation to his or her major department is allowed no more than two opportunities for the dissertation to be approved. Upon receipt of the dissertation from the major department, the dean of the PhD program assigns an external reader (from outside the department) to evaluate the dissertation along with the major department. The dean of the PhD program will analyze all of the evaluation forms from the major department and the external readers and attach a summary evaluation statement to the dissertation, to be returned to the student by October 15 or March 17, respectively. It is the prerogative of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee to assign additional readers if the situation warrants it. In each case, there will be a minimum of three primary readers, including external readers. A dissertation is acceptable in form if it contains one hundred fifty or fewer errors in form, style, grammar and spelling. If errors number more than one hundred fifty, advisors may return dissertations to students for correction. Students may then resubmit their dissertation after correcting these errors. If advisors find more that one hundred new errors or uncorrected errors in the second edition, students will be notified that they cannot resubmit until the next graduation date. If the dissertation is acceptable, it will be returned to the student for final corrections. If the Doctor of Philosophy Committee determines that the dissertation is not acceptable, the document is then returned to the student with no more than one additional opportunity the student to resubmit his or her dissertation. If the dissertation is rejected as unsatisfactory for any cause, the Doctor of Philosophy Committee may, at its discretion, authorize the candidate to revise, correct, and resubmit the document after a period of at least three months but not later than one year from the time of the extension. No dissertation may be submitted twice for the same prospective graduation date. After the Doctor of Philosophy Committee approval, five corrected copies of the dissertation must be submitted, including four copies on one hundred percent cotton-content white paper and one copy on regular white bond paper. The corrected copies must be presented to the Doctor of Philosophy Committee by December 1 for a December graduation and May 1 for May graduation. Under no circumstances may any candidate receive his or her degree or graduate prior to his or her dissertation being submitted in final form with all copies ready for binding. (Refer to graduation requirement dates in the schedule of academic dates for the doctor of philosophy program.)
Oral Examination

A one-hour oral examination is conducted during the last academic term prior to the commencement service in which the student expects to graduate. The oral examination covers the dissertation and relevant areas of cognate academic disciplines which are necessary for a full evaluation of the research. The oral examination over the dissertation is directed by the major professor who supervised the research, other faculty members who comprise the major department, and the external readers. Questions may be submitted by any authorized person who participates in the oral examination.

The Oral Examination Committee is composed of all faculty members in the major field department, faculty members under whom the student has taken a seminar in the major field, and the external reader of the dissertation. The Oral Examination Committee makes the final decision as to whether the student passes his oral examination.

Summary of Requirements

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Dissertation Fees

Reader’s Fee

At the time of the submission of the dissertation to the major department, the student must deposit a minimum dissertation reader’s fee of $250.00.

Binding Fees

After the dissertation is formally approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, the candidate must deposit sufficient money with the PhD office to cover the cost of binding four copies, for making a microfilm copy, and for publishing the abstract in Dissertation Abstracts International. The microfilm copy and three copies of the dissertation remain the property of the Seminary, and one copy of the dissertation becomes the property of the student. The student must request in writing permission
Applications from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee for copyright privileges and/or to publish his dissertation.

**Application for Graduation**

The candidate for the doctor of philosophy degree must make application to the Doctor of Philosophy Committee for graduation no later than April 1 (for students anticipating graduation in December) or no later than August 15 (for students anticipating graduation in May). Application for graduation must be submitted through the office of the dean of the PhD program.

**Time Limit for Completion of the Doctor of Philosophy Program**

Students are allowed seven years to complete the doctor of philosophy program. This time is calculated from the first semester of enrollment and terminates at the end of the 14th consecutive semester. Normally, graduation is to take place within two years after the student is approved as a doctoral candidate (spring of the completion of seminars). Special consideration is given to missionaries.

**Acceptable Grades**

No grade below B is counted toward the PhD degree. A student who makes a grade of C or below must take an additional seminar to remove the deficiency. Grades are issued to doctoral students upon completion of seminars. A doctor of philosophy student who makes a lower grade than a B in a seminar is placed on probation, then dropped from the program if a subsequent grade lower than a B is achieved.

**Doctor of Philosophy Records**

Appropriate student records are maintained in the PhD office and the Registrar’s office. Student inquiries should be directed to the dean of the PhD program.

**Doctor of Philosophy Seminars**

**DR 9910—Graduate Research & Writing**

This course is designed to assist the student in developing writing skills for his work in the doctor of philosophy program. It is designed to cover the basic elements of form and style appropriate for doctoral studies and to give a general overview of the preparation of a doctoral dissertation. The course is for two semester hours of credit but is not included in the requirements for the doctoral seminars regularly assigned to meet the qualifications for the major and minor fields.

**DR 9920—Graduate Teaching Seminar**

This course is designed as a study of the philosophy and methodology of teaching at the postsecondary level. The seminar will include necessary elements for the preparation of teaching a graduate-level course. These elements include creating a syllabus, stating objectives, preparing assignments, meeting the class for the first time, understanding learning theory and motivation, and understanding teaching
methodology. The course is for two semester hours of credit but is not included in the requirements for the doctoral seminars regularly assigned to meet the qualifications for the major and minor fields.

DR 9921—Graduate Research Methodology
Candidates for the doctor of philosophy in education degree must complete for credit the course designated Graduate Research Methodology (DR 9921) which is designed to aid students in their proficiency in social science methodology. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Philosophy Committee. A prospective PhD student who is a master of divinity, master of missiology and intercultural studies, master of Christian education graduate, or last year MDiv/MMICS/MCE student may be allowed, with permission from the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, to enroll in this course. This course may be used as a substitute for one classical or modern language requirement.

OT 9105—Studies in the Pentateuch
An exegetical and theological study of selected texts or a book of the Pentateuch with emphasis on the ancient Near Eastern setting, critical theory, and scholarly interpretation. Attention is given to the history of Pentateuchal criticism and to current developments in this field.

OT 9116—Archaeology and the Old Testament
An investigation of archaeology’s role in the field of Old Testament studies. Current trends and attitudes in the discipline will be examined, and critical theories will be considered in light of the innumerable discoveries in the last two centuries. Key archaeological finds will be surveyed according to historical periods, and their particular contributions to the understanding of the Old Testament will be investigated.

OT 9131—The Book of Daniel
A comprehensive study of the Book of Daniel, an enigmatic and controversial work of Old Testament prophecy. The extensive body of Danielic literature, key critical issues, historical background, and other significant matters related to the prophecy are examined. Particular attention is given to the interpretation and theology of the book. Translation of the Hebrew and Aramaic text is involved in the study.

OT 9146—Studies in the Prophetic Books
A study of the nature of prophetic literature and of the methods appropriate for its interpretation. Attention will be given to an evaluation of modern critical views, special interpretative problems, and key themes of individual prophetic books. A careful exegesis of sections of the prophetic literature will be made.

OT 9151—Studies in the Poetic Books
A study of the Psalms and Hebrew poetry and/or Wisdom Literature. Special attention will be given to the nature and forms of Hebrew poetry. The course will include exegetical and theological study of selected texts.
OT 9161—Old Testament Cultures
During this course of study the major cultural groups of the Old Testament (those which interacted with Israel as recorded in the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings of the Hebrew Bible) are surveyed in the light of biblical as well as extrabiblical information. The study of Israelite culture forms the background against which comparisons and contrasts are drawn. Non-Israelite cultures will be surveyed with regard to their history, religion, languages, and literatures (or extant inscriptions). Cultural groups are studied in relation to their respective geographical regions.

OT 9181—Old Testament Soteriology
An examination of selected key passages in the Law, the Writings, and the Prophets that reflect Old Testament instruction and/or illustration concerning its total message of salvation. The approach to the study is biblical and exegetical.

OT 9195—Old Testament Theological Themes
An investigation of some major areas of theological concern in the Old Testament, including soteriology, eschatology, Christology, theodicy, pneumatology, the community of faith, etc. Special attention is given to the literary devices associated with each of these themes.

HB 9221—A History of the Hebrew Language
A survey of the various periods of the Hebrew language including: pre-exilic Hebrew Inscriptions, biblical Hebrew and later Traditions (Palestinian, Babylonian, and Tiberian), and later developments in Hebrew (postexilic influence of Aramaic, Samaritan Hebrew, Rabbinic Hebrew, Medieval Hebrew, and a brief excursus on Modern Hebrew).

HB 9230—Advanced Hebrew Studies
An advanced Hebrew program for study of the biblical text and the extensive body of literature pertaining to the language. The seminar will consist primarily of readings from selected passages from the Hebrew Bible with attention to grammar, syntax, lexicography, textual criticism, the Masoretic tradition, and exegesis. Related topics, such as the history of the language and modern methods for teaching biblical Hebrew, will be examined.

HB 9281—An Introduction to Old Testament Languages and Literature
An introduction to the background languages of the Hebrew Bible, including Phoenician, Ugaritic, and Akkadian. Examples are given to demonstrate how knowledge of such languages helps in the translation of the Hebrew Bible and with Old Testament interpretation.

HB 9285—Old Testament Critical Issues
A survey of the critical approaches to the Old Testament texts, including a thorough and critical analysis of the various theories which have been proposed to explain the origin and development of Old Testament literature. Special attention is given to the background and evolution of the various critical schools of thought.
NT 9301—The Synoptic Gospels
A comprehensive study of the synoptic Gospels, including a history of synoptic studies, a survey of contemporary approaches, literary criticism, theology, and content. Students will work from the Greek New Testament.

NT 9311—The Johannine Corpus
A comprehensive study of the fourth Gospel, the three Johannine epistles, and Revelation, including introductory issues, hermeneutics, exegesis, and John's life. Students will work from the Greek New Testament.

NT 9321—New Testament Hermeneutics
An introduction to the principles and methods of interpretation used by the New Testament writers, the history of hermeneutics, and contemporary approaches to biblical interpretation. Students will use the Greek New Testament to understand principles, methods, and illustrations.

NT 9331—The Pauline Corpus
A comprehensive study of the thirteen letters of Paul, including introductory issues, hermeneutics, exegesis, and Paul's life and thought. Students will work from the Greek New Testament.

NT 9335—Historiography and the Book of Acts
This seminar is an introduction to the interpretative methodology of historiography. Theories of Greek, Roman and Jewish history writing will be discussed, based on a reading of primary sources in Greek, Hebrew and Latin as well as secondary sources in German and French. This seminar also investigates the book of Acts from the perspectives of languages, history culture and theology.

NT 9341—The Book of Hebrews
A comprehensive study of the Epistle to the Hebrews including introductory issues, hermeneutics, and exegesis. Includes a unit on textual criticism. Students will work from the Greek New Testament.

NT 9343—James, Jude, 1 and 2 Peter
A study of these general epistles including introductory issues, hermeneutics and exegesis. Students will work from the Greek New Testament. Special attention will be given to those passages that have proven particularly difficult and/or controversial.

NT 9381—New Testament Background
This seminar is an intensive investigation of background issues of the New Testament world. This seminar investigates the languages, history and culture in which the New Testament was written (Hellenistic Judaism, Palestinian Judaism and Roman Hellenism). The participants of this seminar will read from primary sources in Greek, Hebrew and Latin as well as secondary sources in German and French.

NT 9383—New Testament Textual Criticism
This seminar is an intensive study of the history and principles of New Testament textual criticism, including an examination of the relative values of the critical text
and the Textus Receptus. The students will discuss methods and issues concerning textual criticism with noted textcritics. Each seminar participant will learn how to collate fragments, manuscripts and documents. The participants of this seminar will read from primary sources in Greek, Hebrew and Latin and other languages of antiquity as well as secondary sources in German and French.

**NT 9385—New Testament Theology 1**

The history of the theology of the New Testament is traced, along with examining contemporary issues in the discipline, including the nature, center, and methodology. After giving proper attention to these issues, the seminar majors on issues in the theology of Jesus and on Jesus as presented in the four Gospels.

**NT 9387—New Testament Theology 2**

A seminar devoted to a detailed study of the theology of Pauline writing. Attention is given to contemporary issues in Pauline theology and an examination of the salient features of the theological content of the Pauline epistles.

**NT 9392—Difficult Passages in the New Testament**

This doctoral seminar covers the content and major critical issues of selected Passages of Scripture that have a history of being especially challenging and enigmatic to biblical interpreters. Emphasis will be on hermeneutics and exegesis. Since this seminar is exegetically based, extensive reading and work will be from the Greek New Testament.

**GR 9406—New Testament Translation: Philosophy and Praxis**

A seminar focusing on the principles of translating the Greek New Testament with some attention given to the Septuagint. The seminar consists of an intensive investigation into the philosophy, principles and practice of modern translation theory with special attention given to the era following James Barr’s *Biblical Words and Their Meaning*. Competence in New Testament Greek is required for this seminar.

**CH 9541—Patristic Christianity**

A comprehensive study of the early church from the post-New Testament era through the Council of Chalcedon. Special attention is given to historiographical, biographical, theological, and cultural issues.

**CH 9551—The Protestant Reformation**

A comprehensive study of the sixteenth century Protestant Reformation, including the Magisterial Reformers and the Anabaptists. Special attention is given to historiographical, biographical, theological, and cultural issues.

**CH 9561—American Christianity**

A comprehensive study of the Christian experience in America from the colonial to the present, including Puritanism, revivalism, denominationalism, fundamentalism, and evangelicalism. Special attention is given to historiographical, biographical, theological, and cultural issues.
CH 9571—Baptist History
A comprehensive study of the Baptists from the early seventeenth century to the present, with major attention given to Baptists in England and America. Special attention is given to historiographical, biographical, theological, and cultural issues.

CH 9573—History of Preaching 1
A historical overview of preaching with a focus on the preachers of the Great Awakening. Emphasis is given to major homiletical developments and outstanding personalities.

CH 9575—History of Preaching 2
A historical overview of preaching with a focus on great American preachers of the 20th century. Emphasis is given to major homiletical developments and outstanding personalities.

CH 9577—The History of Christian Missions
A comprehensive overview of the historical expansion of Christianity from a missionary perspective. The seminar differs from a church history seminar in that the focus is upon the factors in the spread of Christianity with regard to the agents and methods involved rather than on the development of theology and the church councils. Special attention is given to Latourette’s chronological divisions of missionary history and his seven analytical questions which are employed to examine significant factors in each period.

CH 9582—The History of Western Christian Theology and Philosophy
An overview of western intellectual development from ancient Greece to newer trends of Postmodernity. This study includes a mapping of both philosophical and theological developments in western history. It is particularly interested in the ongoing relationship between Christian theology and the broader worldviews in which faith is embedded.

CH 9591—Medieval Christianity
A comprehensive study of Medieval Christianity from the ascension of Gregory the Great to the eve of the Protestant Reformation. Special attention is given to historiographical, biographical, theological, and cultural issues.

MS 9611—The History of Christian Missions
A comprehensive overview of the historical expansion of Christianity from a missionary perspective. The seminar differs from a church history seminar in that the focus is upon factors in the spread of Christianity with regard to the agents and methods involved rather than on the development of theology and the church councils. Special attention is given to Latourette’s chronological divisions of missionary history and his seven analytical questions which are employed to examine significant factors in each period.

MS 9631—Missionary Principles and Practices
A comprehensive study of the theory and practice of missions. This seminar examines the current theologies of missions, the biblical basis of missions and the
historical justification of missions. Additional areas of investigation include the practicality and urgency of world evangelism, the role of indigenous churches, the principles and methods for the planting and development of indigenous churches and contextualization on the mission field.

**MS 9637—Christian Spirituality**

A seminar to help students examine the gamut of ideas and philosophies concerning what makes a Christian a “spiritual” person. This seminar is designed to prepare participants to teach courses in the vital areas of Spiritual Formation. Foundational areas of prayer and biblical intake are examined along with more specific areas such as fasting, solitude and meditation. Various evangelical views are considered together with the views of mainline Protestants, Catholics and the Orthodox of the Eastern Churches. The Baptist viewpoint is the standard for the study.

**MS 9651—Strategy of Christian Missions**

An investigation of the components of strategies for world evangelization. These components include planning, management, targeting specific people groups, maximizing the available resources, and analyzing methods to accomplish this task. In addition, the seminar examines the implementation and evaluation of strategies in a cross-cultural setting. It includes insights from the theology of mission, mission communication and theory, sociology, and anthropology, as well as an abundance of specific case studies.

**MS 9661—Church Growth**

An in-depth study of church growth. This study looks at the whole spectrum of church growth: its historical foundations; its theological, sociological, and anthropological considerations; its literature; and its personalities.

**MS 9675—World Religions—Formal and Traditional**

Formal Religions of the World is an investigation of the religious beliefs and practices of the major religious systems of the world. Special attention is given to their anthropological background, historical development, worldview, tenets, rituals, cultural implications, and contemporary expressions. Traditional Religions of the World is a study of the phenomenon of traditional religions in the missionary context, examining the primary characteristics of traditional religious expressions such as animism, the spirit world, demon possession, magic, religious specialists, veneration of ancestors, and concepts of God. Special attention is given to the manner in which traditional religious expressions underlie and permeate even the more developed formal religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. The seminar focuses upon effective communication of the gospel to adherents of the various religions and preparation of missionaries for more effective evangelism and church development among unreached people groups.

**MS 9681—Contextualized Missionary Anthropology**

A survey of significant aspects of cultural concepts and social organization that have practical relevance to effective missionary communication of the gospel in a culturally heterogeneous world. Special attention is given to family structure, kinship webs, tribal authority, and decision-making within a communal society. Additional
consideration is given to the nature and significance of transition rites in the life-development process in traditional societies, especially with regard to birth, puberty, marriage, childbearing, and death. The focus of the seminar is upon ways in which missionaries can identify with and minister to felt needs as they present the gospel and establish indigenous churches.

**MS 9691—Church Planting**

An examination of the biblical, historical, and contemporary theories and methodologies of church planting. Church planting is considered in the light of attendant issues such as incarnational missionary strategy, contextualization, indigenization, cross-cultural communication, leadership training, the use of volunteers in the church planting process, and the Southern Baptist emphasis on church planting movements. The course focuses on international church planting but a section covers church planting methodologies in the U.S.

**PH 9712—Introduction to Apologetics**

The seminar will cover the history and practice of Christian apologetics. This will include a survey of Christian history with special emphasis upon those who have served Christianity as apologists. The seminar will also cover methodology and the philosophical concerns which accompany the apologetic task. Finally, the course will investigate current challenges to the Christian message raised by modernity, secularity, and postmodernity.

**TH 9711—Old Testament Soteriology**

An examination of selected key passages in the Law, the Writings, and the Prophets that reflect Old Testament instruction and/or illustrations concerning its total message of salvation. The approach to the study is biblical and exegetical.

**TH 9725—New Testament Theology 1**

The history of the theology of the New Testament is traced, along with examining contemporary issues in the discipline, including the nature, center, and methodology. After giving proper attention to these issues, the seminar majors on issues in the theology of Jesus and on Jesus as presented in the four Gospels.

**TH 9727—New Testament Theology 2**

A seminar devoted to a detailed study of the theology of Pauline writing. Attention is given to contemporary issues in Pauline theology and an examination of the salient features of the theological content of the Pauline epistles.

**TH 9761—Christology**

An approach to the study of Christ, His person and His work, both historically and systematically. The first semester involves a historical development of the doctrine, with special emphasis upon the first six centuries of the Christian Era, the Reformation Period, and the Modern Period. During the second semester, attention is placed upon a systematic presentation of the historical and biblical materials concerning the doctrine of Christ. Both of these approaches include selected readings from various Christologies and systematic theologies.
TH 9765—Hamartiology
The seminar focuses upon the sinfulness of humankind using the format of historical, biblical and systematic theology. Accordingly, the student will examine the major historical development within the doctrine of sin. Then the biblical teaching regarding the nature and origin of sin will be treated. Finally, the seminar will survey the various theological aspects of the doctrine.

TH 9771—Ecclesiology
An exploration of the biblical teaching on the doctrine of the church and its interpretation in various theological traditions in general and in the Baptist tradition in particular.

TH 9775—Eschatology
A biblical and systematic study of eschatology. The intent is to expose the seminar members to the biblical teaching on the doctrine of last things, and the various interpretations of the doctrine that have been held on the subject. Topics covered are death and the intermediate state, the rapture, second coming, tribulation, millennium, hell, and heaven. Special attention will be given to the book of Revelation.

TH 9781—Soteriology
An analysis of the Christian understanding of salvation which includes a detailed description of human sinfulness and the application of Christ’s work in the believer. The approach of the seminar relates human salvation to the covenants of works and the covenant of grace.

TH 9785—Old Testament Theological Themes
An investigation of some major areas of theological concern in the Old Testament, including soteriology, eschatology, Christology, theodicy, pneumatology, the community of faith, etc. Special attention is given to the literary devices associated with each of these themes.

TH 9796—Contemporary Theological Issues, 1800–Present
A critical survey of strategic theological movements from the appearance of Protestant Liberalism to the postmodern era designed to equip the student for interaction with contemporary theological issues.

HM 9810—Contemporary Preaching
A study of various contemporary preaching styles and philosophies. This course helps the student of biblical preaching to consider the practices of different types of sermons in light of the standards of expository biblical preaching. Studies include preaching in the emerging churches, seeker-sensitive churches, new church starts and traditional sermons with contemporary applications.

HM 9828—Survey of Evangelistic Preaching
This seminar is a study of the facets and factors of evangelistic preaching. Various past and present approaches to evangelistic preaching will be investigated.
HM 9831—Biblical Preaching
An examination of theory and methodologies of biblical preaching. The seminar studies the universal principles of expository preaching in various applications. The seminar helps prepare students to teach preaching at the seminary and university level.

HM 9835—New Testament Hermeneutics
An introduction to the principles and methods of interpretation used by the New Testament writers, the history of hermeneutics, and contemporary approaches to biblical interpretation. Students will use the Greek New Testament to understand principles, methods, and illustrations.

HM 9841—Major Series of Lectures on Preaching
A study of selected lectures and lecturers from a major series of lectures on preaching. Included are the Yale Lectures, the Warrack Lectures, and the Farris Lectures (MABTS).

HM 9851—The History of Preaching (1)
A historical overview of preaching with a focus on the preachers of the Great Awakening. Emphasis is given to major homiletical developments and outstanding personalities.

HM 9853—History of Preaching (2)
A historical overview of preaching with a focus on great American preachers of the 20th century. Emphasis is given to major homiletical developments and outstanding personalities.

HM 9855—The Theology of Preaching
The study of the preaching task in the context of its theological foundations. Investigations will include the contributions that major theologians have made to preaching and exegetical developments and contemporary theological trends and movements and their effect on preaching.

HM 9857—Expository Preaching in a Postmodern Era
A comprehensive study of the various philosophies and cultural implications of postmodernism with a specific view of employing the principles of expository preaching in addressing people within that culture.

PM 9861—Ethical Dimensions of Pastoral Ministries
An examination of biblical ethics in application to contemporary preaching and pastoral ministries. The seminar explores the moral teaching of the Scriptures and the ethical demands of discipleship in the context of contemporary culture and examines the pastoral response.

CN 9871 – An Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling
The seminar is a foundational course dealing with the need for and the fundamentals of biblical counseling. Attention will be given to an understanding of what nouthetic counseling means and how it differs from the prominent secular and religious counseling process including data gathering, questioning, homework, giving hope,
methods of change, and the role of the Holy Spirit in counseling. Other topics include the sufficiency of Scripture, self-esteem, and counseling failure.

**DM 8872 – The Theology of Counseling**

This seminar will deal with the importance of sound theology as it relates to the counseling process. The class will survey the entire scope of theology as it relates to counseling issues and process. The importance of solid exegesis and hermeneutics will also be discussed. Additionally, students will examine the process of training others to be biblical counselors.

**DM 8873 – Counseling Theories & Issues**

The seminar will begin with an overview of the history and current state of the modern biblical counseling movement. Included will be a survey and critique of many Christian counseling teachers, philosophies, and organizations with a special focus on the dangers of integrating secular psychological concepts. Other topics will include legal issues in counseling, counseling in the local church, evaluating counseling resources, the value and process of certification in biblical counseling, and the critical stages in the progression of typical counseling cases.

**CN 9873 – Counseling Theories and Issues**

An examination of the various alternative models of counseling, both secular and religious, with the goal of applying the doctrine of sufficiency to each. The seminar includes a description of the counseling landscape today, starting a counseling ministry in the local church, and legal issues in counseling. Several lectures are also devoted to introducing the student to the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC), the NANC certification process, and offers the student practical help taking the NANC examinations. The seminar concludes with an examination of specific counseling cases in a church setting.

**CN 9874 – Marriage and Family Counseling**

The seminar consists of an examination of the biblical concept of marriage and the specific Scripture passages that relate. The student will be challenged to lead couples to biblical solutions to marriage conflict. Specific topics include communication, the purpose of marriage, gender roles, the sexual relationship, adultery, finances, raising children, and the dynamics of counseling couples. In addition, the seminar will include a study of the relevant Scripture passages dealing with the issue of divorce and remarriage with the goal of leading the student to a biblical view of the issue and an application of that view to counseling situations. The seminar concludes with an examination of specific counseling cases in a church setting.

**ED 9931—Christian Higher Education**

A study of the principles of educational administration in Bible colleges, Christian liberal arts colleges, and seminary education. Attention is given to the educational role of the institution as well as its administrative tasks.

**ED 9932—Curriculum Theory and Design**

An exploration of the major curriculum developments in Christian education including a review of historical trends, the design of curriculum frameworks and
teaching-learning sessions, the supervision of curriculum in the local church and a critique of curriculum issues in higher education.

**ED 9933—Personality and Developmental Theory**
An evaluation of personality theories, educational psychology and developmental psychology and an analysis of their contributions to the practices of leadership, instruction and spiritual formation.

**ED 9934—Organizational Theory and Development**
Explores psychological and developmental underpinnings of organizations. Presents classical and contemporary theories and principles of organizational development. Students gain skills in the analysis of organizational culture, communication processes and staff training.