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.