**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.