

# PhD Instructions

All applicants must complete the Application for Admission with one exception. PhD applicants who have attended Mid-America within two years prior to their application to the PhD program may complete an application for Readmission. Please read the Catalog carefully for full details of the procedure and requirements for admission into the Seminary and for full details of the procedure and requirements for entrance into the Doctor of Philosophy program. This application must be submitted to the Admissions Office by **February 15** for August admission and **September 1** for January admission, in order to be approved to begin work in the PhD program.

In addition to this application, the following items are required before official acceptance to the PhD program can be granted: (1) Miller Analogy Test score; (2) Major Field Research Paper; (3) Major Field Essay Examination; (4) Major Department Interview; (5) Doctor of Philosophy Committee Interview.

Also, **please answer the following questions** to the best of your ability, providing full information with regard to any circumstances which might have a significant bearing upon your participation in the doctoral program. This application will be prayerfully considered by the PhD Committee prior to your faculty interview. Please read the entire application carefully before attempting to answer any of the questions. Please *type* your answers, number them accordingly, and submit them with this application.

1. **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**: The doctoral program normally requires several years of intensive and concentrated study, involving a considerable expense to the student. The tuition requirements are stated in the *Catalog*. *How do you propose to support your family and meet the educational expenses involved during the time of your study program? Please elaborate, indicating the relative dependence upon income from your own church or secular work, your spouse's work, veteran's benefits, scholarships, other savings, and other income.*
2. **PURPOSE OF YOUR STUDY**: The *Catalog* sets forth that the purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy program is to equip the student for creative scholarship, independent research, and effective teaching and preaching. *What is your basic purpose for desiring to participate in the program and to earn the Doctor of Philosophy degree? How do you propose to utilize this study in relationship to your future vocational plans in Christian service?*
3. **CHOICE OF INSTITUTION**: The *Catalog* description of the faculty, academic program, and student emphasis sets forth the Seminary's convictions concerning the uniqueness of this institution. *What factors have influenced your decision to select this institution as the environment in which you propose to do your doctoral studies? Is there any circumstance which would hinder you from complying with the regulations set forth by this institution in the pursuit of your doctoral program? Please explain.*
4. **DOCTRINAL CONVICTIONS**: The *Catalog* provides a concise statement of the "Articles of Religious Belief" to which all professors at the Seminary subscribe individually and collectively. Please read this statement carefully and consider its full implication upon your life, your own personal doctrinal convictions, and your sense of academic freedom. *Is there any area of the Seminary's doctrinal statement to which you cannot personally subscribe in good conscience? Please explain. Do you feel that the doctrinal position of the Seminary might in any way inhibit your freedom or ability to pursue your academic work while in this institution? Please explain. Briefly set forth your belief about the Bible, with particular reference to its verbal inspiration, its infallibility, and its sufficiency as the rule of faith and practice for the church and for the individual Christian.*
5. **HEALTH AND FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES**: The Doctor of Philosophy program is the most demanding program in the Seminary, requiring high academic disciplinary standards, stringent time commitments, and frequent isolation from family and other outside pursuits. *Is there any factor regarding your medical history or personal health condition which might limit your participation in this program or which might preclude your successful completion of it within the prescribed time limitation? Please explain. Is there any factor regarding your family relationships or any circumstance within your family which might make participation in the program difficult? Please explain. Do you feel that your family thoroughly understands the rigorous demands which will be imposed upon your time and energies as you carry out your doctoral study requirements? Please comment. What is the attitude of your spouse toward your entering into such a program?*

6. **OFF-CAMPUS REQUIREMENTS:** The Off campus hours are reported but no certain number is required and they may be spent in another library (including the student's church or personal library). *Is there any circumstance which would hinder you from fulfilling this requirement? Please elaborate.*
7. **PRACTICAL MISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:** In the *Catalog* the conviction is clearly set forth that it is the privilege and the responsibility of every faculty member and student to be actively involved in personal witnessing and in the life and work of a local church. Please read the Seminary requirements carefully with regard to the Practical Missions. *Is there any circumstance which would hinder you from regular weekly participation in the Report Hour sessions on Tuesdays? Please explain. Is there any circumstance which would hinder you from meeting the weekly Practical Missions requirements with regard to personal witnessing? Please explain. Is there any circumstance which would hinder you from meeting the weekly Practical Missions requirements with regard to Christian service assignments? Please explain.*
8. **PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:** The Doctor of Philosophy degree is a research and teaching degree. Because MABTS is committed to preparing men 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 PhD 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 requirement is made by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee.
9. **TEACHING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:** The *Catalog* stipulates that following a minimum of four semester-long doctoral seminars, each student is required to teach for at least one semester in his major field under the guidance of his major advisor. *With approval of the major department, this teaching may be done in a minor field in which the student has completed a graduate seminar. Is there any factor which might prohibit you from fulfilling this requirement? Please explain. Are you committed to giving the time and effort to accomplish this aspect of the program to the best of your ability? Please comment.*
10. **FIELD OF CONCENTRATION:** The *Catalog* sets forth the specific academic fields in which doctoral studies are presently available in this institution. *What is the area of academic concentration in which you propose to study?*

*Major Field:*

*List in order of importance:*

*Minor Field #1:*

*Minor Field #2:*

*What factors have influenced your decision to pursue advanced study in this field of academic pursuit? Are you satisfied that the offerings in these fields provide adequate scope for the graduate study which you desire to pursue? Please elaborate. In what ways have you already begun to make personal preparation for this study by previous academic disciplines or by individual efforts? Indicate some of the major books or periodicals which you have read during the past year in order to gain new insights into your field of interest or to maintain current awareness of new developments in the field.*

11. **DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS:** A very significant part of the discipline of the Doctor of Philosophy program is the writing of a dissertation in the student's major field of study to demonstrate his ability to do independent research and to make a valid contribution to the literature of his major field. *Is there any factor which would hinder you from effectively producing such a document in accordance with the Seminary standards? Please elaborate. Do you feel that you have the academic gifts and the mechanical skills necessary to complete an acceptable dissertation? Please comment.*
12. **SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS:** Is there any other circumstance or factor that has a potential bearing upon your successful performance in the Doctor of Philosophy program? Please share the details and significance of any such matters.