

Dissertation

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GSEM995 Dissertation (1–12)

(Students with recognized teaching experience at the college/graduate level may substitute a course in either the emphasis or cognate area for GSEM860.)

- Take all course work at the Seminary on the 600-, 800-, and 900-levels; some non-seminary graduate courses may be approved by the student's doctoral committee in consultation with the director of the program.
- Take a minimum of 24 credits on the 800- and 900-levels.
- Take at least two semesters of formal full-time study consecutively and in residence, registering each semester for no fewer than 8 credits. At least 33 credits (of the minimum 48) must be taken in residence (residence includes field work if taken from Andrews University).
- Attend doctoral colloquia, worship and assemblies.
- Achieve grades of B (3.00) or better and/or S. Only such grades are counted toward the degree requirements. No more than 15 credits in courses with an S grade may be applied to the program requirements. If students fall below this minimum GPA, they are placed on probation and can regain regular standing only after having again reached the B (3.00) level. The matriculation of students with grades below B may be terminated after review by the program committee. Students who accumulate more than three grades of C or below (2.00 or below) are not allowed to continue in the doctoral program.

Full Course Load. The full-time load for regular course work is 8 to 12 credits per semester. Sponsored students are expected to take a full load of 12 credits per semester. On-campus students who are registered for GSEM880, GSEM888 (non-credit courses) are counted as full-time students. Students who register for GSEM995 are also counted as full-time students if the work is done on campus and they register for 16 credits in a maximum of six semesters.

Time Limits. Students are required to finish all regular course work and take the comprehensive exams within five years of the initial registration in the program, and to complete all degree requirements within ten years of initial registration. Also, students must complete the dissertation including a formal defense and subsequent revisions in five years or less from the time the comprehensive examinations are passed. The two five-year time limits apply independently, so that shortening one does not lengthen the other.

Dissertation Advisory Committee

- By the time that students register for GSEM854 Dissertation Proposal Seminar, they, in consultation with the program director, should select a tentative dissertation topic and a dissertation advisory committee. The program director appoints as the chair of each student dissertation advisory committee, a faculty member in agreement with the tentative topic. During the same semester, students and their committee chairs should select two additional faculty members to complete the student dissertation advisory committee, so that, where possible, all three members may contribute to the development of the dissertation proposal. All three members of each student dissertation advisory committee must approve the proposal before it is presented to the program committee.
- At least six weeks before the time of the dissertation defense, the program director, in consultation with the dean of the Seminary, appoints two additional members to the dissertation committee. One of these persons, the external examiner, is normally a scholar from another graduate institution.

Comprehensive Examinations

Students are required to pass four comprehensive examinations within a four-week period designated by the program committee. Three of these examinations are set in the principal area of study and one in the cognate area. At least two of these examinations must be in the regular written format, each lasting between four and six hours, up to two of the four examinations may be given in the oral and/or take-home formats.

The course requirements of 48 credits must be completed before students can take comprehensive examinations.

The comprehensive examinations determine students' proficiencies in the major area of emphasis and in the cognate area of study, familiarity with pertinent literature, and skills in criticism and analysis.

Students' applications to take the comprehensive examinations are also an application for advancement to candidacy, which is granted subject to passing all comprehensive examinations.

Dissertation Proposal

While taking the course GSEM854 Dissertation Proposal Seminar, under the guidance of the course instructor and the chair of the dissertation advisory committee, students begin to work on the dissertation proposal. During the following semesters, but normally not later than the last semester of course work, students should submit a final proposal that is approved by the dissertation advisory committee and prepared for submission to the program committee. The program committee grants final approval for the dissertation topic.

Dissertation

The dissertation prepared by the PhD candidate must

- Make an original contribution to scholarship,
- Demonstrate the candidate's competence to do independent research,
- Reveal the candidate's familiarity with and proficiency in handling the pertinent literature, and
- Present a logically organized, methodologically sound, and readable account of the investigation, findings, conclusions and implications of the study.

The chair of each student dissertation advisory committee guides students in the research in consultation with other members of the committee. As a rule, a calendar year or more is needed for dissertation preparation.

The dissertation is normally written in SBL style and is typically between 250 and 300 pages in length.

Once the dissertation is completed and approved by each student dissertation advisory committee, a date is set for an oral defense.

Consult the doctoral student handbook for more details regarding the various steps to be taken by students during this program.

PHD: RELIGION

Thomas Shepherd, *Director*

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Religion program prepares teacher-scholars in focused theological fields of study, primarily for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its institutions of higher learning around the world. For more detailed guidelines and scheduling see the PhD in Religion Handbook. A copy may be accessed online at: www.andrews.edu/sem/programs-degrees/phd/phd-handbook.pdf.

Areas of Specialization

When students apply to the PhD program in religion, they select one of the six areas of study listed below.

Adventist Studies

- Development of Adventist lifestyle
- Development of Adventist theology
- General Adventist history

Church History

- Early Christianity and the Middle Ages
- Reformation
- Modern Church, American Church, and Adventist Studies
- History of Theological and Prophetic Studies
- Church and State

Mission and Ministry Studies

- Analysis of the biblical, theological, and theoretical basis for mission
- Evangelization of unreached people groups and urban population clusters
- Cross-cultural leadership development for effective church growth, ministry, and evangelistic strategies
- Study of world religions, secularism, and post-modernism as a missionary challenge

New Testament Studies

- Development of the Christian community in the first and second centuries
- History and praxis of New Testament exegesis and theology
- Intertestamental and New Testament backgrounds, both Jewish and Graeco-Roman
- Language and literature: text, canon, critical introduction, and cognate literature

Old Testament Studies

- Archaeology (periods, sites, methodology, and field work) and history of antiquity (Israel and the Ancient Near Eastern languages)
- Exegesis and theology (Pentateuch, Former Prophets, Latter Prophets, and Writings)
- Language and literature (Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic, other Ancient Near Eastern languages); LXX and other ancient versions; and Old Testament textual criticism

Theological Studies

- Christian ethics, comprising ethical theory and professional, personal, and social ethics
- Historical theology, examining the origin and development of theological concepts and trends
- Philosophical theology
- Systematic theology, embracing the biblical and doctrinal aspects of theological thought

Each area of study is to be supplemented with one of the cognate areas listed below. The cognate should be taken in a department other than the one which offers the major area of study.

- Biblical Archaeology and History of Antiquity
- Christian Ministry
- Church History
- Mission
- New Testament
- Old Testament
- Religious Education
- Theology
- Area selected from approved graduate-level studies

The PhD: Religion program builds on expertise and training developed in approved master's programs. It provides individuals equipped with skills and methods appropriate to genuine scholarship to do original and responsible research, and it promotes the proficient application of sound and valid principles of biblical interpretation and historic research. It seeks to acquaint students with the Judeo-Christian heritage and the findings of various branches of biblical scholarship and communicates the religious and ethical values of that heritage as found in Scripture and as understood by conservative Christians, in general, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, in particular.

This degree is not earned by the mere accumulation of credits. It is conferred on those who demonstrate clearly and capably, in written and oral form, mature and independent research marked by discriminating analysis, careful evaluation of evidence and theories, and sound interpretation of available data. The PhD in Religion is granted only to those who give evidence that they have attained a distinctly superior level of expertise in their principal area of study and the supplementary cognate area.

One who holds a PhD in Religion should possess the following competencies:

- Faithfulness to God and Scripture
- Mastery of content relevant to the chosen discipline
- Advanced research and writing capability in the chosen discipline
- Expertise in teaching and other forms of communication

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements listed in the Graduate Programs Admission section of this bulletin, p. 44, and in the Seminary Admission Requirements, p. 347. Admission to the PhD: Religion program is granted by the PhD-ThD Committee to applicants who

- Hold either an MDiv degree (or its equivalent), or an MA in Religion (or its equivalent) from an approved seminary or university.
- Show high promise of future usefulness to church and society.
- Read proficiently in ancient and/or modern languages as noted in the Language Requirements.
- Demonstrate the ability to handle doctoral-level work in English. (Standardized proficiency examinations are required of all PhD Religion program applicants whose native language is other than English).
- Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire.
- Have 16 prerequisite credits in the chosen area of concentration.
- Depending upon the applicant's academic background, the PhD-ThD Committee may also require proficiency examination(s) before granting admission to the doctoral program.
- Have completed GSEM620 Research Methods.

Time to Apply. Students who desire to enter the program in the autumn semester (the normal entry point) must submit all application materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions by the preceding January 15. A few students may be allowed to enter the program in the summer, in which case the application materials must reach the Office of Graduate Admissions by the preceding November 30.

The number of students who may enter the program in any given year is limited. Rarely is one accepted who applies late. Students whose applications are late may request consideration for admission in the following year.

Items to Submit. In addition to submitting the items required of all graduate students (see pp. 363–365), applicants to the PhD-ThD programs must also submit

- A 600-word personal statement including their philosophical perspective, the relationship of their religious concerns and ethical values to their responsibilities as a teacher-scholar and leader in the church; an indication of what they hope to accomplish professionally in the future, and a topic for the dissertation if one has already been selected.
- A significant research paper (term paper or thesis), normally written during MA or MDiv studies. This paper should show the applicant's ability to carry out research and to present the results and conclusions of such work with correct English and acceptable style. The topic of this paper should coincide with the area of concentration.

Language Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in specified foreign languages either by passing language proficiency examinations or by taking specified graduate level language courses at Andrews University and earning a grade of B or above. Languages listed as Prerequisite must be passed by examination or course work before the student is accepted into Regular Status. Languages listed as Required are taken as part of the area of concentration. The language requirements in the different areas of study are listed below.

Adventist Studies and Mission and Ministry Studies

- Prerequisite: Intermediate OT Hebrew, Intermediate NT Greek, and a relevant modern language other than English (approved by the student's advisor and by the director of the PhD program).

Church History

- Prerequisite: Intermediate NT Greek, French, and German.
- Required: CHIS614 Readings in Ecclesiastical Latin.
- Other languages as needed for research and/or dissertation, such as: Biblical Hebrew, Advanced Greek, Syriac, Coptic, etc.
- Up to six hours of language (Ecclesiastical Latin, 3+3=6), or: (Ecclesiastical Latin, 3) + (3 hours of another language) may be included within the program hours.

New Testament Studies

- Prerequisite: Advanced Greek (NTST608 or NTST696), or a passing score on the NT PhD Greek Entrance Exam, Intermediate Hebrew, French and German.
- Required: Advanced Greek (NTST608 or NTST696)

Old Testament Studies

- Prerequisite: OTST625 Biblical Hebrew III (may be repeated and applied toward the area of concentration), or a passing score in the OT PhD Hebrew Entrance Exam, Intermediate NT Greek, and two of the following languages: German, French and Modern Hebrew
- Required: OTST654 Biblical Aramaic and OTST660 Reading in Septuagint, for all specialties other than Archaeology.

Theological Studies

- Prerequisite: Intermediate OT Hebrew, Intermediate NT Greek, German and French.

In addition to these prerequisite language requirements, students in any of the five areas may be asked to study other languages. When warranted by the student's program, a language substitution may be made with the approval of the student's advisor and the director of the PhD Program.

Schedule of Meeting Language Proficiency Requirements. All language prerequisites should be completed before entrance. If that is not possible, a student may be required to take a reduced load in order to meet these prerequisites.

Language prerequisites should be met by the end of the third consecutive semester (including summer). Students who fail to meet this schedule take no further regular course work until all the language prerequisites are met.

Because of the amount of study and the length of time usually required in developing prerequisite-level skill in languages, the PhD-ThD Committee may require applicants to clear all the language prerequisites prior to admission.

Residence and Course Requirements

In order to fulfill the requirements for the PhD degree, students must

- Register for 64 credits by completing 48 or more credits of formal course work in lecture, seminars, directed-study, and reading courses, and 16 credits for the dissertation:

Area of Concentration	33
Area of Cognate	9
Requirements for cognates may be obtained from the PhD/ThD office	
Required Courses	6
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- Take all course work at the Seminary on the 600-, 800-, and 900-levels; some non-seminary graduate courses may be approved by the student's doctoral committee in consultation with the director of the PhD Program.
- Take a minimum of 24 credits on the 800- and 900-levels.
- Take at least two semesters of formal full-time study consecutively and in residence, registering each semester for no fewer than 8 credits. At least 33 credits (of the minimum 48) must be taken in residence.
- Attend doctoral colloquia and Seminary worship.
- Achieve grades of B (3.00) or better and/or S. Only such grades are credited toward the degree requirements. No more than 15 credits in courses with an S grade may be applied to the program requirements. If the student falls below this minimum GPA, he/she is placed on probation and can regain regular standing only after having again reached the B (3.00) level. The matriculation of a student with grades below B may be terminated after review by the PhD-ThD Committee. A student who accumulates more than three grades of C or below (2.00 or below) is not allowed to continue in the doctoral program.

Full Course Load. The full-time load for regular course work is 8 to 12 credits per semester. Sponsored students are expected to take a full load of 12 credits per semester. On-campus students who are registered for GSEM880, GSEM888 (non-credit courses) are counted as full-time students. Students who register for GSEM995 are also counted as full-time students if the work is done on campus and they register for 16 credits in a maximum of six semesters.

Advanced Standing. Advanced standing may be considered for students having done post-MA or post-MDiv work in an approved institution if the work is appropriate to the program, carries grades of B or above, and was taken within six years of the students' first enrollment in the PhD Program. Credits earned towards the MA and MDiv degrees are not considered for

advanced standing. The director of the PhD and ThD Programs determines the appropriateness, relevance, and currency of the work considered for advanced standing and authorizes such standing. In no case is the minimum residence requirement reduced.

Time Limits. The student is required to finish all regular course work and take the comprehensive examinations within five years of his/her initial registration in the program, and to complete all degree requirements within ten years of initial registration.

Comprehensive Examinations and Doctoral Dissertation Student Advisory Committees

- Not later than the student's registration for GSEM854 Dissertation Proposal Seminar, the student selects a tentative dissertation topic in consultation with the chair of the department offering the student's area of emphasis. Then the program director, in consultation with the student and the chair of the department, appoints as the chair of the student's doctoral committee, a faculty member in agreement with the tentative topic.
- The student, the department chair, and the doctoral committee chair collaborate in the selection of two other members to complete the student's doctoral committee. The appointment of the doctoral committee is subject to approval by the PhD/ThD Committee as are any changes to the committee.
- At least six weeks before the time of the dissertation defense, the program director, in consultation with the dean of the Seminary, appoints two additional members to the doctoral committee. One of these persons, the "external examiner," is normally a scholar from another graduate institution.

Comprehensive Examinations

- Students are required to pass five comprehensive examinations within a four-week period designated by the PhD-ThD Committee. Four of these examinations are set in the principal area of study and one in the cognate area.
- The regular course requirements of 48 credits or more must be completed before the student can sit for comprehensive examinations.
- The comprehensive examinations determine a student's proficiency in the major area of emphasis and in the cognate area of study, familiarity with pertinent literature, and skills in criticism and analysis.
- Students are expected to demonstrate greater proficiency in the major area of emphasis than in their cognate area.
- When students make formal application to take the comprehensive examinations, they are thereby also applying for advancement to candidacy, which is granted subject to passing all comprehensive examinations and approval of the dissertation proposal by the PhD-ThD Committee.

Dissertation Proposal

After taking 24 credits, students register for GSEM854 (3 credits) for fall semester only, and continue attending scheduled sessions through spring semester. In this course the dissertation topic is reviewed with the PhD program director. Under the guidance of the instructor and the chair of their doctoral committee, students write a tentative proposal. During the following semesters, but normally not later than the last semester of course work, students must submit a final proposal that is approved by their doctoral committee and prepared for submission to the proposal review committee and the PhD-ThD Committee.

The proposal must contain a basic survey of pertinent literature, a clear statement of the problem, a succinct purpose statement, a description of the methodology to be employed, a list of tentative chapter and subsection titles, and a preliminary bibliography.

After the dissertation proposal is approved and the student has passed the comprehensive examinations, he/she registers in GSEM995 for 1–16 dissertation credits for up to six semesters. If the dissertation is not completed after all 16 dissertation credits have been taken, the candidate must register for GSEM888 every semester, and pay a continuation fee until the dissertation is completed and the defense held, or until the time limit has expired.

Dissertation Preparation

The dissertation prepared by the PhD candidate must

1. Make an original contribution to scholarship.
2. Demonstrate the candidate's competence to do independent research.
3. Reveal the candidate's familiarity with and proficiency in handling the pertinent literature.
4. Present a logically organized, methodologically sound, and readable account of the investigation, findings, conclusions, and implications of the study.
5. Not exceed 100,000 words in content and footnotes, excluding bibliography.

Oral Defense of Dissertation

Candidates' oral defense of their dissertations normally cannot be made earlier than 12 months after passing the comprehensive examinations. The date is set and advertised by the director of the PhD-ThD programs.

The oral defense is conducted by the dissertation defense committee and is held no later than four weeks before the degree is conferred.

To pass the oral defense, candidates must receive a vote of approval from at least four of the five examiners. The committee votes in one of the following ways:

1. Acceptance of the dissertation as presented
2. Acceptance of the dissertation subject to minor revisions
3. Acceptance of the dissertation subject to major revisions
4. Rejection of the dissertation.

Normally, rejection of a dissertation terminates the student's doctoral candidacy, but the PhD-ThD Committee may consider whether to allow him/her to prepare and submit another dissertation and what specific requirements would apply (including possible further course work and additional comprehensive examinations).

After the defense. After the defense

- The student makes all corrections.
 - The deadline for dissertations to be submitted to the Dissertation Secretary with the signed approval page is no later than Wednesday, 10 days before graduation.
- Strict adherence to this deadline is essential or graduation is postponed.

For more detailed guidelines and scheduling see the PhD in Religion Handbook. A copy may be accessed online at: www.andrews.edu/sem/programs-degrees/phd/phd-handbook.pdf.