

THD: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

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The primary purpose of advanced academic studies leading to the Doctor of Theology (ThD) degree is to provide teacher-scholars in the fields of biblical and theological studies for the Seventh-day Adventist Church—primarily its institutions of higher learning (colleges, seminaries, universities) around the world. This academic degree meets the need of individuals in areas of the world where a ThD is the preferred academic degree. The normal doctorate in religion is the PhD.

The ThD program is offered in two fields of study with areas of emphasis as listed below.

Biblical Studies

Archaeology and History
Exegesis and Theology
Languages and Literature

Theological Studies

Historical Theology
Systematic Theology

A minimum of two academic years of formal course work or not fewer than four semesters of full-time study at 12 credits per semester is required. This ordinarily amounts to a minimum of 48 credits of formal course work, 24 credits of which must consist of seminars, directed study, and reading courses. The student chooses a field of study and within that field an area of emphasis to which at least one-half (24 credits) of the course work is devoted. The student also chooses a supporting area, normally in another field, to which at least one-fourth (12 credits) of the course work is devoted. Of the remaining 12 credits of course work, 3 are used in GSEM854, 3 in GSEM920, and 3 in GSEM860. Students with recognized experience as college/graduate-level teachers may devote the latter 3 credits (together with the other remaining 3 credits) to the area of emphasis or to the supporting area.

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements listed in the Graduate Programs Admission section of the bulletin, p. 44, and in the Seminary Admission Requirements, p. 301. Admission to the ThD in religion program is granted by the PhD-ThD Committee to applicants who also have the following qualifications:

- Applicants must hold an MDiv degree or its equivalent from an approved seminary or university. For students holding the MTh degree, the minimum requirement of course work may be lowered, subject to the discretion of the PhD-ThD Committee.
- Applicants must show high promise of future usefulness to church and society.
- Applicants must have a reading proficiency in ancient and modern languages as noted in the Language Requirements section below.

Depending upon the applicant's academic background, the PhD-ThD Committee may also require proficiency examination(s) before granting admission to the doctoral program.

Admission Procedure. The admission procedure for the ThD degree program is the same as for the PhD degree program. See p. 324. Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire as directed.

Language Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in specified foreign languages in one of these ways:

- By passing language proficiency examinations.
- By taking specified language courses (e.g., advanced courses in Hebrew and Greek and FREN502 and GRMN502) at Andrews University and earning a grade of B or above.

If French or German (or a substitute modern language) is the student's native language and he/she has been using it regularly, no special demonstration of competency is required for that language.

Foreign language requirements for the ThD program are listed below.

Biblical Languages: Advanced Level Hebrew and Greek

Modern Languages: Reading knowledge of French and German

Language Substitution. Another foreign language may be substituted for either French or German (but not for both) if the substitution is warranted by the student's program. The student must submit a petition requesting the substitution and indicating a rationale for the request. The student's adviser and the program director must approve the petition before the substitution is allowed.

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.

Advanced Standing. A limited amount of post-MDiv work may be accepted by transfer from an accredited institution (including Andrews University), giving the student an advanced standing in the ThD program. The credits must be applicable to the ThD requirements and have been earned within a six-year period before the student's enrollment in the program. All transfer courses must carry a grade of B or better. An Andrews University MTh student whose credits have been earned within this time frame may yield up to 16 credits of advanced standing in the ThD program. The work must be applicable and not have been taken as an entrance requirement because of deficiency in GPA and/or course work). Transfer credit is granted at the discretion of the director of PhD-ThD Programs, and a transcript must be on file at the Academic Records Office.

Information on Residence and Course Requirements, Comprehensive Examinations, and the Doctoral Dissertation Information is the same as for the PhD program (see above).

General Seminary Courses (Credits)

See inside front cover for symbol code.

Course numbers used in this bulletin are the following:

- 500-599 Master's level courses for professional programs
- 600-699 Master's and doctoral level courses
- 700-799 Professional doctoral courses
- 800-999 Academic doctoral courses

Whenever an alternative number of credits is designated for a given course, a hyphen (e.g., "2–3 credits") indicates that the student may choose the number of credits within the designated amount (corresponding work is assigned by the teacher); the word "or" (e.g., "2 or 3 credits") indicates that in any given term the course is available for one of the amounts of credit (but not both). Courses may be increased or decreased by 1 credit in extension schools at the discretion of the dean.

GSEM510 <i>Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics</i> An interdisciplinary study of the process by which God communicates with human beings and of sound methods for interpreting and understanding the Scripture and applying its message.	(3)	GSEM625 <i>Religious Liberty Issues and Advocacy</i> A survey of religious liberty principles and cases from an Adventist perspective with an emphasis on the contemporary U.S. setting, including a review of major historical developments and a look at trends shaping the future.	(3–4)
GSEM525 <i>The Bible and Biblical History</i> Surveys the Bible's content and history as reflected in the requirements for the Bible Knowledge Entrance Test and equips the student to improve the biblical literacy of the local parish.	(1)	GSEM648 <i>Workshop</i>	(variable)
GSEM528 <i>Nutrition and Health Promotion</i> Health promotion and Adventist lifestyle, with primary focus on the influence of diet on the development of chronic diseases such as heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer.	(2–3)	GSEM670 <i>Guided Study Tour of the Bible Lands</i> The principal sites of historical and archaeological interest in the countries of the Bible surrounding the eastern Mediterranean, including Egypt, Sinai, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan. Weekly: 2 or 3 lectures.	(1–12)
GSEM530 <i>Doctrine of the Sanctuary</i> A study of the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries with special emphasis on the books of Leviticus, Daniel, Hebrews, and Revelation. Team taught by members of various departments.	(2–3)	GSEM678 <i>Church History Study Tour</i> Provides a variety of guided study tours to places of interest in general Christian and denominational history. Repeatable with different sites or eras.	(1–8)
GSEM532 <i>The Life and Ministry of Ellen G. White</i> Designed for students who have not had a similar course on the college level. It is a prerequisite for GSEM534, not a substitute for it.	(2)	GSEM688 <i>Master's Degree Continuation</i>	(0)
GSEM534 <i>The Writings of Ellen G. White</i> Orientation in methods of research in and interpretation of the writings of E. G. White. Based on personal research in her published and unpublished works. A core requirement. Prerequisite: GSEM532 or its equivalent.	(2–3)	GSEM695 <i>Research Project</i>	(2–3)
GSEM539 <i>Issues in Origins</i> A study of current creation and evolutionary models regarding the origin, age, and change of the earth and its life. Specific topics include the historical development of these models; their biblical, philosophical, and scientific foundations; and theological implications.	(2–3)	GSEM697 <i>Thesis for MA Degree</i>	(3–9)
GSEM541 <i>Spiritual Formation</i> Study and practice of spiritual formation designed to lead students to growth in their personal spiritual lives.	(2–3)	GSEM698 <i>Thesis for Master of Divinity Degree</i>	(2–8)
GSEM542 <i>Advanced Spiritual Formation</i> In-depth study and practice of specific issues and activities of the spiritual life. Repeatable. Prerequisite: GSEM541.	(2–3)	GSEM699 <i>Thesis for Master of Theology Degree</i>	(2–8)
GSEM588 <i>InMinistry MDiv Continuation</i>	(0)	GSEM850 <i>Research Seminar</i> An introduction to research methods and tools.	(2)
GSEM620 <i>Research Methods</i> An introduction to research techniques and tools. A research paper is required.	(2–3)	GSEM854 <i>PhD-ThD Dissertation Proposal Seminar</i> Advanced research techniques and tools, with preparation of a tentative proposal, or pre-proposal, for a dissertation in the field of religion.	(3)
		GSEM860 <i>Teaching Religion in College</i> Furnishes PhD and ThD students with insights into the practice of using basic techniques, tools, and procedures for meaningful instruction in the field of religion.	(3)
		GSEM880 <i>Preparation for PhD-ThD Comprehensive Examinations</i> Qualifies for full-time status.	(0)
		GSEM888 <i>PhD-ThD Dissertation Continuation</i> Qualifies for full-time status.	(0)
		GSEM995 <i>PhD-ThD Dissertation</i> May take 1–12 credits to qualify for full-time status.	(1–12)