

# PHD: RELIGION

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Thomas Shepherd, *Director*

The primary purpose of advanced academic studies leading to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): Religion is to provide teacher-scholars for church-operated colleges, seminaries, and universities 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/Articles/PhD/PhD-Handbook.pdf](http://www.andrews.edu/sem/Articles/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
- Leadership development for effective church growth, ministry, and evangelistic strategies
- Study of world religions and secularism 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 as directed.
- 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.
- 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. 347–350), 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. The foreign language requirements in the different areas of study are listed below.

#### Adventist Studies and Mission and Ministry Studies

Intermediate OT Hebrew, Intermediate NT Greek, and a relevant modern language other than English (approved by the student's adviser and by the director of the PhD-ThD Programs)

#### 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

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

#### Old Testament Studies

OTST625 Biblical Hebrew III 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 (Additional language requirements for OT Concentration are listed under **Residence and Course Requirements.**)

#### Theological Studies

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 adviser and the director of the PhD and ThD Programs.

**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

New Testament concentration includes NTST608 or NTST696

Old Testament concentration also includes OTST625

Biblical Hebrew III, OTST654 Biblical Aramaic and OTST660

Readings in Septuagint, for all specialties other than

Archaeology

##### Area of Cognate 9

##### Required Courses 6

GSEM854 (3), GSEM860 (3)

##### Dissertation 16

GSEM995 (1-12)

- 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-ThD Programs.
- 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 chapels.
- 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 5 years of his/her 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 5-year time limits apply independently, so that shortening one does not lengthen the other.

### Comprehensive Examinations and Doctoral Dissertation Student Advisory Committees

- Not later than the student's registration for GSEM854 Dissertation Proposal Seminar, the student, in consultation with the chair of the department offering the student's area of emphasis, selects a tentative dissertation topic. Then the program director, in consultation with the student and the chair of the department, appoints as the chair of the student's dissertation committee, a faculty member in agreement with the tentative topic.
- The student and chair collaborate in the selection of two other members to complete the student's Doctoral Committee so that when possible the student's advisory committee continues as the student's dissertation committee. Any proposed changes to the advisory or dissertation committee are subject to the approval of the PhD-ThD Committee.
- At least six weeks before the time of the dissertation defense, the 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 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

Students are expected to receive approval from their advisers for a dissertation topic by the end of their second semester (or by the time they have earned 24 credits). At this point, they are required to register for GSEM854 (3 credits) for fall semester only, and continue attending scheduled sessions through spring semester. Under the guidance of the instructor and the chair of their advisory committee, students will write a tentative proposal (or pre-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 advisory committee and prepared for submission to the proposal review committee and the PhD-ThD Committee.

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

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.

### 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/Articles/PhD/PhD-Handbook.pdf](http://www.andrews.edu/SEM/Articles/PhD/PhD-Handbook.pdf).

## THD: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

Thomas Shepherd, *Director*

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

One who holds a Doctor of Theology degree should possess the following competencies:

- Faithfulness as a living witness to Christ 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

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, three are used in GSEM854 and three in GSEM860.

### **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. 347. 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.
- 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. 380. 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. 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).