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.

Questions at the oral defense concentrate on the dissertation and its area of investigation. The questions are designed to test the candidate's ability to defend the concepts and data of the dissertation and to examine significant related material. The candidate should demonstrate an understanding of the larger context in which his/her dissertation lies.

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

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

- 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.
• 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 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**

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 Revelation, Inspiration and Hermeneutics**

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.

**GSEM511 Daniel and Revelation**

Survey of Daniel and Revelation, laying basic exegetical and hermeneutical foundations for proper use of these books in preaching and evangelism. Beginning level Greek and Hebrew required.

**GSEM525 The Bible and Biblical History**

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.

**GSEM528 Nutrition and Health Promotion**

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.

**GSEM530 Doctrine of the Sanctuary**

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.

**GSEM534 Issues in Ellen G. White Studies**

Methods of research and interpretation of issues in the writings of E.G. White. Based on personal research in her published and unpublished works. A core requirement. Prerequisite: GSEM532 or CHIS504 Adventist Heritage or equivalent.

**GSEM539 Issues in Origins**

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.

**GSEM541 Spiritual Formation**

Study and practice of spiritual formation designed to lead students to growth in their personal spiritual lives.

**GSEM542 Advanced Spiritual Formation**

In-depth study and practice of specific issues and activities of the spiritual life. Repeatable. Prerequisite: GSEM541.

**GSEM588 InMinistry MDiv Continuation**

**GSEM620 Research Methods**

An introduction to research techniques and tools. A research paper is required.
Religious Liberty Issues and Advocacy
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.

Contemporary Adventist Theological Issues
Study of contemporary theological issues and their impact on the message, life and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The content of the course may vary from year to year.

Issues in Daniel and Revelation
Hermeneutics and exegesis of Daniel and Revelation in the original languages, focusing on issues pertaining to use of these books in evangelistic preaching. Daniel 7–9 and Revelation 10–14 receive particular attention. Intermediate level Greek and Hebrew required.

Workshop

Guided Study Tour of the Bible Lands
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.

Church History Study Tour
Provides a variety of guided study tours to places of interest in general Christian and denominational history. Repeatable with different sites or eras.

Master's Degree Continuation

Research Project

Thesis for MA Degree

Thesis for Master of Divinity Degree

Thesis for Master of Theology Degree

Research Seminar
An introduction to research methods and tools.

PhD-ThD Dissertation Proposal Seminar
Advanced research techniques and tools, with preparation of a tentative proposal, or pre-proposal, for a dissertation in the field of religion.

Teaching Religion in College
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.

Preparation for PhD-ThD Comprehensive Examinations
Qualifies for full-time status.

PhD-ThD Dissertation Continuation
Qualifies for full-time status.

PhD-ThD Dissertation
May take 1–12 credits to qualify for full-time status.