

THD: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

Thomas Shepherd, *Director*

The Doctor of Theology (ThD) program prepares teacher-scholars in interdisciplinary theological fields, primarily for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its institutions of higher learning around the world.

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

Biblical Studies

Archaeology and History
Exegesis and Theology
Languages and Literature

Historical/Biblical Studies

Adventist Studies and Old Testament
Adventist Studies and New Testament
Church History and Old Testament
Church History and New Testament

Historical/Missiological Studies

Adventist Studies and Mission
Church History and Mission

Missiological/Biblical Studies

Mission and Old Testament
Mission and New Testament

Missiological/Theological Studies

Mission, Ethics and Philosophy
Mission and Historical Theology
Mission and Systematic Theology

Theological/Biblical Studies

Ethics, Philosophy and New Testament
Historical Theology and New Testament
Systematic Theology and New Testament
Ethics, Philosophy and Old Testament
Historical Theology and Old Testament
Systematic Theology and Old Testament

Theological/Historical Studies

Ethics, Philosophy and Adventist Studies
Systematic Theology and Adventist Studies
Historical Theology and Adventist Studies
Ethics, Philosophy and Church History
Systematic Theology and Church History
Historical Theology and Church History

Each field of study is to be supplemented with one of the cognate areas listed below:

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

The cognate must be taken in a department other than the two departments bridged in the field of study. If the field of study does not include New Testament, Old Testament, or Theology and Christian Philosophy then the cognate must come from one of these departments.

The ThD 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 ThD 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 ThD 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 ThD program is granted by the PhD-ThD Committee to applicants who:

- Hold an MDiv degree or its equivalent from an approved seminary or university.
- Show high promise of future usefulness to church and society.
- Read proficiently in ancient and modern languages as noted in the Language Requirements section below.
- Demonstrate the ability to handle doctoral-level work in English. (Standardized proficiency examinations are required of all ThD program applicants whose native language is other than English.)
- Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire.
- 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 Enrollment 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 Enrollment 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 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 emphasis within the student's chosen field of study.

Language Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in specified 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 language requirements for the ThD degree are advanced Hebrew and advanced Greek and reading knowledge of French and German.

When warranted by the student's program, language substitutions may be made with the approval of the student's advisor and the director of the ThD program. Some departments allow up to 6 hours of language requirements to count toward the field of study.

Schedule of Meeting Language Requirements. All language requirements 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 requirements. Language requirements 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 requirements are met. Because of the amount of study and the length of time usually required in developing skill in languages, the PhD-ThD Committee may require applicants to clear all the language requirements prior to admission.

Residence and Course Requirements

In order to fulfill the requirements for the ThD degree, students must:

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

Field of Study 33
A field of study links two departments in the Seminary. Coursework is divided between the two departments with a minimum of 12 hours in any one of the two. Certain fields of study include additional languages as part of the coursework requirements set by the two departments jointly. A list of the current requirements is available from the PhD-ThD office.

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 ThD 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 worships.

- 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-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 ThD Program. Credits earned towards the MDiv degree are not considered for advanced standing. The director of the ThD Program 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. 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 selects a tentative dissertation topic in consultation with the chairs of the departments of the student's field of study. Then the program director, in consultation with the student and the chairs of the departments, appoints as the chair of the student's dissertation committee, a faculty member in agreement with the tentative topic.
- The student, the department chairs and the doctoral committee chair collaborate in the selection of two other members to complete the student's dissertation committee. The appointment of the dissertation 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 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 student's field of study with components from both departments and the fifth is 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 field of study 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 their field of study 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 ThD 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 ThD 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 ThD program.

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/ThD Handbook. A copy may be accessed online at: www.andrews.edu/sem/programs-degrees/phd/phd-handbook.pdf.

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

(3)

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. *Also available through the Seminary Distance Learning Center as a 3-credit course.*

GSEM511

(3)

Daniel and Revelation

Survey of Daniel and Revelation, laying basic exegetical and hermeneutical foundations for proper use of these books in preaching and evangelism. Must have met the beginning level Greek and Hebrew requirements.

GSEM525

(1)

The Bible and Biblical History

Surveys the Bible's content and history as reflected in the