

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

requirements for the Bible Knowledge Entrance Test and equips the student to improve the biblical literacy of the local parish.

GSEM528 (2–3)
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 (2–3)
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. *Also available through the Seminary Distance Learning Center as a 2-credit course.*

GSEM534 (2–3)
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. *Also available through the Seminary Distance Learning Center as a 2-credit course.*

GSEM539 (2–3)
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. *Also available through the Seminary Distance Learning Center as a 2-credit course.*

GSEM588 (0)
InMinistry MDiv Continuation

GSEM620 (2–3)
Research Methods

An introduction to research techniques and tools. A research paper is required. Prerequisite: Must pass Essential Computer Skills Test. Computer lab required.

GSEM625 (3–4)
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.

GSEM626 (2–3)
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. *Also available through the Seminary Distance Learning Center as a 2-credit course.*

GSEM627 (3)
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. Must have met the intermediate level Greek and Hebrew requirements.

GSEM648 (variable)
Workshop

GSEM660 (0)
Portfolio

Using the approved guidelines, students document personal development; the integration of theory and practice; engagement in ministry within a local congregation; participation in evangelistic outreach; and community involvement.

GSEM670 (1–12)
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.

GSEM678 (1–8)
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.

GSEM688 \$ (0)
Master's Degree Continuation

GSEM680 (0)
Master's Comprehensive Exam

GSEM695 (2–3)
Research Project

GSEM697 (3–9)
Thesis for MA Degree

GSEM698 (2–8)
Thesis for Master of Divinity Degree

GSEM699 (2–8)
Thesis for Master of Theology Degree

GSEM850 (2)
Research Seminar

An introduction to research methods and tools.

GSEM854 (3)
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.

GSEM880 \$ (0)
Preparation for PhD-ThD Comprehensive Examinations
Qualifies for full-time status.

GSEM888 \$ (0)
PhD-ThD Dissertation Continuation
Qualifies for full-time status.

GSEM995 (1–12)
PhD-ThD Dissertation
May take 1–12 credits to qualify for full-time status.