

Land of Goshen Institute of Theology

Doctor of Theology (Th.D.), Doctor of Philosophy in Theology (Ph.D.)

Total Hours 90

Objectives

The Doctor of Theology (ThD) and Doctor of Philosophy in Theology (PhD) program prepares teacher-scholars in interdisciplinary theological fields. The ThD program builds on expertise and training developed in approved master's programs. The PhD degree program is offered to students wishing to enhance their knowledge and competence in teaching and research and to contribute to scholarship in a specialized area of theological studies. The PhD is a research doctorate and requires students to give evidence of the highest standards of scholarship at every stage of the degree program. Both ThD and PhD provides individuals equipped with skills and methods appropriate to do original and responsible research, and it promotes the proficient application of sound and valid principles of biblical interpretation and historical research. Our doctoral programs offer a distinctive research focus on locating the work of theology in history and culture. Theology is at the center, but students examine other disciplines and practices. Students take courses in history, theology, and cultural studies and conduct theological research in conjunction with research methods from the humanities and social sciences. Both ThD and PhD will require a dissertation.

Course Requirements

In order to graduate with a Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) or Doctor of Philosophy of Theology (Ph.D.), the student must have satisfactorily completed the following requirements:

1. Prerequisite: Master's degree (or equivalent) in related/approved field
2. A minimum of 90 credits for program completion
3. A minimum overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. All financial obligations settled with Land of Goshen Institute of Theology

Courses

The following courses of study are required:

Philosophy:

- Advanced Apologetics
- Advanced Hermeneutics
- Biblical Philosophy of Ministry

Theology:

- Biblical Theology
- Christology
- Historical Theology
- Systematic Theology
- Pneumatology

- Practical Theology
- Major Research Writing Project

Biblical Languages:

- Core Study of Exegesis
- Advanced Greek I & II
- Advanced Hebrew I & II

Christian Education

- Dissertation Development and Proposal Seminar
- ThD-PhD Proposal Preparation

Electives:

- 10 Credit Hours
 - Elements of Biblical Greek Studies
 - Professional Ethics
 - Human Resource Management
 - Community Outreach & Engagement
 - History of Theology & Religion

Dissertation Requirement:

Doctoral Thesis

Students must present, discuss and defend the thesis proposal before the dissertation research committee consisting of four faculty, including the student's sponsor, within six months of completion of the ThD-PhD degree.

Each student will be required to propose and develop a theological research thesis built upon a Scriptural / doctrinal / theological projected premise. The doctoral thesis can focus on the study of Christian beliefs and/or practices. The research and study involved are meant to be more theological or doctrinal than practical. All doctrine is practical in the sense that it is meant to impact or change the lives of those who study and put into practice what they learn in the Word of God.

The doctrinal thesis is intended to be an original and significant work of individual research and formulation of theological conclusions and applications. It is intended to be a work of personal excellence with scholarly content. The experience and understanding gained through the development of the thesis will increase the student's doctrinal perspectives and theological foundations, as well as improve and enhance specific teaching skills considered necessary for their particular calling. For this reason, the thesis should clearly define the purpose, findings, and conclusions of the research. The student should invest the time and the care to ensure that an enduring reference will result that will benefit both the student and others that will investigate that same research investment.

Program Oversight and Faculty Advisor Assignments

- Each doctoral candidate will be provided with a Faculty Advisor to oversee their program of study and a means to contact that advisor for input and support. Questions may be submitted to their Faculty Advisor or to the Doctoral Academic Committee.

Dissertation Proposal:

- The student may prepare his/her dissertation proposal by taking PhD-ThD Dissertation Proposal Seminar during the coursework phase. 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.
- If the dissertation proposal has not been approved by the PhD-ThD Committee by the time comprehensive examinations have been passed the student registers for PhD-ThD Dissertation Proposal Preparation (non-credit) until the proposal is approved.
- After the dissertation proposal is approved and the student has passed the comprehensive examinations, he/she registers for PhD-ThD Dissertation 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 PhD-ThD Dissertation Continuation 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-PhD candidate must

- Make an original contribution to scholarship.
- Demonstrate the candidate's competence to do independent research.
- Reveal the candidate's familiarity with and proficiency in handling the pertinent literature.
- Present a logically organized, methodologically sound, and readable account of the investigation, findings, conclusions, and implications of the study.
- Not exceed 100,000 words in content and footnotes, excluding bibliography.
- Be a minimum of 25,000 words

Oral Defense of Dissertation:

- The oral defense of the dissertation 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-PhD program.
- At least six weeks before the time of the dissertation defense, the program director, in consultation with the dean, appoints two additional members to the doctoral committee. One of these persons, the "external examiner", is normally a scholar from another graduate institution.

- 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, the candidates must receive a vote of approval from at least four of the five examiners. The committee votes in one of the following ways:
 - Acceptance of the dissertation as presented
 - Acceptance of the dissertation subject to minor revisions
 - Acceptance of the dissertation subject to major revisions
 - 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:

- 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.