

# 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:

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- ✓ & K U L V W Q L D V U \
- ✓ & K X U F K W R U \
- ✓ : R U O C G V L R Q
- ✓ 1 H Z H V W D P H Q W
- ✓ 2 O E V W D P H Q W
- ✓ 5 H O L J G R R D W L R Q
- ✓ 7 K H R D Q R K U L V M L D Q V R S K \
- ✓ \$ U W I D O H I F U R P S S U R J Y H D G X D W H W O E Y H O

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

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V G H D Q Z K L W F L O S E S D E L Y O L W R O P S A U O R Y H G

or university. Z L J K U R P R V X W X V H I X Z R (Applying materials to the Office of Graduate Enrollment by the preceding

must reach the Office of Graduate Enrollment by the preceding November.

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.

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 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:

Formal course work in lecture, seminar, directed-study, and reading courses, and credits for the dissertation:  
Field of Study

A field of study links two departments in the Seminary. Coursework is divided between the two departments with a minimum of 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  
Required Courses  
GSEM ( ), GSEM ( )

Dissertation  
GSEM ( - )

5-levels; some non-seminary graduate courses may be approved by the student's doctoral committee in consultation with the director of the ThD Program.

7 consecutive and in residence, registering each semester for no fewer than credits. At least credits (of the minimum ) must be taken in residence.

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are credited toward the degree requirements. No more than 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 ( . ) 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 ( . or below) is not allowed to continue in the doctoral program.

**Full Course Load.** The full-time load for regular course work is to credits per semester. Sponsored students are expected to take a full load of credits per semester. On-campus students who are registered for GSEM , GSEM (non-credit courses) are counted as full-time students. Students who register for GSEM are also counted as full-time students if the work is done on campus and they register for 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 -year time limits apply independently, so that shortening one does not lengthen the other.

**Comprehensive Examinations and Doctoral Dissertation Student Advisory Committees**

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.

7 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.

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

- v 6 W X G B C U W H T X M S H D V Y F R P S U H K H Q D V L Y Q H D W L R Q V  
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.
- v 7 K H H J X F R D X W V H T X L U H R F U H Q U W H G B L B R V P H K V W  
be completed before the student can sit for comprehensive  
examinations.
- v 7 K F R P S U H K H Q D V L Y Q H D G M L R B N D F M Q X G H Q W V  
proficiency in the field of study and in the cognate area  
of study, familiarity with pertinent literature, and skills in  
criticism and analysis.
- v 6 W X G B C H W S H F W G H G P R Q V J W U H D S W H R U L F L G Q F \
- v : K H Q W X G P H Q N M R U P D S O S O L F D W V L R I Q H  
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 3 credits, students register for GSEM 500 (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 GSEM 500 for 3 dissertation credits for up to six semesters. If the dissertation is not completed after all 3 dissertation credits have been taken, the candidate must register for GSEM 500 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

- . Make an original contribution to scholarship.