

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 principal area of study and one 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 major area of emphasis 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 the major area of emphasis 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

Students are expected to receive approval from their advisers for a dissertation topic by the end of their second semester (or by the time they have earned 24 credits). At this point, they are required to register for GSEM854 (3 credits) for fall semester only, and continue attending scheduled sessions through spring semester. Under the guidance of the instructor and the chair of their advisory committee, students will write a tentative proposal (or pre-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 advisory committee and prepared for submission to the proposal review committee and the PhD-ThD Committee.

The proposal must contain the preliminary bibliography, a clear statement of the problem, a description of the methodology to be employed, a basic survey of pertinent literature, and a list of tentative chapter and subsection titles.

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 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.

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 in Religion Handbook. A copy may be accessed online at: www.andrews.edu/SEM/Articles/PhD/PhD-Handbook.pdf.

THD: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

Rudi Maier, *Director*

The primary purpose of advanced academic studies leading to the Doctor of Theology (ThD) degree is to provide teacher-scholars in the fields of biblical and theological studies for the Seventh-day Adventist Church—primarily its institutions of higher learning (colleges, seminaries, universities) around the world. This academic degree meets the need of individuals in areas of the world where a ThD is the preferred academic degree. The normal doctorate in religion is the PhD.

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

Biblical Studies

Archaeology and History
Exegesis and Theology
Languages and Literature

Theological Studies

Historical Theology
Systematic Theology

One who holds a Doctor of Theology degree should possess the following competencies:

- Faithfulness as a living witness to Christ 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

A minimum of two academic years of formal course work or not fewer than four semesters of full-time study at 12 credits per semester is required. This ordinarily amounts to a minimum of

48 credits of formal course work, 24 credits of which must consist of seminars, directed study and reading courses. The student chooses a field of study and within that field an area of emphasis to which at least one-half (24 credits) of the course work is devoted. The student also chooses a supporting area, normally in another field, to which at least one-fourth (12 credits) of the course work is devoted. Of the remaining 12 credits of course work, three are used in GSEM854 and three in GSEM860.

Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements listed in the Graduate Programs Admission section of the bulletin, p. 42, and in the Seminary Admission Requirements, p. 337. Admission to the ThD in religion program is granted by the PhD-ThD Committee to applicants who also have the following qualifications:

- Applicants must hold an MDiv degree or its equivalent from an approved seminary or university.
- Applicants must show high promise of future usefulness to church and society.
- Applicants must have a reading proficiency in ancient and modern languages as noted in the Language Requirements section below.

Depending upon the applicant's academic background, the PhD-ThD Committee may also require proficiency examination(s) before granting admission to the doctoral program.

Admission Procedure. The admission procedure for the ThD degree program is the same as for the PhD degree program. See p. 360. Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire as directed.

Language Requirements. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in specified foreign languages in one of these ways:

- 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. 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 director of 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 (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.

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. Beginning level Greek and Hebrew required.

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.