

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D.)

Purpose

Midwestern offers a research doctorate (Ph.D.) with concentrations in Old Testament and New Testament. The Ph.D. is intended primarily to equip persons for vocations of teaching and research in theological schools, colleges, and universities, or for the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice.

The Ph.D. degree program is under the direction of the Doctoral Studies Office. For more information call 877-414-3755 or e-mail docstudies@mbts.edu.

Admission

In addition to the general criteria for admission to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, applicants to the Ph.D. degree program must have:

1. An earned, 60+ hour master's degree or equivalent from an Association of Theological Schools accredited institution;
2. A 3.0 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale for all graduate level studies;
3. Satisfied the language requirement listed below.

Along with submitting a completed application form, health/emotional/social information form, and the application fee, the applicant must also:

1. Request that original transcripts from each academic institution previously attended be sent to the Doctoral Studies Office;
2. Request that official score reports for the Graduate Record Exam or Miller Analogies Test be sent to the Doctoral Studies Office;
3. Submit a copy of a 15-20 page academic research paper as an example of the applicant's research and writing skills (see application for required style guide requirements);
4. Provide two academic and one personal or professional references;
5. Provide a completed Church Endorsement Form;
6. Arrange for a personal interview with the Ph.D. Director.

International applicants must submit the results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination. For the Internet-based test, a minimum total score of 80 is required with a minimum of 20 on each of the Reading, Listening, Speaking, and Writing sub-sections. Other forms of the TOEFL exam are not accepted unless prior approval is obtained from the Doctoral Studies Committee.

Applicants not meeting all admission requirements may petition to enter the program under provisional status. Information about this may be requested from the Doctoral Studies Office (877-414-3755 or docstudies@mbts.edu).

Language Requirement

Applicants to the Ph.D. program must demonstrate a working knowledge of Greek, Hebrew, and German, plus either French or Latin. In some cases a third Biblical language may be required if the Committee determines that the chosen program of study requires it. In all cases, the Doctoral Studies Committee must approve the languages chosen in consultation with the Ph.D. Director. A working knowledge of one modern language must be demonstrated prior to taking doctoral seminars. If a student does not do so, that student will be required to take a reduced load during the first semester of study. Competence in the second modern language must be demonstrated prior to the beginning of the Tutorial and Comprehensive Examinations stage. A working knowledge of a language is demonstrated by earning a passing grade in a non-credit course offered under faculty supervision or on a doctoral language proficiency examination. Modifications or exceptions to these language requirements may be made upon recommendation of the Ph.D. Director and the approval of the Doctoral Studies Committee and Academic Dean.

Program Objectives

Students graduating from the Doctor of Philosophy program will be able:

1. To master a discernible field of study within their chosen theological discipline.
2. To understand and demonstrate research methodologies and procedures appropriate to their chosen field of study.
3. To demonstrate theological inquiry and hermeneutical expertise through writing and teaching within their chosen field of study.
4. To exercise the liberty to develop and defend a research dissertation.

Location

All Ph.D. seminars are offered on Midwestern's main campus in Kansas City, Missouri.

Duration

The Ph.D. degree is a 60 hour program requiring four years of academic study or its equivalent. All work for the degree must be completed within eight years.

Distinctive Resources

Ph.D. students have access to community life that provides formal and informal educational experiences, religious fellowship, and opportunity for reflection upon the meaning of faith in its relation to education and research. Access to faculty advisors/mentors, opportunity for teaching college courses, and preferred access to library resources and reserved study carrels is also provided.

CURRICULUM

Ph.D. Core (<i>all are required</i>)	16 hours
40020 Ph.D. Colloquium I	4 hrs
40030 Ph.D. Colloquium II	4 hrs
40060 Advanced Biblical Hermeneutics	4 hrs
40070 Teaching Principles and Methods in Higher Education	4 hrs
Ph.D. Concentrations (<i>select OT or NT</i>)	20 hours
Old Testament	
40210 Pentateuch	4 hrs
40220 Historical Books of the Old Testament	4 hrs
40230 Latter Prophets	4 hrs
40240 The Writings of the Old Testament	4 hrs
40250 Historical Hebrew Grammar	4 hrs
New Testament	
40310 Synoptic Gospels and Acts	4 hrs
40320 Johannine Literature	4 hrs
40330 Pauline Epistles	4 hrs
40340 General Epistles	4 hrs
40350 Advanced Greek Grammar	4 hrs
Tutorials and Comprehensive Examinations	16 hours
Old Testament	
40800 Old Testament Textual Criticism	4 hrs
40802 Old Testament Backgrounds	4 hrs
40804 History of Old Testament Research and Interpretation	4 hrs
40806 Old Testament Theology	4 hrs
New Testament	
40810 New Testament Textual Criticism	4 hrs
40812 New Testament Backgrounds	4 hrs
40814 History of New Testament Research and Interpretation	4 hrs
40816 New Testament Theology	4 hrs
Dissertation	8 hours
40990 Ph.D. Research Dissertation I	4 hrs
40991 Ph.D. Research Dissertation II	4 hrs
TOTAL	60 hours