

Doctoral Program at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

HANDBOOK FALL 2016

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DISCLAIMERS

This handbook includes policies and procedures pertinent to the doctoral program at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. The handbook should be consulted by prospective and registered students throughout the admission process and their study. Please visit <https://prts.edu/academics-aid/doctoral-program/> for the most recent edition of the handbook.

This handbook is not an agreement or an offer of admission to the program, and Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary reserves the right to change or correct any material in this handbook

Welcome from the President

A seminary is a center where called students are trained for faithful ministry in Christ's church (2 Tim. 2:2). It is to be an arm of the church of Jesus Christ, outfitting its students for ministry throughout the world (Matt. 28:18-20). The gospel alone is the hope of our perishing world. We believe that God, by His Spirit, will use the theological education of qualified spiritual leaders to enliven His people, save the lost, and glorify His name with faith that overcomes the world.

Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary strives to be a catalyst for defining, inspiring, promoting, and defending the Christian faith around the globe through its graduates and faculty. The world needs faith that is based on Scripture, self-denying and serving, and openly dependent on God's sovereign grace. By such faith, Jesus Christ is imaged and God's glory is transcribed in the world.

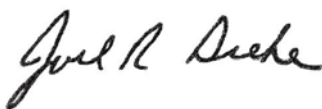
The need for faithful ministry in the academy and church is great, as are the opportunities. Moreover, no vocation on this side of heaven is as privileged or rewarding as Christian ministry. God has granted PRTS many blessings, including God-fearing instructors and students who have much love for God and each other. We are grateful for a student body of diverse backgrounds and denominations, seeking to glorify God by promoting His kingdom. The biblical, doctrinal, experiential, and relevant Reformed faith we strive to promote in every classroom builds a solid foundation for ministry today.

We are delighted that you have chosen to undertake the doctoral program with us, and hope that your time of study is intellectually challenging and stimulating, as well as spiritually enriching.

If you feel called by God to pursue a doctoral study and are looking for training that combines solid Reformed and classical theology with robust, biblical piety, our program may be exactly what you are looking for! We hope you will seriously consider Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary as the place to prepare you, with the Spirit's blessing, for a life of Christ-centered service.

May God guide you and us in His way and, if it is His will, cause our paths to cross in several years of fruitful fellowship.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel R. Beeke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Joel R. Beeke, President

Welcome from the Doctoral Program Director

Welcome to the doctoral program of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Foundational to our doctoral program is the academic *and* spiritual formation of the student. Our doctoral program is designed to meet the widespread demand for a comprehensive doctoral program that captures academic rigor and integrity, combining this with biblical piety (*de pietate cum scientia conjungenda*)—in other words, a doctoral program designed to serve the ministry of both the academy and the church (teaching and preaching). The doctoral program of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary is internationally supported by leading scholars and academically recognized as serving the church of Christ worldwide.

Your supervisors will work closely with you in your *academic formation*—advising you in your course work, dissertation research topic, teaching, and publications—as well as in your *spiritual formation*—guiding you in your preaching and in the reading of classic works on spirituality and piety.

Our program is internationally oriented in terms of research, education, and publication, but it also pays attention to the local and regional needs identified by you (the student) and the faculty in order to do meaningful and relevant doctoral work.

You are able to choose one of the three emphases offered in the doctoral program: (1) Biblical Studies, (2) Homiletics, and (3) Historical Theology (Reformation and Post-reformation). These three areas of research, education, and publication, due to the combined academic and spiritual emphasis distinctive, are distinctive of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary through which we aim to serve the global church and academy.

Our hope and prayer is that you are stimulated academically and enriched spiritually to serve Christ and His church in this world.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriaan C. Neele', written over a horizontal line.

Adriaan C. Neele, PhD, Director of Doctoral Program

General Description

In preparing students to serve Christ and His church through biblical, experiential, and practical ministry, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (hereafter PRTS) offers an accredited and internationally recognized doctoral program. This handbook considers the rationale, requirements, and envisioned results for the Doctor of Philosophy (hereafter PhD) program.

Foundational for the doctoral program is the rationale behind the emphasis on both the academic *and* spiritual formation of the student. A worldwide demand is growing for a comprehensive doctoral program that captures academic rigor and integrity, and combines this with biblical piety (*de pietate cum scientia conjungenda*). In other words, it is necessary that a doctoral program serve the ministry of both the academy and church (teaching and preaching). Doctoral programs offered by public and private universities have historically focused on academics; indeed, many schools of the Reformed or evangelical persuasion have transitioned in recent decades from scholarship that demonstrates a vested interest in serving the church to a program that is merely academically satisfactory. Furthermore, a perceived and sometimes forced dichotomy of the *scientia* (academics) and *pietate* (biblical piety) resulted in doctoral programs emphasizing the one over the other, often at the expense of *pietate*. This growing demand is not only identified in North America, but also throughout the world by those who appreciate the biblical and Reformed doctrines, and desire experiential preaching and teaching.

PRTS seeks to adhere to the Reformed and Puritan tradition of learning together with piety, exemplified by John Calvin, William Perkins, William Ames, Gisbertus Voetius, Archibald Alexander, and many others. We aim to do so by offering a doctoral program that is distinctive in its academics and biblical piety; this will be evident in the admissions requirements, as well as the program's academic rigor and spiritual formation components.

The doctoral program will be academically rigorous as we offer a comprehensive program with high, measurable, and internationally peer-reviewed and accredited academic standards. The academics of the program are further enhanced by: 1) PRTS-approved and qualified Teaching Fellows adjunct faculty for the doctoral program serving as subject experts and co-advisors for the doctoral student; 2) external courses taken outside of PRTS by the doctoral student; 3) a world-class web-based platform of primary and secondary sources offered through the Puritan Research Center and its worldwide affiliated centers; and 4) publication of the doctoral dissertation with an academic and internationally-recognized publishing house.

The spiritual components of the doctoral program consist of assigned readings, experiential preaching (in theory and practice), and practical teaching ministry. Resonating with the Reformed and Puritan tradition of international learning, PRTS's doctoral program desires a vibrant international dimension that couples academic excellence and spiritual richness.

Key to PRTS's doctoral program is its well-built technology component that offers digitalized primary and secondary sources for research, smart-room(s) designed for distance education, and the deployment of digital writing tools for publication. Indeed, technology is integral to the doctoral program as it takes the classroom to the (non)-residential student with the aim of a more effective transfer and exchange of knowledge. Thus, the doctoral program involves a hybrid or blended-learning environment that includes in-class contact sessions (on campus or online) and online-only sessions.

PRTS seeks to address, without compromising its academic standards and spiritual focus, the financial challenges that often accompany a graduate degree. PRTS will address this challenge in a sustainable way by: 1) delivering educational content, as much as possible, through technology; 2) reducing residential requirements; and 3) offering generous scholarships as is feasible.

Program Objectives

In preparing students to serve Christ and His church through biblical, experiential, and practical ministry, the doctoral program of PRTS prepares students to serve in the academy and church through:

- **P**ety, **P**reaching, and **P**ublications: Throughout the program students are challenged to grow in their spirituality, and seek a healthy balance between academics and spiritual life; students called to a preaching ministry participate in a homiletics practicum to foster biblical and experiential preaching; and students are encouraged to engage in writing ministry during and upon completion of their studies. This writing ministry unfolds in three ways: publications in scholarly peer-reviewed journals, publications for the edification of the church, and publications designed to instruct the unsaved in a skeptical world. Moreover, the writing of a doctoral thesis keeps in mind a potential monograph for publication.
- **R**esearch and **R**eformed: Students demonstrate an advanced competency in theology—in particular Reformed theology—and mastery of relevant primary and secondary sources in one of the following disciplines: Historical Theology, Biblical Studies, or Homiletics. Students must demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of Reformed intellectual trajectories and traditions.

- **T**echnology and **T**eaching: Students demonstrate an advanced level use of digital sources, deployment of writing tools, and a God-honoring use of technology, internet, and social media for the dissemination of biblical, experiential, and practical thoughts. Students called to a teaching ministry participate in a teaching practicum.
- **S**cholarship (academics) and **S**cholarships (financial): Students are able to engage in international scholarly discourse that demonstrates independent inquiry, primary source research, critical reflection, analysis, and articulation of academic research. Students are also supported as much as possible through available financial scholarships.

Program goals / outcome 1: Academic and Spiritual formation

Assessment of PhD student goal / outcome 1:

- Coursework assessment, and teaching and preaching evaluation.
- Comprehensive examination assessing depth, breath and integration of knowledge.
- Review by members of faculty, supervisor and advisor of the academic work and spiritual well-being of student.

Role of PRTS and Doctoral Program in assisting students to achieve goal / outcome 1:

- Provide research, education, and administrative resources.
- Provide resources for spiritual formation.
- Annual assessment of teaching effectiveness of faculty, and other appointed instructors.
- Annual review of curriculum and course offerings by
 - Doctoral program management, faculty (internal), and academic advisory board (external).
 - Doctoral students.

Program goals / outcome 2: Research formation

Assessment of PhD student goal / outcome 1:

- Coursework assessment depth, breath and integration of knowledge.
- Research Methodology and Dissertation Proposal course.
- Advanced research and education with digital resources.

- International engagement of scholarly work through participation of conferences, lectures, and publications of peer-reviewed articles.
- Preparation and examination of and defense of PhD dissertation proposal.
- Preparation and examination of and defense of PhD dissertation.
- Publication of dissertation or peer-reviewed articles based on dissertation with international academic publishers within two years of completion of study.

Role of PRTS and Doctoral Program in assisting students to achieve goal / outcome 2:

- Offer early introduction to advanced research methodologies.
- Offer participation in PRTS research projects and PRTS conferences.
- Offer regular opportunities to present readings, research, and provide feedback.
- Regular scheduled meetings with program director, supervisor and advisor.
- Assist student in obtaining research and travel grants.

Program goals / outcome 3: Ministry formation

Assessment of PhD student goal / outcome 3:

- Teaching and Preaching practicum and effectiveness.
- General presentation and communication skills.
- Effective communication of academic and research knowledge to scholarly audience.
- Effective communication of academic and research knowledge to laypeople audience.

Role of PRTS and Doctoral Program in assisting students to achieve goal / outcome 3:

- Offer opportunity to teach and / or preach.
- Offer participation in PRTS speaking engagements.
- Regular scheduled meetings with program director, supervisor and advisor.
- Assist students in obtaining teaching and / or preaching opportunities in churches.

Advisory Board and Affiliated Faculty

The Advisory Board consisting of leading scholars from around the world assists the President and Program Director concerning the curriculum design, academic assessment of the program, and the program's

research output. In conjunction with the residential faculty, the Affiliated Faculty for the Doctoral Program teach/assist students in their coursework and doctoral dissertations.

Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral program, the applicant must:

- be called to the ministry of teaching and/or preaching.
- demonstrate high potential for local and regional influence through future ministry of teaching and preaching after completion of studies.
- possess a master's degree in theology from an accredited institute of higher learning.
- have teaching and / or preaching experience.

Applications for admission to the doctoral program must be submitted no later than March 15 of the preceding academic year. The applicant will be informed about the decision of the Admissions Committee by the Director of Admissions no later than May 15 of the preceding academic year.

The applicant must:

- have had an interview with the President, Program Director, and Director of Admissions.
- submit official and certified transcripts of all post-secondary education (demonstrating the possession of an undergraduate degree and at least a first master's degree in theology).
- have an academic record with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher (or its equivalent).
- submit a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of 575 or higher.
- submit a recent CV (*curriculum vitae*).
- submit a copy of a completed master's degree thesis or major research paper.
- submit a three-page preliminary dissertation proposal (see Appendix A).
- submit two academic references and one ecclesiastical references (see Appendix B).
- If English is a second language, submit one of the following English language tests: IELTS with a minimum score of 6.5; or TOEFL with a minimum score of 90 (internet-based test) or 575 (paper-based test).

Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid

Application for admission \$ 50

Tuition for the doctoral program is as follows:

- a. Years one and two \$ 10,000/year

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|-------------------------|---------------|
| b. Years three and four | \$ 2,500/year |
| c. Years five and six | \$ 1,500/year |
| Late registration fee | \$ 75 |
| Graduation fee | \$ 250 |

Students may also choose to spread their tuition over the space of six years. Thus, apart from any additional fees (i.e., application fee, late fees, graduation fee, etc.), students may pay tuition in equal installments of \$390.00 per month for the duration of six years (72 months).

Students with financial need may apply for scholarship assistance. Applicants may consider the following funding sources for tuition scholarships:

- Langham Partnership (for African applicants and students)
- Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Program Resources

- Since its inception, the PRTS Library has grown to its present state of approximately 60,000 volumes. The library particularly specializes on Puritan and Reformed resources.
- The Puritan Research Center (PRC), which houses one of the world's most extensive collection of Puritan resources, is the culmination of a dream that is decades old and offers exciting possibilities for promoting the appreciation of Reformed and Puritan literature around the world. The PRC's aim is to assemble the largest possible collection of (digital) resources on the Puritans, including antiquarian books (mostly from the seventeenth century) and modern reprints of Puritan writings, as well as secondary source materials on the Puritans such as books, dissertations, and articles.
- Puritan Studies Index (PSI): The PSI allows students to search through the Puritan studies collection of articles, reviews, and other documents. These printed materials are located in the Puritan Research Center (PRC) and organized by author's last name. Articles may be photocopied.
- Students are encouraged to contact the librarian regarding other print and digital resources (such as ATLA, EEBO, and PERT).
- For doctoral students on campus a research carrel will be assigned for each academic year; visiting doctoral students may notify the library four weeks in advance to reserve a research carrel.

Affiliated Research and Course Partners

The doctoral program is designed to offer high quality scholarship supported by affiliated research and course partners. Research partners offer specific collections for research in Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies, and Homiletics. Course partners offer specific courses for the doctoral program in the field of Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies, and Homiletics. PhD students are required to take at least two courses with these institutional partners.

Research Partners

Research Partners may include, The Congregational Library and Archives, Boston—for studies in New England Puritanism; Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University—for studies in New England Puritanism; H. Meeter Center at Calvin College—for studies in Calvin and Calvinism; Andrew Fuller Center at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary—for studies in confessional Baptists; The Johannes à Lasco Library, Emden (Germany)—for Reformation studies; The Institut für schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte der Universität Zürich (Switzerland)—for Reformation studies; The Pietas and Text Archive at VU Amsterdam (Netherlands)—for studies in Pietism; Home for Bible Translators and Scholars (Israel)—for language studies.

Course Partners

Course Partners may include:

Africa: Trinity Evangelical Seminary, Accra, Ghana

Asia: Ridley College, Melbourne University, Australia*; International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan*

Europe: VU Amsterdam; De Hersteld Hervormd Seminarium, the Netherlands; Theological University Apeldoorn, the Netherlands; Evangelical Theological Faculty, Leuven, Belgium; University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg Center for American Studies; John Owen Centre, London, UK

Middle East: Home for Bible Translators and Scholars, Jerusalem, Israel

North America: Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI; Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA; Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University*; Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Chicago*

South America: Andrew Jumper Graduate School at Mackenzie University, Saõ Paulo

* = Edwards and related studies only

Program Planning

Students are required to plan their coursework and studies in consultation with their advisor and the registrar. See Appendix E for a suggested outline for completing the program in six years.

Course Requirements

Courses focus on the field of Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies, and Homiletics, incorporating the interests and research of faculty and Teaching Fellows. Students are required to take courses designed for their doctoral program as outlined below. Students are required to be in residence for one-half of the coursework; other required coursework, research, and dissertation writing may be completed off campus.

PhD in Historical Theology

The Historical Theology doctoral program offers focused areas of research, including but not limited to:

- Reformation:
 - a. Calvin and other Reformers such as Bullinger, Musculus, and Viret
 - b. English Reformation
 - c. Luther and other Lutheran Reformers such as Melanchthon
- Post-reformation:
 - a. Biblical exegesis
 - b. Confessions & Catechisms: Thirty-nine Articles, Belgic Confession of Faith, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dort, Westminster, and London Baptist Confession
 - c. English and New England Puritans
 - d. Confessional Anglicanism
 - e. Confessional Baptists
 - f. History of Homiletics
 - g. Lutheran orthodoxy and Pietism
 - h. Protestant scholasticism
 - i. Reformed orthodoxy and Piety

PhD students in the Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-Reformation) program must take the following courses:

- CH900 Research Methodology – 3 credits
- CH901 Introduction to Reformation and Post-Reformation Studies – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM902 Introduction to Reformed Spirituality and Piety – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM991 Dissertation Proposal – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM992 Teaching/Preaching Practicum – 3 credits¹

Students must take an additional seven courses for credit of which at least four courses must be from the area of concentration (designated by the prefix CH), one course from another doctoral concentration (either Biblical Studies or Homiletics), and two courses related to the student's concentration must be taken from an external higher-education institution (an approved course partner of PRTS). The following list details additional Historical Theology course offerings at PRTS:

- CH905 The Theology of Augustine
- CH908 The Theology of Thomas Aquinas
- CH911 The Theology of Luther and Lutheran Orthodoxy
- CH913 Reformed Orthodoxy and German Pietism
- CH915 Reformed Covenant Theology
- CH917 Anabaptism
- CH922 Swiss Reformed Theology
- CH931 The Theology of John Calvin
- CH933 The Theology of Theodore Beza, Peter Martyr Vermigli, and Henry Bullinger
- CH935 The Life and Theology of Francis Turretin
- CH941 French Protestantism
- CH951 Reformation in the Netherlands
- CH953 The Dutch Further Reformation (*De Nadere Reformatie*)
- CH955 The Life and Thought of Peter Van Mastricht
- CH957 The Theology of Wilhelmus à Brakel
- CH961 The English Reformation
- CH963 English Puritan Theology

¹ See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

- CH965 The Life and Theology of William Perkins and William Ames
- CH966 The Life and Theology of John Owen
- CH968 Puritan Approaches to Scriptural Interpretation
- CH969 Reformed and Puritan Experiential Preaching
- CH972 New England Puritan Theology and the New Divinity
- CH975 The Life and Theology of Jonathan Edwards
- CH982 John Knox and the Scottish Reformation
- CH984 Scottish Presbyterianism
- CH991 Introduction to the Reformed Confessions
- CH992 The Heidelberg Catechism
- CH993 The Belgic Confession of Faith
- CH994 The Synod and Canons of Dort
- CH995 The Thirty-Nine Articles and the Helvetic Confession
- CH996 The Westminster Assembly and Westminster Standards
- CH999 Directed Research Courses

PhD in Biblical Studies

The Biblical Studies doctoral program offers focused areas of research, including but not limited to:

- Old Testament studies
- New Testament studies

PhD students in the Biblical Studies program must take the following courses:

- BS900 Research Methodology – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM902 Introduction to Reformed Spirituality and Piety – 3 credits
- BS942 Biblical Aramaic – 3 credits
- BS941 Introduction to the Septuagint – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM991 Dissertation Proposal – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM992 Teaching/Preaching Practicum – 3 credits²

² See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

Students must take an additional six courses for credit of which at least three courses must be from the area of concentration (designated by the prefix BS), one course from another doctoral concentration (either Historical Theology or Homiletics), and two courses related to the student's concentration must be taken from an external higher-education institution (an approved course partner of PRTS). The following list details additional Biblical Studies course offerings at PRTS:

- BS901 Nature and Method of Biblical Theology
- BS903a Advanced Old Testament Biblical Theology
- BS903b Advanced New Testament Biblical Theology
- BS904 Christ in the Old Testament
- BS906 Distinctive Ideas in the New Testament
- BS907 Problems of Interpretation in the Old Testament
- BS908 The New Testament Use of the Old Testament
- BS909 Readings in Old Testament Scholarship
- BS910 Readings in New Testament Scholarship
- BS911 The History and Preservation of the Biblical Text
- BS920 Advanced Hebrew Grammar
- BS921 Exegesis of the Pentateuch
- BS922 Exegesis of the Historical Books
- BS923 Exegesis of the Major Prophets
- BS924 Exegesis of the Minor Prophets
- BS925 Exegesis of Poetry and Wisdom
- BS926 Old Testament Colloquium
- BS930 Advanced Greek Grammar
- BS931 Readings in the Apostolic Fathers (Greek)
- BS932 Exegesis of the Synoptic Gospels
- BS933 Exegesis of the Johannine Writings
- BS934 Exegesis of the Pauline Epistles
- BS935 Exegesis of the General Epistles
- BS935 New Testament Colloquium
- BS999 Directed Research

PhD in Homiletics

The PhD in Homiletics prepares those who have preferably earned a second master's degree for teaching and research vocations, as well as preaching vocation.

The Homiletics doctoral program (PhD) offers focused areas of research, including but not limited to:

- Reformed preaching that is biblical and experiential
- Preaching in an age of postmodernity and skepticism

PhD students in the Homiletics program must take the following courses:

- HOM900 Research Methodology – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM902 Introduction to Reformed Spirituality and Piety – 3 credits
- HOM912 Preaching in an Age of Postmodernity and Skepticism
- BS/CH/HOM991 Dissertation Proposal – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM992 Teaching/Preaching Practicum – 3 credits³

Students must take an additional seven courses for credit of which at least four courses must be from the area of concentration (designated by the prefix HOM), one course from another doctoral concentration (either Historical Theology or Biblical Studies), and two courses related to the student's concentration must be taken from an external higher-education institution (an approved course partner of PRTS). The following list details additional Homiletics course offerings at PRTS:

- HOM911 Early Modern Methods of Preaching
- HOM913 Sermon Construction & Delivery
- HOM914 Reformed Experiential Preaching
- HOM915 Sermon Preparation for Special Occasions
- HOM916 Preaching from the Heidelberg Catechism
- HOM921 Preaching Christ in the Old Testament
- HOM922 Preaching the Psalms
- HOM923 Preaching the Prophets
- HOM924 Preaching Narrative
- HOM931 Classical Rhetoric and Oratory

³ See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

- HOM932 Preaching, Worship and Liturgy
- HOM941 The Sermons of John Calvin and Jonathan Edwards
- HOM999 Directed Research

Teaching and Preaching Requirements

A total of 20 hours of teaching/preaching time is required; students in the Historical Theology and Biblical Studies programs are able to combine the hours of teaching and preaching as desired (e.g., 15 hours teaching + 5 hours preaching, or vice versa). Students in the Homiletics program must have a minimum of 10 hours of preaching.⁴

Teaching

Students are required to teach an adult bible class, catechism class, or course at the diploma, BA, or BTh level that is related to the area of specialization. The student must submit to the advisor, committee of the doctoral program, and registrar a syllabus and course information six weeks prior to the teaching occasion.

Preaching

Students are required to preach and lead worship services. The student must submit to the advisor, committee of the doctoral program, and registrar a sermon outline and complete audio recording within 4 weeks upon completion of the preaching occasion.

Examinations and Progress in Program

Course work

Each academic year during the registration period students must submit an annual plan to the advisor, committee of the doctoral program, and registrar that includes course work and teaching/preaching occasions. Students need to maintain a minimum of 3.5 cumulative grade-point average to continue in the doctoral program.

⁴ Teaching/Preaching time is calculated with an average of 20 x 60 min. lecture time = 1,200 min = 20 hours

Evaluation of Teaching

Each course taught by the student will be assessed by a PRTS course evaluation form to be completed by course participants, and submitted to the registrar. Students will meet with the advisor no later than four weeks after completion of the course for a final evaluation of the teaching occasion.

Evaluation of Preaching

Each sermon preached by the student will be assessed by a PRTS sermon evaluation form to be completed by the elders or church council, and submitted to the registrar. Students will meet with the advisor no later than four weeks after completion of the sermon for a final evaluation of the preaching occasion.

Comprehensive examinations

Upon completion of course work and foreign language requirements, students are required to take four written comprehensive examinations and one oral comprehensive examination. At least one of the four examinations will be related to the student's area of specialization. Each examination is based on a bibliography approved by the committee of the doctoral program in consultation with the student. Each examination is to be completed within a four-hour period.

The oral examination is an assessment of the student's area of specialization. The student is examined by an examination committee consisting of at least two members of faculty and two external examiners. Students must submit a bibliography approved by the committee of the doctoral program four weeks prior to the date of oral examination. The oral examination will take place in a three-hour period (allowing for a 15-minute break). No written or oral examination may be taken more than twice.

Deadlines and Extensions

A student who cannot complete their coursework, foreign language requirements, teaching/preaching engagements, or dissertation proposal must receive approval of the registrar to adjust the student's annual plan. More than two adjustments within one academic year will be reviewed by the committee of doctoral studies and may lead to the discontinuation of the student in the program.

Degree Candidacy and Dissertation Proposal

Students who meet the following requirements are admitted to the degree candidacy:

- Completion of coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- Completion of foreign language requirements.

- Completion of written and oral comprehensive examinations.
- Completion of at least 50% of the teaching/preaching requirement.
- Submission of a dissertation proposal approved by the advisor and doctoral program committee
 - a. Students are to complete a dissertation proposal following the successful completion of the Dissertation Proposal course, but prior to taking the comprehensive examinations.
 - b. Students are to complete a dissertation proposal in consultation with their advisor.
 - c. Students are to complete a dissertation proposal according to the format provided in Appendix D.

Dissertation Requirements

The following guidelines pertain to the PhD dissertation:

- Students must have an approved dissertation proposal.
- Students will be assigned a supervisor and co-advisor; the student may recommend an external co-advisor to the supervisor and doctoral program committee. The recommendation may or may not be followed by the supervisor and doctoral program committee.
- The dissertation must follow the format provided in Appendix E.
- It is strongly recommended that the dissertation be edited by a professional editor.
- A completed dissertation shall be submitted in electronic format (both Word and PDF), as well as two bound print copies. The electronic and hard copies must be submitted to the registrar for distribution to the supervisor, co-advisor, and examiners.
- Upon acceptance of the dissertation by a three-fourths majority of the supervisor, co-advisor, and examiners, a public defense will be scheduled.

Dissertation Defense

The following guidelines pertain to the dissertation defense:

- The public defense will take place at the main campus of PRTS. The defense will be chaired by the President, who will open with prayer.
- The President will invite the student to summarize the reason, findings, and contribution of the study (approximately 10 minutes). The President will then invite members of the faculty (with the exception of the supervisor) and other members of the panel to question the candidate on the dissertation.

- Special permission may be granted by the President and doctoral program committee for elders or ministers of churches to ask the candidate a question concerning the doctoral studies.
- Upon completion of the defense, the President and members of the panel will leave the room to deliberate and subsequently render an assessment of the defense.
- The student is informed of the results of the deliberation by the President. The supervisor will then offer an *oratio laudatio* that incorporates the results of the external examiners.
- The President or designated person will confer the degree to the candidate and close the ceremony with prayer.

Graduation Requirements

Academic Regalia

TBD



Dissertation Final

A final edited copy of the dissertation that incorporates suggestions of the supervisor, co-advisor, members of faculty, and examiners will be submitted no later than two months after acceptance of the doctoral work to the library of PRTS in electronic and paper format.

Dissertation Publication

Students are expected to:

- publish the dissertation with an internationally recognized academic publisher within one year after the public defense. The student will choose a publisher in consultation with the supervisor or,
- publish three articles as a result of the doctoral work in internationally recognized and peer-reviewed journals. The student will choose journals in consultation with the supervisor.

APPENDIX A

PRELIMINARY DISSERTATION PROPOSAL PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TITLE

APPLICANT'S NAME

DATE

ABSTRACT (1/4 page)

Summary of the research and proposed contribution of the dissertation, as well as a statement of the primary argument or thesis.

STATUS QUAESTIONIS (3/4 page)

Provide a succinct overview of the arguments found in secondary literature, and show how this differs with your reading of the primary sources. Identify what gap in scholarly literature will be addressed and the contribution the proposed dissertation will make.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (1/4 page)

Describe the research methodology that will be used in the dissertation research and identify pros and cons, if any, of the chosen method.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF PROPOSED DISSERTATION (3/4 page)

Provide an overview of chapters together with a brief summary of each chapter contributing to the dissertation research and primary argument or thesis.

APPENDIX (max. 3 pages)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Format of the Preliminary Dissertation Proposal

Font type: Times Roman

Font size: 12 point

Spacing: double

Style: Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (most recent edition)

APPENDIX B

See PRTS <https://prts.edu/how-to-apply/>⁵

⁵ Forms need to accommodate for the doctoral program

APPENDIX C

FINAL DISSERTATION PROPOSAL PURITAN REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TITLE

APPLICANT'S NAME

DATE

ABSTRACT (1/2 page)

Summary of the research and proposed contribution of the dissertation, as well as a statement of the primary argument or thesis.

STATUS QUAESTIONIS (2 pages)

Provide an overview of the arguments found in secondary literature, and show how this differs with your reading of the primary sources. Identify what gap in scholarly literature will be addressed and the contribution the proposed dissertation will make.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (1 page)

Describe the research methodology that will be used in the dissertation research and identify pros and cons, if any, of the chosen method.

SOURCES (5 pages)

Provide a description of the primary and secondary sources that are most relevant for the dissertation.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF PROPOSED DISSERTATION (3 pages)

Provide an overview of chapters together with a brief summary of each chapter contributing to the dissertation research and primary argument or thesis. Show the development of the argument as it moves from the introduction to the conclusion.

PLANNING (1 page)

Provide an overview plan and timetable that outlines the research, writing, completion of chapters, and targeted completion of dissertation.

APPENDIX (max. 10 pages)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Format of the Preliminary Dissertation Proposal

Font type: Times Roman

Font size: 12 point

Spacing: double

Style: Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (most recent edition)

APPENDIX E

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR COMPLETING THE PROGRAM IN SIX YEARS

PhD Program

Year 1

3 Credits - Introduction to Biblical Studies, Historical Theology, or Homiletics*

3 Credits - Introduction to Reformed Spirituality and Piety*

3 Credits - Research Methodology*

9 Credits - Courses 4, 5, and 6**

Year 2

12 Credits - Courses 7 – 10**

3 Credits - Dissertation proposal course*

3 Credits - Teaching and Preaching***

Year 3

Comprehensive Examination*

Dissertation Research/Work***

Year 4

Dissertation Research/Work***

Dissertation Research/Work***

Year 5 - 6

Dissertation completion***

Dissertation Defense & Graduation*

* Residential: In-class on Campus

** Non-residential: In-class online, Online or Directed Studies

*** Non-residential