



Doctoral Program at Puritan Reformed
Theological Seminary

HANDBOOK 2017-2018

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DISCLAIMERS

This handbook includes policies and procedures pertinent to the doctoral program at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Prospective and registered students should consult the handbook 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' in a cursive script.

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 (projected 2020), 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,



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 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.

Through this doctoral program, PRTS envisions the formation of pastor-scholars and scholar-pastors. The pastor-scholar is enabled to serve the church with academic integrity striving to accurately and effectively communicate the transformative truth of Scripture, as well as addressing the challenges of the modern world. The scholar-pastor is enabled to serve the academy with pastoral integrity to accurately and effectively communicate historical theology or biblical studies, as well as addressing the demands of high standards of scholarship. Both the pastor-scholar and scholar pastor are reflective practitioners.

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 Goal

The over-arching goal of the doctoral program is the academic and spiritual formation of each doctoral student so as to enable him or her to serve the academy and the church with academic integrity and biblical piety. This is expressed in the three subsidiary goals of: 1) Academic and Spiritual Formation; 2) Formation in Research; and 3) Formation in Ministry.

Assessment of Program Goals

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, breadth, 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.
- Periodic assessment of teaching effectiveness of faculty, and other appointed instructors.
- Periodic review of curriculum and course offerings by:
 - Doctoral program management, faculty (internal), and academic advisory board (external).
 - Doctoral students.

Program goals / outcome 2: Formation in Research

Assessment of PhD student goal / outcome 1:

- Coursework assessment depth, breadth, 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 publication of peer-reviewed articles.
- Preparation, examination, 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: Formation in Ministry

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 Adjunct Faculty for the Doctoral Program

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 Adjunct Faculty for the Doctoral Program teach/assist students in their coursework and doctoral dissertations.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the program shall require a second graduate degree in theology, such as an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved ThM, MTh, or STM. Exceptionally gifted students may be accepted into the program having an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved MDiv, or first graduate degree in theology, such as an MA or MTS. Comparable degrees from institutions within or outside North America may be accepted provided schools can demonstrate that they meet the standards of the ATS Board-approved degrees for admission.

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 second master's degree in theology from an accredited institute of higher learning, or in exceptional cases, a first master's degree in theology from an accredited institute of higher learning.

- Have a minimum of six (6) credits of Hebrew, and a minimum of six (6) credits of Greek. An entrance proficiency test for Greek and Hebrew language is part of the admission process for doctoral students in the Biblical Studies emphasis, and includes a translation of a minimum of 500 words in two (2) hours with a minimum of eighty (80) percent accuracy. This requirement is only for the Biblical Studies PhD program. For additional language requirements during the PhD program, please see the relevant section below.
- have teaching and / or preaching experience.
- adhere to the Three Forms of Unity and/or Westminster Standards (apart from a position on paedobaptism).
- demonstrate biblical piety and character.

It is recommended that applications for admission to the doctoral program be submitted no later than **April 30** (for a fall-semester start) or **October 30** (for a spring-semester start). The applicant will be informed about the decision of the Admissions Committee by the Director of Admissions shortly after a decision has been made. The Admissions Committee meets on a rolling basis approximately every two months. Applications are considered at the next available meeting *only when* all application components have been received.

The applicant must:

- have had an interview with the President, Program Director, or Director of Admissions (if required).
- 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 3.50 or higher (or its equivalent).
- submit a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of 158 or higher in the Verbal and Quantitative sections, and 5.0 or higher in the Analytical Writing component (for tests taken after August 1, 2011).
- 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 online application for details).

Tuition and Fees

Application for admission	\$ 50
Tuition for the doctoral program is as follows:	
a. Years one and two	\$ 10,000/year
b. Years three and four	\$ 2,500/year
c. Years five and subsequent years	\$ 1,500/year
Late registration fee	5% of course tuition equivalent = $.05 * (10,000/6)$
Graduation fee	\$ 250

NB: Tuition is not calculated on a per course basis. Thus, whether the student enrolls in one or six courses for the first and second years, the tuition charge of \$10,000 is the same.

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 approximately \$390.00 per month for the duration of six years (72 months).

Financial Aid

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

- Langham Partnership for Majority World (Developing World) students only.
- Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (please see <https://prts.edu/academics-aid/financial-aid-scholarships/> for specific scholarships related to the doctoral program, along with the specific rules and regulations specific to each scholarship) Doctoral students are to apply each year for scholarship assistance if required.

Program Resources

- Since its inception, the William Perkins Library has grown to its present state in support of the doctoral program. The library particularly specializes on Puritan and Reformed primary and secondary 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.
- Doctoral students (on or off campus) have library privileges accessible through a user login. Library resources (digital and non-digital resources such as books, e-books, primary and secondary sources via commercial and Open Access databases, journals, e-journals, and articles) can be attained in this way. All available resources, electronically and otherwise, are catalogued and accessible at <https://prts.edu/library/>. PRTS is committed to continue an aggressive acquisition of digital resources.
- The library IT infrastructure provides online chat and call functionality to make inquiries to the library staff. Upon request, and if required, the library staff will prepare digital scans of book pages and articles, in accordance with Creative Common License regulations, and upload these into the library system, making it available to registered users, or email the requested information to the doctoral students.

Community of Learners

Students are encouraged to participate in the doctoral student learning community. The aim of this learning community is to avoid the isolation of the individual doctoral student, and to encourage a vibrant community of learners. This community will gather once a year on campus (see "Residency Requirement" section for details), will meet online through social media platforms, and will be connected by other means of communication. In addition, students will have regular phone, Skype, or FaceTime discussions with their advisor and / or director of the doctoral program for academic and spiritual formation.

Affiliated Institutions for Research and Education

The doctoral program is designed to offer high quality scholarship supported by affiliated research institutions who offer specific collections for research in Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies (projected 2020), and Homiletics. Affiliated educational institutions offer external courses for the doctoral program in the field of Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies (projected 2020), and Homiletics. PhD students are required to take at least two courses with these institutions.

Affiliated Research Institutions

Affiliated Research Institutions 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.

Affiliated Institutions Where External Courses May Be Taken

This 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*; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
 - **South America:** Andrew Jumper Graduate School at Mackenzie University, Saõ Paulo
- * = Edwards and related studies only

Program Planning

In order to facilitate an orderly progression of studies, the Handbook of the Doctoral Program Appendix C “Suggested Outline for Completing the Doctoral Program in Six Years” articulates the program sequencing, residency, and other requirements, enabling the prospective student to see the pace and requirements necessary for timely program completion within the six-year cycle. The Director of the Doctoral Program and / or Doctoral Advisor plans with each doctoral student a schedule of study that includes the courses taken on and off campus, and those courses taken with a PRTS-approved partner institution. Each academic year the Director of the Doctoral Program periodically reviews with the doctoral student the schedule of study, assesses the progression of study, and recommends adjustments of the schedule of study if required.

This program planning will also assist in the assessment of the student’s critical thinking, analytical, and research skills needed for the doctoral dissertation. The regular assessment aims to encourage the unity of course work, research, and writing of the doctoral dissertation. Finally, the overall program planning goals are to strengthen the student’s academic and spiritual formation, and is intended to help the student demonstrate the following: a comprehensive understanding of their respective field of study; faithful exercise of critical and necessary skills; academic inquiry with integrity; creative and original contribution to scholarship; contextual relevance; the ability to communicate effectively; and a positive missional impact. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the *Best Practice Guidelines for Doctoral Program* as set by the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education.¹

¹ The aims are in accordance with the Beirut Benchmarks for professional doctorates. Cf. Ian J. Shaw, ed., *Best Practice Guidelines for Doctoral Programs* (Carlisle, Cumbria, UK: Langham Partnership, 2015).

Course Requirements and Residency Requirement

Courses focus on the field of Historical Theology (Reformation, Post-reformation), Biblical Studies, and Homiletics, incorporating the interests and research of Faculty and Adjunct Faculty for the doctoral program. 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. Thus, given that the PhD concentrations each require twelve (12) courses, at least six (6) courses must be taken on campus. This does not mean, however, that the accepted PhD student must relocate to Grand Rapids for these six (6) classes; rather, the majority of the PhD courses will be offered in modular or intensive (i.e., week-long) format, thus allowing the accepted student to travel back and forth to Grand Rapids, and still fulfill the residency requirement.

Of the six (6) courses to be completed on campus, the following three courses (applicable to all three PhD emphases), are *only offered as on-campus courses*:

- The respective Research Methodology course for each emphasis (either CH900, BS900, or HOM900) – 3 credits
- BS/CH/HOM902 Introduction to Reformed Spirituality and Piety – 3 credits (combined course required of all emphases)
- BS/CH/HOM991 Dissertation Proposal – 3 credits (combined course required of all emphases)

For the Historical Theology emphasis, CH901 Introduction to Reformation and Post-Reformation Studies – 3 credits must also be taken on campus. The remaining required on-campus courses (2 or 3 depending on emphasis) should be selected in consultation with the registrar or doctoral advisor.

The above-named on-campus courses (Research Methodology, Introduction to Ref. Spirituality and Piety, Dissertation Proposal, and Introduction to Reformation and Post-Reformation Studies) are **only offered** during the **month of August** on an annual basis.

Because PRTS endeavors to create a community of learners within the doctoral program, each doctoral student is **required** to be on campus during the month of August at least once per year for the first three years of the student's program, or until the student has completed the comprehensive examination. Apart from the modular courses that will occur during the month of August, special PhD

seminars and dinners may be arranged. Furthermore, the PhD student is encouraged to attend the annual PRTS conference; this conference is always held near the end of August.

Courses Able to be taken from a Distance

As a minimum of six (6) courses are to be completed as on-campus courses, this means that up to six (6) courses can be taken through a combination of the following: a) at least two (2) PhD courses related to the student's concentration are to be taken from an external higher-education institution (an approved list of affiliated institutions is given above); b) the teaching / preaching course is to be conducted as an off-campus course (BS/CH/HOM992 – see section related to this below); a maximum of two (2) Directed Research and/or Independent Study courses; d) and the remaining courses are to be taken through otherwise-offered distance education options (i.e., live-streamed doctoral courses through PRTS); these courses will vary by semester—please see the seminary website for current information.

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
 - j. Scottish Presbyterianism

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 credits²

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). Please consult the seminary website and course schedule for doctoral courses related to the Historical Theology emphasis. Aside from these listed courses, students may upon approval enroll in CH999 – Directed Research, the course content and syllabus to be arranged between the student and the advisor.

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

² See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

- BS/CH/HOM992 Teaching/Preaching Practicum – 3 credits³

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). Please consult the seminary website and course schedule for doctoral courses related to the Biblical Studies emphasis. Aside from these listed courses, students may upon approval enroll in BS999 – Directed Research, the course content and syllabus to be arranged between the student and the advisor.

PhD in Homiletics (Projected 2020)

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 credits⁴

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

³ See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

⁴ See Teaching and Preaching Requirements section.

must be taken from an external higher-education institution (an approved course partner of PRTS). Please consult the seminary website and course schedule for doctoral courses related to the Homiletics emphasis. Aside from these listed courses, students may upon approval enroll in HOM999 – Directed Research, the course content and syllabus to be arranged between the student and the advisor.

Teaching and Preaching Requirements

A general syllabus governing the requirements of this course will be made available to the enrolled student. This syllabus will include various reading on teaching / preaching. 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). Female doctoral students will fulfill this requirement in its entirety through teaching. Students in the Homiletics program must have a minimum of 10 hours of preaching.

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. The student must submit to the advisor, director of the doctoral program, and registrar two selected complete audio or video recordings within four weeks of completing the teaching occasion

Preaching

Students are required to preach and lead worship services. The student must submit to the advisor, director of the doctoral program, and registrar a syllabus and sermon information six weeks prior to the preaching occasion, and registration. The student must submit to the advisor, director of the doctoral program, and registrar two selected sermon outlines and complete audio or video recordings within four weeks of completing 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 cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 to continue in the doctoral program.

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.

Research Language Requirements/Exams

During their course of studies and dissertation research, students shall be required to use competently the language(s) in which relevant primary texts are written, as well as those in which there is important secondary material.

- A. *Requirements:* All applicants to the doctoral program must have completed by the time of admission a minimum of six (6) credits of Hebrew, and a minimum of six (6) credits of Greek.⁵ All doctoral students must fulfill the additional language requirements to be completed by the time of the comprehensive examination: Two (2) foreign languages, such as Latin, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, or Dutch (the research languages to be determined between the student and advisor). Doctoral students in the

⁵ Biblical Studies emphasis doctoral students will admitted into the program only after passing an entrance proficiency test for Greek and Hebrew language that includes a translation of a minimum of 500 words in two (2) hours with a minimum of eighty (80) percent accuracy.

Biblical Studies program must complete by the time of the comprehensive examination Aramaic with a minimum of three (3) credits.

- B. *Acquisition*: Doctoral students may acquire proficiency in the required languages by following courses at PRTS (Course 101 – Latin I, and Course 102 – Latin II) or courses offered by other schools such as Calvin College, Davenant Institute (Latin), or other schools approved by the Academic Dean and / or Director of the Doctoral Program.
- C. *Proficiency test*: Before attempting the comprehensive examination, doctoral students are required to take a proficiency test demonstrating their proficiency in the approved research languages. The proficiency test is assessed in terms of the amount and time of text translated. The proficiency test includes a translation of a minimum of 500 words in two (2) hours with a minimum of eighty (80) percent accuracy.
- D. *Competent Use*: Upon passing of the proficiency test, doctoral students are required and encouraged to work with foreign languages in their research papers and doctoral dissertation work. The doctoral advisor will from time to time review submitted work and assess the appropriate use of foreign languages.

Comprehensive examination

Upon completion of course work and research language requirements, students are required to take a comprehensive examination that consists of two parts: written and oral. The written component consists of four papers produced on the following four areas related to the doctoral student's emphasis: 1) Historiography; 2) Primary Source analysis; 3) Dissertation Proposal; and 4) a topic of student's choice in consultation with advisor. Each paper must be based on a bibliography approved by the advisor in consultation with the student. The oral component of the comprehensive examination will be based on the four written papers.

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. The oral examination will take place in a three-hour period (allowing for a 15-minute break).

Maximum time-frame for Program, 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. The PhD program must be completed within eight (8) years of matriculation; any exception must be approved by the academic dean and director of the doctoral 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 3.50.
- Completion of research language requirements.
- Completion of written and oral comprehensive examination.
- 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 final dissertation proposal according to the format provided in Appendix B.

Dissertation Requirements

The following guidelines pertain to the PhD dissertation:

- Students must have an approved dissertation proposal.
- Students must offer in the dissertation an original research contribution that serves the academy and the church.
- 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.
- 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

Commencement and Academic Regalia

A student will be allowed to graduate only after all the program requirements have been met and a graduation checklist form has been completed and submitted to the registrar. Each student who is eligible to receive a degree is expected to participate in the commencement, unless he has compelling reasons for being absent. In such cases, a student will receive the degree *in absentia*. The date for commencement exercises will typically be the first Friday evening after the last final exam of the spring

semester. Seminary regalia will be made available for graduating students; graduating students are able to purchase their academic gowns (this cost is in addition to the graduation fee of \$250).



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.
- publish the dissertation in such a form as to be of service to the church at large.



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

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 C

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* or **

First research language *, **, or ***

Year 2

12 Credits - Courses 7 – 10* or **

3 Credits - Dissertation proposal course*

3 Credits - Teaching and Preaching**

Second research language *, **, or ***

Year 3

Comprehensive examination*

Initial 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 (distance education): Live-streamed, online, or directed study

*** Non-residential: Taken via another institution (an approved course partner with PRTS)