



Ph.D. Student Manual

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
AY 2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

Preface	2
Part One: Academic Policies	4
1. Enrollment	4
2. Evaluation of Students	8
3. Financial Support	12
4. Academic Integrity	19
5. Policies on Harassment and Other Aspects of Student Life	20
Part Two: Ph.D. Requirements	21
1. Areas of Study	21
2. Advisors	24
3. Course Work	24
4. Foreign Language Requirements	27
5. Residency	29
6. Pedagogical Training	30
7. Candidacy Examinations	31
8. Admission to Candidacy	37
9. The Dissertation	38
10. Time Limits	45
11. Appeal Process	45
12. Dismissal Appeal Process	46

Department of Theology
130 Malloy Hall, University of Notre
Dame Notre Dame, IN 46556
Phone 574.631.7811 Fax 574.631.4291

Preface

The Ph.D. program began in the fall semester of 1966 as a logical extension of the existing graduate program and an element of the response of the University of Notre Dame and of the Department of Theology to the Second Vatican Council. While there is no direct tie between the Council and the beginning of the program, there are multiple lines of indirect influence. The Council opened up Roman Catholicism to the larger world (*aggiornamento*) and, at the same time, affirmed the need for a retrieval of the riches of the Christian tradition (*ressourcement*) in which Catholic faith and, therefore, theology, must be rooted. Without denying the hierarchical nature of the Church, it affirmed the universal call to holiness and the vocation of laity, including their participation in the disciplined reflection on the tradition that is theology. The work of incorporating these initiatives, and others, into an academic program in a major teaching and research university has determined the evolving character of the program as well as its structure at any given point in that development.

The Department defines itself as a Department of Theology rather than a Religious Studies Department. We understand theology by means of the classic phrase articulated by Anselm: *fides quaerens intellectum*. By “faith” we mean that the starting point for theology is a commitment to the truth of a particular faith tradition. By implication, the faculty are practicing members of communities of faith. Roman Catholicism is the dominant expression of faith among the faculty, but not the exclusive one. We are deliberately ecumenical in our faculty, and even more so in our doctoral student body. Many, although not all, of the doctoral students are practicing members of different communities of faith and find this characteristic of the faculty to be one of the attractions of the program. Yet, we have had and do have students who do not have any faith commitments and who have thrived in the program. Faith is not a prerequisite; it is the culture. By “seeking” we mean that we assume the need to search for answers which, in turn, deepen the level of understanding of the tradition. This stance is a *sine qua non* for the Ph.D. program where faith commitments cannot determine the answers in advance of the investigation. This stance is consonant with our location in a research university in which critical thinking and the right and necessity of free inquiry are respected. While this position sometimes creates a tension between religious tradition and academic freedom, we believe that the two poles form a dialectic, not a divide. To the extent that we maintain the tension as a creative one, we may lay claim to being a program in both an American university and a Roman Catholic university. Finally, by “understanding” we mean that our task is

intellectual. We emphasize the role of the mind in theology. Our task is to make faith intelligible and relevant to our contemporary world through training in research and teaching.

The Ph.D. program is divided into concentrations that reflect both the richness and the complexity of the theological task: Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity, Liturgical Studies, History of Christianity, Moral Theology, Systematic Theology, and World Religions World Church. While these areas are separate concentrations, faculty work across the boundaries of the concentrations, and doctoral students are encouraged to do the same.

The Department of Theology, with the approval of the Graduate School, has adopted this *Ph.D. Student Manual* for the use of the faculty and the Ph.D. students. It codifies the department's and Graduate School's procedures, norms, and calendar for a student's advancement toward the Ph.D. degree. Each Ph.D. student is responsible for ensuring that his/her academic work progresses according to the procedures, norms, and calendar contained in this manual.

Part One:

Academic Policies

1. Enrollment

Once admitted, all degree and non-degree graduate students must enroll before each semester at the times and locations announced by the University Registrar. Enrollment dates are published in the Graduate School Calendar. Any admitted student who fails to enroll for one semester or more must apply for readmission upon return.

1.1 Full Time Status

The Department of Theology considers doctoral studies a full time occupation. For this reason, the Department does not normally admit part time students to the Ph.D. program. Exceptions require the consent of the director of graduate studies (DGS) and the faculty of the student's specialization.

Normally, a full-time student is one who (1) registers for nine or more credit hours of required course work per semester in the academic year or (2) has taken forty-two (42) credit hours required for the degree and is registered for a minimum of nine credit hours. This second category includes both resident and nonresident students.

1.2 Continuous Enrollment

All students must enroll each semester in the academic year and register for at least nine credit hours per semester to maintain student status. Students need not register and enroll during the summer terms. Continuous enrollment is met normally by enrollment in the University and registration in a graduate-level course relevant to the student's program. A student who is concurrently pursuing degrees in the Graduate School and in another school in the University meets the continuous enrollment requirement by registering for a course in either program. Any exception to this rule, including a leave of absence, must be approved by the Graduate School. (See "Leave of Absence," below.) Degree students who have completed the credit-hour requirement for their degree must register for at least nine credit hours per semester, including the final semester or summer session in which they receive their degree. These students may be considered full-time students whether or not they are in residence. Students not in residence and taking nine credit hours pursuant to continuous enrollment requirements are charged a special registration fee.

A student who fails to enroll and register for one semester or more must apply for readmission upon return.

Continuing students (i.e., degree-seeking students who are eligible to continue their studies in the fall semester) may have access to University facilities and services from May through August without registering and enrolling for academic credit in the summer session.

1.3 Leave of Absence

For exceptional reasons and on the recommendation of the Department (i.e., the DGS), a student in good academic standing may request a leave of absence for a maximum of two consecutive semesters. A request for a leave of absence must be made before the semester in which the leave is taken, and all leaves of absence must be approved by the Graduate School. If, for some urgent reason, a student is allowed to leave the University after the beginning of the semester, the withdrawal procedure below must be followed. If at the end of the leave of absence period the student does not return, the student is considered terminated. After termination, application for readmission is required if the student wishes to return.

In the case of a medical leave of absence, clearance from the University Health Center is required prior to readmission.

Add: They should not be signed up for non-resident research credits. Only a leave of absence will stop the clock, preventing the student from running out of funding.

1.4 Medical Separation from Academic Duties

Students enrolled in the Notre Dame Graduate School who wish to temporarily interrupt their programs for medical reasons must apply to the Graduate School. Students are eligible under this policy if they have a “serious medical condition.” For purposes of this policy, “serious medical condition” means a medical condition that (1) requires multiple day hospitalization OR (2) renders the student unable to engage in coursework and all other Graduate School-related duties for a period of at least ten (10) calendar days. Certification by a physician that the student has a serious medical condition as defined in this policy must be submitted to the Graduate School no less than three months prior to the separation period (for childbirth and other predictable requests) or as soon as the need is foreseen (for emergency requests). In situations involving childbirth, the separation period will generally begin on the actual date of childbirth; in all cases, regardless of the nature of the medical condition, the duration of the separation will be as certified by the physician up to a maximum of six weeks.

Students may utilize this medical separation policy two non-consecutive times during their graduate studies. Should students need more than 6 weeks at any one time, they must withdraw from the University. Leaves of absence for one semester or more for medical or other reasons are governed by the Graduate School Leave of Absence policy.

Full-time degree-seeking students in their 5th year of study or less who are receiving financial aid from the Graduate School or external funds will receive a stipend equal to their normal stipend during their period of separation, for a maximum of 6 weeks paid by the Graduate School. Students will retain their tuition scholarships, access to on-campus medical facilities, and all other resources available to students during the entire separation period (up to 6 weeks). Students also will be deemed “continuously enrolled” at the University during the entire period of separation.

Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant duties will cease at least during the period of separation. Students are responsible for making arrangements, through their departments, to cover their duties. Students taking classes will be required to make arrangements with individual course instructors for completion of any courses in progress during the leave. Students will be granted the option to reschedule exams, extend candidacy deadlines or other deadlines not discussed herein. Students are responsible for making arrangements to reschedule exams, extend deadlines and to make up other work not discussed herein. Unlike a regular one-semester leave, time off in conjunction with this policy will count towards the students’ degree time limit of 8 years and university- sponsored funding cap of five years.

1.5 Withdrawal from the Program

To withdraw from the University before the end of the semester, a student must inform the Department (i.e., the Ph.D. office) and the Graduate School, as well as complete the notice of withdrawal in the Office of the Registrar, 300 Grace Hall. For information on refunds, refer to "Tuition and Expenses."

Upon approval of the withdrawal, the University enters a grade of "W" for each course in which the student was registered. If a student drops out of the University without following the procedure described above, a grade of "F" is recorded for each course.

The credit for any course or examination will be forfeited if the student interrupts his or her program of study for five years or more.

The University reserves the right to require the withdrawal of any student when academic performance, health status or general conduct may be judged clearly detrimental to the best interests of either the student or the University community.

1.6 Maximal Registration

During each semester of the academic year, a graduate student should not register for more than 12 credit hours of graduate courses, i.e., courses numbered 60-000 and higher. In the summer session, a graduate student may not register for more than 10 credit hours.

1.7 Changes in Student Class Schedule

A student may add courses only during the first seven class days of the semester. A student may add courses after this time only on recommendation of the Department and with approval of the Graduate School.

A student may drop courses during the first seven class days of the semester. To drop a course after this period and up to the mid-semester point (see the Graduate School Calendar for the exact date,) a student must have the approval of the chair of the department offering the course, of his or her advisor, and of the Graduate School; however, no tuition adjustment will be made after the seventh class day of the semester. A course may be dropped after the mid-semester point only in cases of serious physical or mental illness. Courses dropped after this date will be posted on the student's permanent record with the grade of W.

A course taken for credit can be changed to an audit course after the mid-semester point only in cases of serious physical or mental illness.

1.8 Transfer of Credits

The doctoral program does not normally transfer credits earned at another institution. Exceptions require the approval of the DGS and the faculty of the student's area of specialization. All exceptions must follow the guidelines set out by the Graduate School and require the formal approval of the Graduate School.

2. Evaluation of Students

2.1 Graduate Grades

Listed below are graduate grades and the corresponding number of quality points per credit hour. It is the expectation of the Graduate School that all courses taken at the graduate level will be graded by the level of the course, not by the status of the enrolled student.

A	4.000
A-	3.667
B+	3.333
B	3.000
B-	2.667
C+	2.333
C	2.000
C-	1.667
D	1.000
F	0.000
I	0.000 (until Incomplete is removed)
NR	Not reported
S	Satisfactory
U	Unsatisfactory
V	Auditor
W	Discontinued with permission

Quality point values are used to compute the student's G.P.A. The G.P.A. is the ratio of accumulated earned quality points to the accumulated earned semester credit hours. G.P.A. computation takes into account only those grades earned in Notre Dame graduate courses by students with graduate status at Notre Dame. For courses taken in a department or college in the University but outside the Graduate School, or taken outside the University, the grade will not be included in the G.P.A. computation.

Grades of C- and D are awarded in the Graduate School and are used to calculate both semester and cumulative G.P.A.; however, they will not be accepted for completion of graduate degree requirements, specific required coursework, and/or total credit hours for completion of coursework. If a student receives lower than a grade of C in a required course, he or she must either retake the same course or its equivalent, as determined by the program to fulfill the degree requirement.

A student receives the temporary grade of I when, for acceptable reasons, he or she has not completed the requirements for a 60-000 or higher level graduate course within the semester or summer session. No grade of I can be given for courses below the 60-000 level or to graduating students in the final semester or final summer session. It is recommended that professors explain their policy on incompletes in their course syllabi. A professor need not grant an incomplete grade in a course. When a professor permits incompletes in a course, a student is required to ask the professor's permission to take an incomplete, and this request must be made prior to the last class day.

Incomplete Coursework

Students should complete the work of graduate courses at the 60000-90000 level during the regular academic term in which they are taken. This expectation of students should also guide faculty members who teach graduate courses. That is, faculty are obligated to evaluate and grade graduate work by the end of the term in which the course is offered.

A grade of "Incomplete" (I) should be given *only in exceptional circumstances* when there are compelling reasons. When a student receives a grade of I, he or she has 30 days from when grades were due (for the semester in which the I was given) to complete the coursework for a grade. The instructor of record then has 14 calendar days to report the grade via an eForm. If the coursework is not completed by this date, the grade of I will be changed permanently to a grade of F. Extensions for Incompletes require formal approval from the associate dean of students in the Graduate School.

*No grade of I can be given for courses below the 60000 level or to graduating students in the final semester or final summer session of a terminal degree program.

The University temporarily computes this grade as the equivalent of an F in calculating the G.P.A. When the student fulfills the above requirements, the I is replaced by the new grade. If the student does not complete the course within the required time, the grade will be changed permanently to an F.

The Department and the Graduate School will review a student who receives more than one I in a semester or an I in two or more consecutive semesters, to determine his or her eligibility for continued support and enrollment.

The grades of S and U are used in courses without semester credit hours, as well as in research courses, departmental seminars, colloquia, workshops, directed studies, field education and skills courses. These courses, if given the grade of S, do figure in a student's earned semester credit-hour total but do not figure in the computation of the G.P.A. A grade of U will not count toward the student's earned semester credit-hour total, nor will it figure in the computation of the G.P.A.

The grade of V has neither quality-point nor credit-hour value. It is the only grade available to the registered auditor who requests at the beginning of the semester that it be made part of his or her permanent record and who attends the course throughout the entire semester. The grade of V cannot be changed to a credit-earning grade.

The grade of W is given for a course that a student is allowed to drop after the mid- semester point.

2.2 Examinations

Unexcused absence from a scheduled final examination results in an F. An absence excused in advance results in an I (incomplete).

2.3 Academic Good Standing

- **Criteria**

Continuation in a graduate degree program, admission to degree candidacy, and graduation require maintenance of at least a 3.0 (B) cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.). A student may be dismissed from the Department if the G.P.A. in any one semester is below 2.5 or if the G.P.A. is below 3.0 for two semesters.

An adequate G.P.A. is only one factor taken into consideration in determining a student's qualifications for an advanced degree. A failure to make progress toward degree requirements, including fulfillment of language requirements, according to the schedule set out in this manual will jeopardize a student's standing.

- **Loss of Academic Good Standing**

The Department may place a student on restricted financial eligibility (which can range from the loss of eligibility for travel funds to the loss of all financial aid) or academic probation (a warning that the student has lost good standing and faces possible dismissal). The Graduate School enforces an "8-semester" rule. Students have eight semesters within which to pass their oral candidacy exams and have their dissertation proposals approved. Students who do not achieve these objectives within this 8-semester time frame will lose their funding.

In addition to the probation letter initiated by the student's program of study, there are three ways in which a student may be placed *on probation* by the Graduate School. These are:

1. A cumulative grade point average below 3.0 in any two semesters;
2. A failure to pass candidacy exams by the end of the eighth semester;
3. Earning a U in research for two consecutive semesters.

- **Termination**

The Department reserves the right to dismiss a student who fails to maintain academic good standing or who, in the collective judgment of the faculty, has little or no chance of successfully completing the program.

2.4 Student Evaluations

The performance of all doctoral students is evaluated by the Department at the end of every semester.

- **The Process**

At the end of every semester each member of the faculty is asked to fill out an evaluation form for every student with whom he or she has worked during that semester, and submit it to the student's area coordinator. The area coordinator condenses these evaluations into a written report, which is presented at the departmental evaluations meeting. At the meeting, the faculty make recommendations to the area coordinator who then sends a written evaluation to each student. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide detailed recommendations for the student's improvement.

- **Problematic Cases**

In instances where the faculty have doubts about a student's ability to complete the program or where the student has performed at a substandard level, the DGS will send a letter to the student outlining the concerns and possible courses of action. A student must be in academic good standing to be eligible for new or continued financial support.

3. Financial Support

3.1 Principle

We assume that most students have drained their financial resources during their undergraduate and initial graduate programs. Since we require students to devote full time to their doctoral program (with very limited exceptions), we insist that all students be fully funded for the five years they spend at Notre Dame. The source of their funding may come from outside the University in the form of a scholarship or support from a religious order, but typically, the University of Notre Dame funds the students.

3.2 Financial Packages

- **Departmental Fellowships**

- Full tuition for up to eight years
- Departmental stipend for five years or until the student leaves campus, whichever comes first. In AY 2025-2026, the departmental stipend will be \$38,000, paid out over twelve months.
- As a part of his or her fellowship, a student serves as a teaching or research assistant to a faculty member during years two and three, and teaches two courses for the Department over years five and six of his or her progress.
- If the recipient chooses the University health insurance policy, the premium will be covered in full for years one through five.

- **Notebaert Premier Fellowships**

- Full tuition for up to eight years
- In the AY 2025-2026 the stipend will be \$44,000 which is paid out over twelve months.
- The stipend is for five years as long as the student remains in residence.
- As a part of his or her fellowship a student serves as a teaching or research assistant to a faculty member during years two and three, and teaches two courses for the Department over year five of his or her program.
- If the recipient chooses the University health insurance policy, the premium will be covered in full for the years one through five.

- **Presidential Fellows**

- o Full tuition for up to eight years
- o The Presidential stipend is for five years or until the student leaves campus, whichever comes first. In AY 2025-2026, this stipend is \$42,000 for twelve months.
- o As a part of his or her fellowship a student serves as a teaching or research assistant to a faculty member during years two and three, and teaches two courses for the Department over years five and six of his or her program.
- o If the recipient chooses the University health insurance policy, the premium will be covered in full for years one through five.

- **Health Insurance**

The Graduate School provides a subsidy toward the cost of the health insurance premium for full-time, fully-funded students who are enrolled in the university-sponsored health insurance plan and their legal dependents. Further information can be found at <https://graduateschool.nd.edu/funding/#health-insurance>. University Health Services handles the enrollment and administration of the health insurance plan. You will need to follow their instructions and meet the deadlines that they outline.

Information about how to add your dependents and answers to other health insurance plan-related questions are on the frequently asked questions page of the University Health Services' website. If you have any questions not answered there, send an email to University Health Services at insurancequestions@nd.edu.

3.3 Additional Funding

- **Professional Development and Travel Funds**

In addition to your doctoral stipend, there are several sources of additional funding for professional development and travel directed related to your studies.

- (a) College-level funding - The College of Arts and Letters offers \$2,000 to each doctoral student to be used at any time during the five years of their program. The purpose of this funding is to help support the research and professional activities of PhD students within the College of Arts and Letters. Students should use up the entire \$2,000 of the College funds before requesting funds from the department (see below). Further details may be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hoQEYDbsD98x3i7m6fV2SEgbcIoQqwxnvwzHBrkgmek/edit?tab=t.0>, and questions about reimbursement details may be directed to the Graduate Coordinator.
- (b) Graduate School Professional Development Awards (GSPDA) - The GSPDA support the academic and research training of graduate students. Awards are funded by the Notebaert Professional Development Fund, the Joseph F. Downes Memorial Fund, and the Zahm Research Travel Fund. Funding is available for expenses related to conference presentations, participation in workshops or seminars, research at other institutions, and other training activities in support of scholarly and professional development. For more information see: <https://graduateschool.nd.edu/graduate-training/research-communication/gspda/>.
- (c) Departmental funding - Once students have applied for the GSPDA and used up their College funds, there is a limited amount of funding available to help students travel to conferences or other venues that are important for their research. Amounts granted per year vary from a \$300 cap in the first through third years, to a \$600 cap in years four through six. Students apply for funding in April of the academic year prior to the year in which they envision travelling. A yearly email is sent out with instructions about how and when to apply.

Students should also be aware that the Graduate School and/or the Franco Family Institute may also have additional funding opportunities available. It is worth taking some time to search for these opportunities on a yearly basis.

3.4 Eligibility for Funding Beyond Five Years

Students in academic good standing are eligible for continued tuition funding and travel support in their sixth year, subject to availability of funding. There is no guarantee of stipend funding in the sixth year, but students may apply for sixth-year funding if they have met the eligibility requirements as specified in the College of Arts and Letters graduate student funding policy. Application for sixth-year stipends will be filed by eligible students, through the DGS, in mid-April of the fifth year. To determine eligibility, students must consult with the DGS, well before the April deadline. No student is eligible for tuition support beyond sixteen semesters of enrollment.

3.5 Residency Requirement

Tuition scholarships, stipends and travel subsidies are intended to support a student while in residence at Notre Dame, so that he or she can make full use of the various resources offered by the university, including faculty consultation and the library, and so that he or she can contribute to the community of scholarship made up by the graduate faculty and students in the Department. Thus, nonresident students will forfeit stipend and travel support, unless they are dissertators who leave campus in order to pursue their research (see also no. 5 under Degree Requirements). Any exceptions must be approved by the DGS and the Ph.D. committee.

3.6 Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistants (GA's) are expected to work twelve hours per week during the semester. Vacation time does not count and students will receive all the normal breaks and holidays of the academic calendar. No work outside the University is to be required of GA's. GA's should be protected against last-minute assignments. They are to be used for academic purposes only. Graduate assistants and research assistants are restricted to a maximum load of nine credit hours in formal coursework per semester.

3.7 Other Employment

No degree student may hold a job, on or off campus, without the express permission of the DGS and the Graduate School. Employment other than work for the Department must be cleared in advance or forfeiture of all financial support from the university may result.

3.8 Outside Sources of Funding

Students are encouraged to seek grants and fellowships from external sources of funding. While this funding may be used to augment a stipend received from the University, outside of exceptional circumstances or certain prestigious internal fellowships (e.g. Notebaert Premier Fellowships) the total amount of stipend support (including both external and internal sources) is limited to the equivalent of 1 1/2 times the stipend the student would be offered from the departmental fellowship for the nine months of the regular academic year. Thus, if the departmental fellowship offers a student a stipend of \$28,500 for those nine months, the combined stipend from internal and external sources cannot exceed \$44,000 for that year (including the summer following the academic year). Per the College of Arts and Letters funding policy, there is no deferring of departmental funding, in whole or in part, to a later year in the doctoral program. Students are required to inform the DGS if they receive an outside grant or fellowship, at the risk of forfeiting all financial support from the University.

3.9 Notification

Decisions concerning financial support for the next academic year are communicated to students in writing in June.

3.10 Compliance with Federal Aid Regulations

Recipients of federal financial aid must comply with the standards of progress set by their respective departments for their particular programs of study. The Office of Financial Aid will notify students in writing when failure to maintain progress results in the possible loss of federal aid eligibility. Appeals indicating any mitigating circumstances must be made in writing to the associate director of financial aid.

Summary

Year	Requirements	Available Sources of Funding
1 (Fall)	Four courses	Tuition and stipend
1 (Spring)	Language examination(s) Four courses	Tuition and stipend
1 (Summer)	Language examination(s) Language work	
2 (Fall)	Three courses Teaching and Research Assistantship	Tuition and stipend
	Language examination(s)	Minimal travel
2 (Spring)	Three courses Teaching and Research Assistantship	Tuition and stipend
	Language examination(s)	Minimal travel
2 (Summer)	Language work	
	NOTE: All language examinations must be passed by the end of the summer	
3 (Fall)	Candidacy Topics Due	Tuition and stipend
3 (Spring)	Teaching and Research Assistantship Candidacy Examinations First draft of dissertation proposal due	Minimal travel Tuition and stipend
3 (Summer)	Teaching and Research Assistantship Dissertation Proposal	Minimal travel
4 (Fall)	Dissertation Proposal Due	Tuition and stipend
	Teaching Workshops	Moderate travel
4 (Spring)	Dissertation	Tuition and stipend Moderate travel
4 (Summer)	Teaching Workshops; syllabus prep Dissertation	
5 (Fall)	Dissertation	Tuition and stipend,

PH.D. STUDENT MANUAL 2025-2026

5 (Spring)	Teach*	Maximum travel
	Dissertation	Tuition and stipend
	Teach*	Maximum travel
	*In year 5, teach at least one section, perhaps two	
	Dissertation	
5 (Summer)		
6	Dissertation	Tuition (and perhaps stipend)
	Teach a second section (if only one taught in year 5)	Maximum travel

4. Academic Integrity

Integrity in scholarship and research is an essential characteristic of academic life and social structure in the University. Any activity that compromises the pursuit of truth and the advancement of knowledge besmirches the intellectual effort and may undermine confidence in the academic enterprise. A commitment to honesty is expected in all academic endeavors, and this should be continuously emphasized to students, research assistants, associates and colleagues by mentors and academic leaders. Beginning with those students who matriculated in 2012 or later, all Ph.D. students are required by the Graduate School to attend a half-day ethics workshop. This workshop should be completed in the first year of studies.

The procedures for ensuring academic integrity in the Graduate School are distinct from those in the Undergraduate Honor Code.

Violations of academic integrity may occur in classroom work and related academic functions or in research/scholarship endeavors. Classroom-type misconduct includes the use of information obtained from another student's paper during an examination, plagiarism, submission of work written by someone else, falsification of data, etc. Violation of integrity in research/scholarship is deliberate fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reporting research or other deliberate misrepresentation in proposing, conducting, reporting or reviewing research. Misconduct does not include errors of judgment, errors in recording, selection or analysis of data, differences in opinions involving interpretation, or conduct unrelated to the research process. Misconduct includes practices that materially and adversely affect the integrity of scholarship and research.

Any person who has reason to believe that a violation of this policy has occurred, shall discuss it on a confidential basis with the department chair or director of the appropriate institute. If a perceived conflict of interest exists between the chair/director and the accused, the next highest academic officer shall be notified of the charge. The chair/director shall evaluate the allegation promptly. If it is determined that there is no substantial basis for the charge, then the matter may be dismissed with the fact of dismissal being made known to the complainant and to the accused if he or she is aware of the accusation. A written summary of charges, findings and actions shall be forwarded to the vice president for graduate studies and research as a matter of documentation. Otherwise, the chair will select an impartial panel consisting of three members, one of whom may be a graduate student, to investigate the matter. The chair will inform the accused of the charges. The panel will determine initially whether to proceed directly to a hearing to further investigate the case, or to dismiss the charges. If the panel decides to proceed directly to a hearing, the hearing will be held within ten

days of the original notification. If the panel decides that further investigation is necessary, it shall immediately notify the chair. If it decides that a hearing is not warranted, all information gathered for this investigation will be destroyed. The utmost care will be taken to minimize any negative consequence to the accused.

The accused party must be given the opportunity to respond to any and all allegations and supporting evidence at the hearing. The response will be made to the appointed panel. The panel will make a final judgment, recommend appropriate disciplinary action, and report to the chair in writing. The report will include all of the pertinent documentation and will be presented within 30 days after meeting with the accused. Copies of the report are to be made available to the accused, the chair, and the vice president. If a violation is judged to have occurred, this might be grounds for dismissal from the University; research/scholarship violations might be reported to the sponsor of the research effort (e.g., NSF, NIH, Lilly Foundation, etc.), if appropriate.

If the student chooses to appeal, he or she must address the appeal in writing to the vice president for graduate studies and research within ten days. The student has the right to appear before the vice president or his or her delegate. The vice president may decide to appoint an ad hoc committee to handle this appeal, if deemed necessary.

5. Policies on Harassment and Other Aspects of Student Life

5.1 Policy

Sexual and discriminatory harassment and harassment in general are prohibited by the University. Definitions and policies regarding all forms of harassment and other aspects of student life and behavior are described in *duLac: A Guide to Student Life*, which is the University's description of student life policies and procedures. The codes, rules, regulations, and policies that establish the official parameters for student life at Notre Dame are contained in *duLac*. Unless otherwise noted, the policies and procedures in *duLac* apply to all students, undergraduate, graduate, or professional, whether the behavior occurs on or off campus. Copies of *duLac* are provided to all students at the time of their enrollment and may also be obtained from the Office of Residence Life, located in the Main Building.

Part Two:

Ph.D. Requirements

1. Areas of Study

1.1 Six areas

There are six areas of study designated within the Department. Each area operates independently.

- **Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity (CJA)**

Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity covers four disciplines: the Hebrew Scriptures; Judaism, especially Second Temple and early Rabbinic Judaism; the New Testament and Graeco-Roman world; and other Christian sources up to the early medieval period.

- **History of Christianity (HC)**

History of Christianity explores the study of the history of Christianity in all its rich complexity. The program focuses on three major periods: ancient, medieval, and Reformation/modern.

- **Liturgical Studies (LS)**

Liturgical Studies seeks to advance the study and understanding of the worship life of the Christian church in its various traditions. It integrates three sub disciplines: liturgical history, liturgical theology, and ritual studies.

- **Moral Theology/Christian Ethics (MT)**

Moral Theology/Christian Ethics studies a number of sub-disciplines including foundational, medical, and social ethics. The program encourages interaction with philosophical ethics. While the program concentrates on the Roman Catholic tradition, it engages and is open to a variety of traditions.

- **Systematic Theology (ST)**

Systematic Theology engages in the disciplined and critical inquiry into the major tenets of Christian faith, especially as understood within Catholicism. The program addresses a wide range of concerns including the historical development of theology, constructive issues, and comparative theology.

- **World Religions and World Church (WRWC)**

The purpose of the concentration in World Religions and World Church (WRWC) is to explore new ways of thinking theologically about world religions, cultural diversity in the Church, and the history of interactions between the Church and the religions of the world. It has two tracks. One track engages the religions of the world from within a Christian theological paradigm for the purpose of studying those traditions with specific attention to their own particular historical contexts and modes of theological discourse, which is a necessary prerequisite to informed inter-religious dialogue. The second track studies the ways in which Christianity has become inculturated in contexts shaped largely by non-Christian religious traditions. To maintain an overall theological framework of study in both tracks, each student will have a formal minor in one of the other five areas, which will entail taking four courses in that area and taking all three of his or her minor area candidacy exam topics in that area (see below, under coursework and Candidacy Examinations.)

1.2 Minor Areas of Concentration

Students are encouraged to use coursework and the minor area topics of their candidacy exams to develop a minor area of concentration. The following minor area of concentration has been formally defined by the Department:

- **World Religions and World Church**

The minor concentration in World Religions and World Church (WRWC) provides the intellectual foundations for engaging the religions of the world from within a Christian theological paradigm, whether as a grounding for more advanced study of their history and theology or for purposes of inter-religious engagement. The minor concentration has the following requirements:

- One course, typically, Theo 60854, Modern Study of Religions, or the equivalent being offered for the academic year, that introduces a

student to the diverse methods developed to study religion in the modern university, ranging from various social sciences (e.g., sociology, psychology, and anthropology) to assorted hermeneutical approaches (e.g., critical studies, literary theories, and performance theory).

- The student takes an additional three courses that either study another world religion or considers Christianity as it has become inculturated in contexts characterized by religious and/or cultural pluralism. Finally, the student prepares three topics for his or her candidacy exams under the direction of one of the faculty of the Department currently teaching in this field.
- Students interested in pursuing this minor concentration should consult with the area coordinator for WRWC.

1.3 Areas of Work

Doctoral students are admitted to a specific area and not just to the Department in general, and typically remain within that area for the duration of their studies. In exceptional cases the Ph.D. committee (in consultation with the faculty in the proposed area of study) will consider a request for a transfer to another area. Such requests should be made before the end of the first semester of residence.

2. Advisors

2.1 Initial Advisor

The area coordinator acts as advisor during most of the first year of residency.

2.2 Academic Advisor

By the end of the second semester of the first year each student must select an advisor from the regular teaching and research faculty of the Department in his or her area of research interest. Ideally, this person is the one most likely to be the dissertation director; however, it is possible to ask a member of the faculty other than the advisor to serve as the dissertation director when the student moves from candidacy examinations to the dissertation. Students select an advisor after appropriate consultation with faculty in their area of study to determine if their preferred advisor is available and willing to serve. The advisor's name will then be communicated on the appropriate form to the DGS.

2.3 Responsibility

Students are responsible for making sure that they satisfy all program requirements.

3. Course Work

3.1 Requirement

All doctoral students are required to take fourteen three-hour courses during the first two years of residence.

3.2 Distribution

Eight of these courses must be from the area of specialization, although up to two can be taught by faculty outside the area of specialization. Each area sets up the course distribution requirements of these eight courses. Three courses must be taken outside the area of specialization, whether in other areas within the Department or from other departments in the university. Three courses are electives, except in the CJA program where three courses in ancient languages are required.

3.3 Concentrations

Major Areas

CJA, HC, and WRWC have structured their programs to include fields for specialization within the concentration. They are as follows:

- Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity
 - Hebrew Bible and Judaism
 - New Testament and Early Church
- History of Christianity
 - Early Church
 - Medieval Studies
 - Reformation Studies and modern

The eight 3-hour courses within the HC area are normally distributed over two of the fields of specialization (periods), whether 4/4 or 5/3. In the case where a student wishes to take a course in the third period, the distribution will be 4/3/1.

- World Religions and World Church
 - World Religions:
 - World Church

Eight courses will be taken within the area, according to the following general pattern:

- i. two courses are required: Modern Study of Religion and World Christianity (or Global Catholicism)
- ii. six more courses in WRWC are to be taken as students choose in conversation with their advisor.

Four courses will be taken in the student's declared minor area of concentration, which will be one of the five other areas within the program. The two remaining electives will usually be language courses appropriate for the student's area of focus.

- **Secondary Areas of Concentration**

All students are encouraged to develop a second area of expertise through the three courses outside their major and the three electives. They may do so by selecting either a series of courses in a specific discipline or courses that have a common theme or hermeneutics from across multiple disciplines.

3.3 Courses

- **Appropriate Levels**

Doctoral students are expected to take courses at the 80-000-level. With the permission of his or her advisor, a doctoral student may take some course work at the 60-000 level to fill lacunae. The number of such courses, however, should not exceed three of the fourteen. In some cases, students may register for a special studies course at the 80-000-level and reach an agreement with the instructor on appropriate additional requirements.

- **Special Studies Courses**

A student who wishes to take for credit a course which is not offered in that semester, may take it as a Special Studies course, but he or she must first obtain the consent of the instructor. Students should realize that such courses are additional loads for faculty members who may decline the request.

When a student and a member of the faculty have agreed to a Special Studies course, the student must obtain a Special Studies form from the office of the DGS. This form specifies the requirements of the course and serves as a contract between a student and the instructor. The form must be approved and signed by the DGS.

The number of Special Studies courses that a student takes may vary; however, only in exceptional circumstances will students be allowed to take more than two over the course of their program.

- **Auditing Courses**

Students are encouraged to audit courses after their second year of study. This privilege enables students to fill in lacunae or to take a course that they were unable to take during the two years of their coursework.

4. Foreign Language Requirements

4.1 Common Requirements

All areas within the Department require basic competence in two modern languages and one ancient language. The modern languages are typically but not exclusively, French and German. In Systematic Theology, the two modern languages may be chosen from French, German, or Spanish. In CJA, students typically choose German and French or Modern Hebrew. In the case where a scholarly rationale can be demonstrated, it is possible to petition for Italian or Spanish. In any of the areas, another modern language may be substituted by petition to the DGS, who will consult with the relevant area coordinator.

Typically, the ancient language required is either Greek or Latin, depending on the student's primary area of research. A basic knowledge is taken to mean the ability to translate an appropriate text with the aid of a dictionary. The decision on all exemptions should be made in consultation with and at the approval of the student's advisor.

4.2 Area Requirements

Some areas have additional requirements. **Liturgical Studies** requires two ancient languages, both at the basic level. **History of Christianity** requires two ancient languages, one at the basic level, the other ancient language at an advanced level. **Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity** requires three ancient languages: one at an advanced level, one at an intermediate level, and one at the basic level.

Knowledge at an advanced level assumes that a student can translate difficult texts, including poetry, without significant mistakes. Knowledge at an intermediate level presumes that students can translate moderately difficult texts without major mistakes. In addition to the reading competencies in two modern research languages and one classical language that are the general departmental requirements, **WRWC** also requires advanced knowledge of the chosen canonical language (e.g., Chinese, Pali, etc.) for students in the World Religions track; or advanced knowledge of the appropriate language for studying the region of the world church that a student in the World Church track has chosen. The student will be required to pass a reading examination in this language by the summer of the second year of study. In addition, greater facility in the language will be demonstrated by translating selected passages as a part of the student's candidacy exams.

4.3 Certification at the University of Notre Dame

These requirements must be met by passing examinations offered each year by the appropriate department at the University of Notre Dame or by the Theology Department. The Theology Department does not accept language examinations from other institutions. Both the CJA Area and the WRWC Area require demonstration of further mastery of the language appropriate to the student's area of research by translating passages in that language as a part of the student's candidacy exam.

4.4 Theology Department Examinations

- **Language Examinations at the Basic Level**

The Theology Department's basic language examinations ask students to translate a text of 400 words within ninety minutes; students may use a hard copy dictionary, but no online resources. Examinations take place during the first week of November and either the last week of March or the first week of April.

- **Area Language Examinations (CJA and HC)**

An ancient language examination at the intermediate or advanced level in CJA or HC asks students to translate a text of 500 words within two hours. The final examinations of the Advanced Greek and Advanced Hebrew courses serve as the

examinations, although the exam may also be taken at the time of the other departmental language examinations. A course grade of A or A- satisfies the advanced level requirement; a course grade of B+ or B satisfies the intermediate level requirement. Certification in Latin may only be earned by taking the language examination, and not by coursework. CJA students may satisfy other ancient language requirements by passing a one semester intensive course in the relevant language.

4.5 Time Limit

Language proficiency should be acquired as early as possible since Ph.D. level seminars presume the ability to work in original languages, and to consult research resources in foreign languages. Students must satisfy all language examinations by the end of the second summer of their residency. A failure to do so will jeopardize a student's standing in the program and eligibility for stipends and travel funding. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to sit for Candidacy exams if he or she has not satisfied all language requirements.

5. Residency

The minimum residency requirement for the Ph.D. degree is full-time status for four consecutive semesters, which may include the summer session. The Department strongly recommends that students remain in residence for the duration of their program. Students who become non-resident forfeit stipend support and travel funding, unless they are dissertators who leave the university for the purposes of research.

6. Pedagogical Training

In addition to the requirements that are designed to prepare students for an active and productive life as scholars, the Ph.D. course of study includes a program to prepare students as teachers. There are five requirements in the program:

- *First*, during the second and third years of the program, students serve faculty as Graduate Assistants (GA) for twelve hours per week. While duties vary, each faculty member is asked to employ the GA as an assistant in an undergraduate course, particularly, in the student's third year in the program. Faculty are encouraged to introduce students to all aspects of undergraduate instruction, e.g., course planning, grading, presentations, advising.
- *Second*, during the Fall of the fourth year, students are required to take a series of workshops coordinated by the Department's teaching committee and staffed by regular members of the Department to introduce them to the two required courses in Theology, model syllabi, and the specific policies and concerns that the Department has for solid performance in these courses. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to teach unless he or she has satisfactorily completed the teaching workshops.
- *Third*, after a student has completed the Fall departmental workshops, he or she selects a syllabus as a model, enrolls in the Spring semester of the fourth year in THEO 83301 ("Theological Pedagogy"), and works with the instructor of the course (a member of the teaching committee) to revise the syllabus in light of his or her own goals and strengths. Once completed, the student will submit this syllabus to the teaching committee for approval.
- *Fourth*, the student selects a teaching mentor from the regular faculty. The mentor's responsibilities include the following: advising the student on all aspects of independent teaching, visiting the class room and debriefing the student on his or her performance during the initial semester of instruction on at least two occasions, and submitting to the teaching committee written evaluation of the student's teaching skills at the end of the student's course.
- *Fifth*, the teaching committee coordinates a series of optional workshops each year for fifth year students who are teaching their own courses. These workshops begin with a half-day meeting before each semester and cover basic pedagogical principles helpful for teaching introductory theology courses. They continue throughout the semester with a focus on common concerns arising out of students' courses.

- The University has a teaching center, the Kaneb Center, that offers a variety of programs that deal with non discipline-specific issues in teaching. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these Kaneb Teaching Center offerings as well, to hone their skills as teachers. Consult the Kaneb Center's website for relevant programs and workshops, at <https://kaneb.nd.edu/>.

7. Candidacy Examinations

7.1 Purpose and Structure of the Candidacy Examinations

The candidacy examination consists of two parts: a written component and an oral component, in that order. A major goal of the exams should be the acquisition of a breadth of knowledge that places the student in a strong position relative to her or his field of study. Successful passage indicates that, in the judgment of the faculty, the student has an adequate knowledge of the basic literature, problems, and methods of her or his field. The rationale for the examination structure is to provide students with an occasion to work independently of field-specific topics before undertaking the larger project of the dissertation.

7.2 Time in Program

A student takes candidacy exams in the second semester after completing course work, i.e., normally in March of the third year. For the exact dates each year, students should consult the departmental graduate calendar posted publicly in Malloy Hall and kept by the Graduate Coordinator. Any variation in the typical exam schedule must be approved by the DGS. It is possible for a student to take the examinations a semester early if he or she enters the program with exceptional preparation. For good reason, the committee may permit a student to defer the examinations from March to October, but only in very exceptional circumstances will a second deferral be allowed, and then only in consultation with the Ph.D. committee. Usually, a deferral to October will result in a student being placed on restricted financial eligibility, and a second deferral will come with a loss of a stipend.

7.3 Topics, Paper Option, and Pre-examination Timeline

In consultation with her or his advisor and members of the examination committee, the student selects ten topics on which she or he will be examined. Seven of these topics should come from the major area of interest and three from outside the major area. At least one of the topics in the major area must explore a possible dissertation question. Students may choose to replace one or two topics (dependent upon area specifics) with a paper option, in which the student chooses a promising paper from her or his coursework to develop further for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The purpose of this option is to provide students with a valuable opportunity to begin publishing in their field. In the case of a student taking the paper option, the examination committee is free to examine the student's knowledge of the topic and the quality of the progress made on the paper, along with its preparedness for publication. Each area within the Department determines the specific scope of the topics and the details of the paper option. A certain breadth should be observable in the final combination of topics and, if applicable, paper option. It is the responsibility of the committee to ensure that the topics are sufficiently broad.

- **Format**

For each of the ten topics, students should formulate in a single paragraph, the problem that they intend to investigate. This paragraph should be accompanied by a brief bibliography of works that the student is prepared to study. It is imperative that the bibliography is selective, since the student will be expected to have studied all materials in the bibliography. The bibliographies should include representative works in foreign languages.

- **Initial Submission and Selection of the Examination Committee**

By the end of the second week of the semester prior to that in which the examination will occur, the student must submit topics and bibliographies to both the DGS and the Graduate Coordinator, after the student's advisor has preliminarily approved them. This submission must also include notification of the examination committee, which is chosen by the student, in close consultation with, and based on the approval of, the advisor. It is the student's responsibility to secure the approval of the committee members prior to the submission of their names.

The examination committee will include: the advisor, a second member from the student's major field (who will serve as chair of the committee), a third member from outside the major area, and a fourth member to be chosen by the student and advisor in view of the exam topics. A fifth member must be selected to assess the written examination only; she or he does not participate in the oral

examination. This additional examiner may be from either the major field or the areas outside the major as required in order to produce a total of three examiners in the major area and two outside the major area. Any changes to the examination committee after the approval of the topics and bibliographies must be approved by the DGS.

The second member from the major field will serve as the chair of the examination committee, and should be so designated by the student when topics are first submitted. The role of the chair is to oversee the approval process for the topics and bibliographies, convening a meeting of the committee to discuss the topics and their approval, if necessary. The chair reports the committee's decision to both the DGS and the Graduate Coordinator. Once this step is completed, the chair's role formally ends. Remaining tasks fall to the advisor.

By the end of the third week of the semester prior to that in which the examination will be taken, the Graduate Coordinator will distribute the topics and bibliographies to the examination committee.

- **Approval**

Within one month after the topics and bibliographies have been submitted and distributed to the committee, the chair of the committee must inform the DGS and the Graduate Coordinator whether revisions will be necessary or the topics and bibliographies have been approved by the examination committee. If revisions are required, it is the responsibility of the chair to communicate, in a timely way, the required revisions to the student and certify that they have been completed. In the case of revisions, the revised topics and bibliographies must be resubmitted by the student to the chair within two weeks of the student being notified. The chair will inform the DGS and the Graduate Coordinator when the committee has given final approval. Students must then submit a copy of the final examination topics to the Graduate Coordinator. Final approval should be granted within a maximum of eight weeks after the student's initial submission of topics and bibliographies to the DGS and the Graduate Coordinator. Once the approval process is complete, the role of the committee chair has formally ended. The remainder of the examination process will be overseen by the advisor.

- **Notification**

The DGS or Graduate Coordinator will formally notify the student when the topics are approved. The DGS has the right to return proposed examinations to the committee and the student if they do not meet the above guidelines.

- **Program of Study**

The topics and bibliographies, once approved, constitute the program of study to which the student is committed and the exclusive matter for the candidacy examinations.

- **Late Revisions**

Any unforeseen revisions of the topics and bibliographies that have arisen in the course of research must be duly noted and approved by the committee on an *ad hoc* basis. It is the student's responsibility to notify the advisor of any such revisions, and the advisor's responsibility to inform the committee of any changes and obtain their consent. Additional revisions will not be accepted within two months of the examinations being administered.

7.4 **Examination Process**

- **Dates**

The specific dates for meeting all of the requirements of the examination process (i.e., the dates of the initial and final submissions of the topics) will be publicly posted in Malloy Hall at least a year in advance (e.g., in the graduate student lounge or on the PhD bulletin board in the first floor hallway.)

Committee members are nominated by the DGS on behalf of the Department and are appointed by the Graduate School. Examination committees will be posted two weeks before the examinations are to be administered.

The examinations are administered in March and October.

- **Time**

Written exams for the student's major area take place on the first and second day of the exam period (usually on Monday and Tuesday), with a two-hour period in the morning and another in the afternoon. On the third day of the examinations (typically Wednesday) the student is examined on his or her topics outside the major area during a two-hour written exam period during the morning and another in the afternoon. Use of the paper option in lieu of one or two of the topics will result in a reduction of the written exam period on the day for which the paper option is substituting.

- **Aids**

In fields that are textually based, students may request permission from their committee and the DGS to bring copy/copies of the appropriate ancient texts to the examination. These texts may be either in translation or in the original language. All such texts must be free of notes. The specific translations or editions must be approved at least one week in advance of the examination. The CJA area has specified this policy further in the following way: Students may bring and use an unmarked Hebrew Bible, Greek New Testament, and/or Greek Septuagint. Other texts to be translated will be provided by the examiner. Any other texts that will be used must be approved in advance by the exam committee, and must be in the original language (no translations). ***At the time of their first submission, CJA students must submit a list of texts that they propose to use as aids for approval by their exam committees.***

- **Grading**

For the written examination, the committee members will grade the answers, on a pass/fail basis, on the merits of the written work of the examination alone. No regard should be given to other aspects of the student's work. Two passing votes are required in both the major area and the fields outside the major area. In the event of a deadlock in the area outside the major, the DGS will appoint a third examiner with competence in the area of the deadlock. A decision will be made on the basis of that person's judgment. Students will be notified of the examination grades in a timely manner by the Graduate Coordinator, in anticipation of the oral examinations. The student must pass both written examinations (major area and outside the major area) in order to qualify to take the oral examination.

- **Oral Examination**

An oral examination lasting an hour and a half will be administered by the first four members of the examination committee, the fifth member having participated in the written examinations only. One senior or tenured member of the committee serves as the administrator of the exam. This administrator will normally be the advisor.

Examinations normally consist of two rounds of questions. Examiners may ask questions based on either responses to the written exams or on examination topics not covered by the written examinations. If a student chooses the paper option, examiners are also free to ask questions about the submitted paper.

- **Grading**

After completion of the examination, the administrator calls for a discussion (with the student not present) followed by a vote of the examiners. The examination will be graded solely on the basis of the student's performance in the oral examination, without regard to performance in the written examination. Three affirmative votes are required for a pass. The Graduate School records either a pass or a fail. The Department of Theology makes distinctions among grades of passing. Students who are judged by a majority of the examiners to have passed with distinction may receive a grade of "passed with honors" or "passed with high honors." It is the responsibility of the advisor to communicate this grade to the student. The Graduate Coordinator will send a written report of the overall quality of the oral examination and the results of the voting, to be written by the administrator of the oral examination, immediately to the Graduate School. The DGS or Graduate Coordinator must also officially notify the student of the results of the candidacy examination in a timely manner.

7.5 Failures

- **Failures on the Written Examinations**

If the candidate fails in the topics outside the major area, he or she must be re-examined in that area. If the student fails in the major area, the DGS may, on the recommendation of the committee, authorize a re-examination in both the major area and in the areas outside the major, but not a partial re-examination.

- **Failures on the Oral Examination**

If a student fails the oral examination, the administrator of that portion informs the DGS as to whether or not the student should retake the examination. The student is not required to retake the written examination in this case.

- **Second Examination**

A candidate who is required to retake either the entire written examination or the oral examination may not do so until the next time the candidacy examinations are administered. A student who is required to retake only the area(s) outside the major may do so after two months have elapsed, by arrangement with the committee. An authorization for a retake must be approved by the Graduate School. A second failure results in forfeiture of degree eligibility and is recorded on the candidate's permanent record.

7.6 Award of Master's Degree to Doctoral Students

A doctoral student may receive a master's degree when leaving the program under several sets of circumstances.

- **Voluntary Withdrawal**

If a student in the Ph.D. program withdraws before candidacy exams, but after completing forty-two credit hours, the M.A. degree can be awarded after successful completion of the remaining requirements of the M.A. program. A student who decides not to go on after passing the written and oral examinations may receive an M.A. degree, provided that he or she has met the remaining requirements of the program.

- **Involuntary Withdrawal**

In the case that a student fails some portion of the candidacy examination, and the examining board does not recommend that the examination be re-taken, several options are available.

If the student fails the written examination, the examining board, convened by its chair, may vote either to 1) recommend to the director of the M.A. program that the student be considered for admission to candidacy for the master's degree, in which case the remaining requirements for the degree will be determined by the director of the M.A. program; or 2) fail the student at both the master's and Ph.D. levels.

If the student passes the written examination, but fails the oral examination, the examining board may vote to recommend the awarding of the master's degree.

8. Admission to Candidacy

Admission to candidacy is a prerequisite to receiving any graduate degree. To qualify for admission to doctoral candidacy, a student must:

- 1) be in a doctoral program;**
- 2) have been continuously enrolled in the program without withdrawal;**
- 3) complete the departmental course work requirement with a cumulative average of 3.0 or better;**
- 4) pass the written and oral parts of the doctoral candidacy examination;**
- 5) have an approved dissertation proposal.**

When these five prerequisites have been met, the student will receive a congratulatory letter from the DGS. The Graduate Coordinator will submit the application for Admission to Doctoral Degree Candidacy on the student's behalf.

9. The Dissertation

9.1 Dissertation Directors

Dissertation directors are typically chosen from among the tenured members of the teaching and research faculty of the Department of Theology. There are circumstances when it is possible to have a co-director who is not a tenured member of the Department: for example, one who is an assistant professor in the Department of Theology; a professional specialist in the Department; a tenured member of the Department who leaves the university during the writing of the dissertation; or a faculty member from another department. All co-directors must be approved by the DGS and the Graduate School.

9.2 Dissertation Topic

Selection of the dissertation topic should be done in conversation with the faculty member whom the student chooses as director.

9.3 Dissertation Proposal

- **The Nature of a Proposal**

The purpose of the proposal is to demonstrate that the dissertator has a clear concept of an important issue, a specific procedure that will guide the research, and a probable chance for a successful result.

Proposals are not finished products. They are written at the beginning of research. Since findings often change the way in which problems and solutions are perceived, modifications may be necessary. When a modification is deemed necessary, the dissertator must have the approval of the dissertation director and the board. If the changes are major (i.e., involve a reorientation of the dissertation), the director may ask for a new proposal. If changes reflect significant adjustments to the original proposal then a letter explaining the changes should be submitted to the office of the DGS. It is understood that some alterations routinely occur, e.g., the rearrangement of chapters, the addition of a chapter, the omission of a chapter. These types of changes do not require

written notification unless there is a disagreement among the members of the committee. The proposal should be 10-20 pages in length and should include the following elements:

- A brief statement of the *status quaestionis*, which serves as background for the contribution of the proposed dissertation. (NOTE: The review should be the length of similar reviews in articles and should not be the first chapter of the dissertation.)
- A clear thesis statement that identifies the contribution of the proposed dissertation
- The methodology that the dissertation will use
- The structure of the argumentation of the dissertation as it unfolds in chapters
- A preliminary bibliography

- **Deadline**

A first draft of the proposal is due to the Graduate Coordinator, copying the DGS, on the last day of class of the semester of the candidacy examinations. A complete proposal is due by the first day of class of the semester following candidacy examinations. Students who submit proposals on time receive priority in extra travel funding.

- **Late Proposals**

If a student fails to submit the proposal by the end of the first semester following candidacy examinations, he or she will automatically be placed on academic probation. **The Graduate School policy stipulates that if the proposal is not approved by the end of the 8th semester, i.e., the end of the 4th year, the student will forfeit all financial support from the University.** If the proposal is not approved by the end of the fifth year after matriculation, the student faces dismissal from the program.

9.4 The Committee

- **Standard Committees**

The student's dissertation committee typically will be drawn from the examining board, although it may be changed with the approval of the director. The minimum committee size is three members: the director and two readers. The standard committee size in Theology is four: the director and three readers.

The director and one of the readers must come from the student's area of concentration. Students are encouraged to add a third reader from outside his or her area of concentration if, in consultation with the student's advisor, it is judged that the dissertation's subject requires it. A third reader may also be added from another department in the University with the approval of the DGS. In rare cases the committee may consist of five members (for example, a committee with two co-directors and three readers). In such a case, at least three of the members should come from the student's area of concentration.

- **Co-Directors**

In all cases where there are co-directors, there must be at least two additional readers bringing the total number of co-directors and readers to four. At least two of these four must be from the student's area of concentration, including at least one of the co-directors.

- **Outside Readers**

In some cases students may request that a faculty member from another institution serve on the committee. He or she may serve as an outside reader in either an official or unofficial capacity. All such appointments must have the approval of the DGS.

The unofficial external reader reads and comments on the dissertation in the same way that the official readers do, but since such readers are unofficial, they do not sign the proposal and need not be present at the defense. If they choose to attend the defense, they may sit on the oral examination board, question the student, and vote. Even though there is now one additional member of the committee (bringing it to four or five members,) two failing votes still constitute a failure of the defense. Whether the outside reader elects to attend the defense or not, the student should acknowledge the contribution of the reader in the credits. The Department does not pay for any expenses incurred by unofficial, outside readers.

In rare circumstances an official reader may come from outside the University. Such a reader requires the approval of the DGS and the Chair of the Department. Approval depends on the academic standing of the scholar and the absence of sufficient Notre Dame faculty with the appropriate qualifications to judge the quality of the dissertation. Official outside readers may not serve as directors or co-directors of dissertations. The Department will not pay for the travel expenses of the outside reader for meetings of the committee, including

mid-dissertation review and the defense. In no case may a student pay for the services of an outside reader.

- **Appointment**

The director makes a recommendation to the DGS concerning the composition of the committee after consultation with the student. Responsibility for appointing the committee rests solely with the DGS.

9.5 Approval of the Proposal

- **Submission**

The student must work out the proposal with the director of the dissertation. After the director signs the proposal, the student submits digital copies to the dissertation committee, or provides hard copies upon request of the committee members.

- **Evaluation**

The DGS will ask the committee to complete the assessment of the proposal within a four-week period. The student's director will convene a meeting of the committee to evaluate the proposal. If revisions are required, the director will determine whether a second meeting is necessary. A fully agreed-upon text must exist before the readers give their approval.

- **Commitment of the Committee**

Committee members who approve the proposal are expected, insofar as possible, to continue through the dissertation process until the student graduates. In the event that a faculty member leaves the University of Notre Dame, he or she will cease to be a member of the committee unless he or she is the director. If a director leaves, a co-director who is on the faculty here will be appointed.

- **Approval**

The director must sign and submit the appropriate form for approval to the DGS. The DGS will inform the student that the proposal has been officially approved. If revisions are required, the student will submit the final proposal to the Ph.D. office, fully approved by the committee.

9.6. Direction of the Dissertation

- **Director and Committee Members**

It must be emphasized that the director is the director of the dissertation, and that the readers are not directors but assessors. Correspondence or critique from the readers is to be addressed to the director, who will communicate it to the student after consultation with the reader(s). The readers must agree that there may be legitimately different approaches to scholarship and that their contribution is to ensure quality, not necessarily their own particular brand of scholarship.

- **Progress**

The director should find ways to keep the readers advised and to elicit critique from them periodically throughout the development of the dissertation.

- **Mid-Dissertation Review**

When a dissertator has completed approximately half of the dissertation, a mid-dissertation review must be conducted. The dissertator distributes what he or she has written so far to the readers. Then the dissertator and the committee meet to discuss the shape that the dissertation is taking. This review offers dissertators the opportunity to address major shifts in the dissertation that research has generated and ensures that the committee and the dissertator agree on the direction of the dissertation. It also provides the committee with an opportunity to interact as a group with the student and to express any concerns that the student needs to take into account before submitting the final version of the dissertation to the readers prior to the defense. The dissertation director should inform the DGS when the mid-dissertation review has been conducted. No dissertation may be submitted for a defense unless a midcourse review has taken place.

It is expected that the mid-dissertation review will be held in the student's fifth year in the doctoral program, preferably in the Fall semester. If a mid-dissertation review is not held in the fifth year, there must be a meeting of the full committee with the student before the end of the Spring semester of the fifth year in order to discuss the dissertation and reasons for slow progress, and to provide the committee with the opportunity to offer advice that might prove helpful in moving the dissertation forward. As is the case with the mid-dissertation review, the responsibility for scheduling this meeting rests with

the student. The dissertation director should inform the DGS when this meeting has been conducted. This meeting is *not* in lieu of a mid-dissertation review. The mid-dissertation review must be held once enough writing has been completed to warrant a review.

- **Progress Notification**

Dissertators are required to keep their directors informed of their progress. As noted above (§ 9.4), each dissertator should write a brief report to the DGS by email, copying the Graduate Coordinator, at the beginning of each academic year detailing his or her progress over the past year and outlining the work he or she plans to complete in the coming year. Failure to maintain progress is grounds for dismissal from the program.

9.7 **Defense of the Dissertation**

- **Deadlines for Graduation**

The finished dissertation, incorporating revisions up to that point, and signed by the director, must be submitted electronically as a PDF to the DGS, copying the Graduate Coordinator: by September 1 for January graduation, by February 1 for May graduation, or by May 1 for August graduation. (Students need to check with the Ph.D. office for exact dates since these dates sometimes vary from year to year.) The student should also check with members of the committee whether they prefer a hardcopy, and provide those hardcopies as requested. The student is expected to abide by the above dates. If, however, for some extraordinary reason, the student would like to request an extension, he/she must submit a written request to the DGS, copying the Graduate Coordinator. Students must also submit an additional copy to the Graduate School for preliminary review of the format. The Graduate School will check dissertations to ensure that they conform only to the UMI guidelines for formatting.

- **Approval for the Defense**

Typically, readers have four weeks to read the dissertation, decide whether it is ready to be defended, and so indicate on the Reader's Report to the Graduate School. Reader approval of the dissertation for defense does not imply reader agreement or support; it implies reader acknowledgment that the dissertation is an academically sound and defensible scholarly product. Only a dissertation that has been unanimously approved for defense by all the readers may be defended. Even though the dissertation has been approved for defense,

revisions may be required. If defects in the dissertation come to light at the defense, the candidate may be asked to revise the dissertation before it is accepted by the Graduate School and the degree is conferred. In that case, it will be the responsibility of the dissertation director, or such person as the committee may appoint, to report to the Graduate School that such revisions have been completed satisfactorily.

- **Scheduling of the Defense**

Once the DGS is notified by the readers that the dissertation has been approved for defense, the student must arrange a defense date with members of the committee and inform the Ph.D. Office immediately of that date and time of the defense. The Graduate Coordinator will then arrange a location for the defense and inform the student and committee by email of the defense's specific time and place.

- **Rationale**

In defending the dissertation, the doctoral candidate supports its claims, procedures, and results. The defense is the traditional instrument that enables the candidate to explore with the dissertation committee, the dissertation's substantive and methodological force. In this way, the candidate and the committee confirm the candidate's scholarly grasp of the chosen research area.

- **Examination Board**

The examination board will consist of three examiners, unless there are co-directors; an additional reader; or an outside reader, in which instances it will consist of four. The examiners will be the director or co-directors of the dissertation and the readers. One of the readers may participate remotely using a Zoom meeting. In such a case it is also possible for a surrogate to take the place of the absent faculty member. The surrogate must be approved by the student, the director, and the DGS. One senior or tenured member of the committee serves as the administrator of the defense. In most cases, the advisor will take on this role.

- **Structure of the Defense**

The dissertation defense notice, which includes the date, time, and location, will be publicly posted at least one week prior to the defense. All interested parties will be invited to attend. The oral defense shall be held in public for no longer than 90 minutes. Before the defense proper, the examining board will meet to decide the specific format of the defense. The common format is as follows: The candidate begins the defense with a statement, approximately fifteen minutes in length, in which he or she reviews the basic thesis and

argument of the dissertation. The board then examines the candidate in two rounds of questions. For a three-member committee, each examiner has fifteen minutes in the first round of questioning and five minutes in the second round. Following the questions of the board, the administrator may offer anyone in attendance the opportunity to ask a question. This portion may take up to fifteen minutes. After the questioning is complete, the board excuses everyone from the room in order to discuss and vote on the defense.

- **Grading**

After the examination is completed, the administrator calls for a discussion followed by a vote of the dissertation committee. The vote is pass or fail with no further distinctions made. At least two votes out of three (or three votes out of four, or four votes out of five) will be required to pass a candidate; two negative votes constitutes failure, no matter what the size of the committee. The administrator and members of the committee notify the Graduate School of the results of the defense by completing the electronic form initiated by the Graduate Coordinator.

- **Failure**

The Department of Theology does not permit second opportunities to defend the dissertation. A student who fails the defense is awarded an M.A. degree.

9.8 Final Submission

Students should follow Graduate School Guidelines for submission of a final version of the dissertation. These guidelines are available on the Graduate School's website: <http://graduateschool.nd.edu/resources-for-current-students/dt/dt-checklist/>

10. Time Limits

The student must fulfill all doctoral requirements, including the dissertation and its defense, within eight years from the time of matriculation. Failure to complete any of the Graduate School or departmental requirements within the prescribed period will result in forfeiture of degree eligibility.

11. Appeal Process

All matters of interpretation or of appeal should be directed to the DGS. A student may appeal a decision of the DGS and/or the Ph.D. Committee directly to the Chair of the Department. In cases in which the student is not satisfied with the results, a further appeal may be made to the Dean of the Graduate School, as detailed on the Graduate School website:

http://graduateschool.nd.edu/assets/9047/info_appeal_procedure.pdf

12. Dismissal Appeal Process

If a student is dismissed for academic reasons, he or she may appeal the program's decision. Complaints must be initiated by a written statement from the student within 10 business days from the time when the student is informed of dismissal. Decisions made on academic grounds can be appealed to the DGS or directly to the chair if the DGS has a conflict of interest in the matter of the appeal. A decision of the DGS may be appealed to the chair of the department. In that case, the appeal letter should be directed to the chair. To hear the appeal, the department chair appoints an ad hoc committee composed of three members: the chair himself/herself and at least two faculty members unconnected factually with the case or the reasons for the appeal. If the department chair has been involved in the case, or if a program is outside the regular departmental structure (e.g. Ph.D. in Literature, HPS or the Medieval Institute), the appropriate associate dean of the college should appoint the committee and designate the person to serve as its chair.

The student's statement should indicate details on the nature of the problem; the date(s) the problem occurred; the grounds upon which the appeal is based; background information that the student considers important; and the relief requested.

The appeals committee will promptly and thoroughly investigate the appeal to determine whether the relief requested is warranted. The investigation may include interviews and/or written statements from the student, any student witnesses, faculty or staff members who may be able to provide pertinent information about the facts, as well as a review of any pertinent documents.

In most situations, the appeals committee will complete the investigation in 30 business days. There may be some reports that cannot be investigated within 30 business days. In such cases, the chair of the appeals committee will communicate to the student that the investigation is going to take longer than 30 business days and will also include a statement indicating when the committee anticipates completing the investigation. The department chair will make his/her decision after considering the counsel of the appeals committee, and then will notify the student in writing of his/her decision. If the chair has been involved in the case, the decision will be made by the designated chair of the ad hoc committee.