

Calvin Theological Seminary New Testament PhD Program Requirements

Course Requirements

During the first year in residence, ordinarily in the Fall, all PhD students must take course 901P, “Research Methodology,” which is a prerequisite to all other PhD-level courses (although typically two other PhD-level courses are taken concurrently with the research methods course).

Students will take a total of 12 regular courses, one of which is “Research Methodology,” plus a “Teaching Seminar” and, for at least two years after completing comprehensives, a “Dissertation Seminar.” Full-time students take three courses per semester for two years. At least three courses must be taken in New Testament, at least two in Old Testament, and at least two each in two of the following theological disciplines: History of Christianity, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology (Ethics), and Philosophical Theology.

Biblical and Modern Foreign Languages

The PhD program requires successful completion of examinations in two modern foreign languages besides English (German, French, or Dutch). Students concentrating in or planning to take a comprehensive exam in New Testament must also pass a competency examination in Greek.

Comprehensive Examinations

Completion of the doctoral program requires mastery of the New Testament as well as general competence in Old Testament and two theological areas. Competence is demonstrated in part by sustaining five written comprehensive examinations:

- one general exam in New Testament, and an additional, specialized exam in that area that demonstrates mastery of the student’s likely dissertation area
- one general exam in Old Testament
- a general exam each in two of the following theological disciplines: History of Christianity, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology (Ethics), and Philosophical Theology

The sequence of comprehensive examinations concludes with an oral examination.

Dissertation Requirements

Students will complete a dissertation that makes a scholarly contribution to the area of New Testament studies.

PhD Handbook

The PhD Program Handbook contains full details on all of the requirements. It will be updated to include this information on the New Testament concentration when the concentration launches in 2020-21.

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