DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program is to prepare scholars to be future leaders for the church in both academic and nonacademic settings by developing and establishing their competency in a chosen field through classroom performance as students and teachers, through private study and preparation, and through the production of publishable written work that makes an original contribution in their field. The Ph.D. is the specialist research doctorate, which is designed to train people at the highest level in a chosen field so that they may give leadership in the church and in the world at the highest level in both academic and nonacademic settings.

Unlike the M.A. and S.T.M. degrees, the Ph.D. is a more variegated degree, comprised of classroom work, independent reading, multiple language and subject examinations, teaching in the classroom, and the preparation of serious, publishable work. The key to the program is the student’s personal advisor, assigned at the beginning of the program. This advisor will guide the student in the selection of courses, assist with exam preparation, help to make arrangements for teaching experiences, and, normally, serve as the dissertation supervisor. He therefore functions as the student’s Doktorvater in many respects, i.e., he is much more than the supervisor of the final written work.

ADMISSION
Eligibility
The following are prerequisites for admission into the Ph.D. program: a master’s-level theological degree (M.Div. or master’s in theological studies) with a grade point average of 3.50 or above and 21 quarter hours applicable to the specific theological field in which the student plans to concentrate (e.g., Reformation Studies), as well as demonstrated competency in any foreign languages and passing grades in any entrance examinations as may be required by a given department (for the Theology and Culture concentration, the 21 prerequisite quarter hours at the master’s level may be a mix of work done in Practical Theology, Systematic Theology, Historical Theology, and/or Exegetical Theology). Each department will determine the level of course work from the master’s degree program submitted in the application that is expected. All students must have or demonstrate proficiency in the English language and in English composition. Those failing to demonstrate a sufficient competency in English composition may be required to do entry-level work in this area.

Application
Application forms are available from the CSL website at www.csl.edu/apply.

The application deadline is December 7. An application is not complete until it includes all of the following:

- Completed Application Form
- Application Fee of $50
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- A third letter of recommendation from the last educational institution attended is required for applicants who have not earned a degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.
- Official Report of GRE Scores (scores older than five years will not be accepted) NOTE: Students whose GRE analytical writing score is less than 5.5 will be required to take P091 Graduate Writing Lab I before registering for the thesis. Credit for the course is not applicable to the degree.
- Official Transcripts from each college/university and seminary previously attended
- International students must obtain an official report of TOEFL scores with a minimum score of 233 (CBT), 90 (IBT) or 577 (PBT).
- All applicants must submit a brief theological essay on a topic of their choosing, to demonstrate their ability to work with English in an academic context (see “Eligibility” above).

CURRICULUM
Program Advisor
An advisor, who serves as Doktorvater, will be assigned by the department of the student’s program upon entry. This advisor will help in the selection of course work, with exam preparation, and with the first development of the dissertation. Normally, the advisor will also serve as the student’s dissertation supervisor.

Course Work
The student will normally take two courses for credit each quarter, plus one audit or one teaching assistant experience (applicants wishing to begin as part-time students will be required to begin their work in the STM). During the summer months, courses may be taken, but, at that time, work on reading and language acquisition probably will be heavier than at other times of the year. Ph.D. students, with few exceptions, take all 800-level courses. They will select their courses in consultation with their advisor, who helps them to determine their program. In the actual registration process, Ph.D. students have priority, especially for those courses mandated for their programs. The date and time of registration will be announced by the Registrar’s office each quarter.

The student must complete a minimum of 54 hours (see, however, Biblical Studies below) beyond the master’s-level theological degree, with a cumulative curriculum grade point average of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). These will comprise:

a. A total of 36 credits, which equal 36 quarter hours of classroom work for credit, generally, two courses per quarter for two years. Individual courses will be credited toward degree requirements only when completed with a grade of “B-” or better. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 3.5 (“A-”) will be placed on academic probation. The probationary status serves as a warning that the student is not making satisfactory progress and, unless the quality of work improves, will be subject to dismissal from the Graduate School. Ordinarily, a student whose cumulative grade point average remains below 3.5 for two consecutive quarters will be dismissed.

b. A total of 18 hours of course audit and teaching assistant (TA) work, normally in the following mix:
   i. 12 hours of course audit (four courses, one per quarter), preferably at the 400 level;
   ii. 6 hours of TA work (two courses, one per quarter), assisting a professor in an appropriate course or teaching a lower level course, as appropriate.

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Generally, course/class work will comprise two for credit courses plus either one audit course or a TA assignment per quarter, for a total of three formal obligations per quarter.

Up to nine units of credit may be accepted by transfer from another program with the approval of the director of the Graduate School. For those who currently hold an S.T.M. degree, due consideration will be given for the courses they already have taken that are congruent with the requirements of the Ph.D.

Each department sets its own requirements for language competencies and comprehensive field examinations. Arrangement is made to take these examinations through the Office of the Graduate School (Ph.D. students in the Department of Historical Theology should contact the chairman to obtain current information on the procedures for examination in that department). Students who fail to demonstrate language proficiencies by established deadlines will register for a Preparation Fee (see the Financial Information section of the Academic Catalog) and will not be allowed to continue regular coursework until the proficiency has been demonstrated. The current department requirements are:

I. Exegetical (Biblical Studies)
(A) Languages
• Hebrew: upon entrance
• Greek: upon entrance
• Aramaic: proficiency demonstrated within the first year of the program
• German: proficiency demonstrated within the first year of the program
• Another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study within the first two years of the program
(B) Examinations
• Core Comprehensives—a comprehensive written examinations in both the Old and New Testaments, based upon reading lists developed by the Exegetical Department (and taken in association with the Issues Seminars; see further below) and including translation of Biblical texts (a separate exercise completed at the end of the second year)

II. Systematic (Doctrinal Theology)
(A) Languages
• German: within the first year of the program
• Latin: within the first year of the program
• Another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study within the first two years of the program
(B) Examinations
• Core Comprehensive—a comprehensive written examination based upon the departmental reading list

III. Historical (Reformation Studies or Modern World)
(A) Languages
• German: within the first year of the program (Ref. Studies only)
• Latin: within the first year of the program (Ref. Studies only)
• Another language relevant to the student’s research and course of study within the first two years of the program

(B) Examinations
• A comprehensive oral examination based upon a reading list developed by the student and doctoral advisor

IV. Practical (Theology and Culture)
(A) Languages
• German: within the first year of the program
• Another language relevant to the student’s research within the first two years of the program
(B) Examination
• Core Comprehensive—a comprehensive written exam based upon a departmental reading list
• Research Comprehensive—a comprehensive written exam based upon a reading list developed by the student and doctoral advisor

Basic Ph.D. Patterns: Areas of Concentration and Usual Required Courses
A student works in one area (e.g., Doctrinal Theology) as an area of concentration. A minimum of 36 credit hours of for-credit course work completed at the 800 level is required of all students. The courses either required for each of the concentrations or representing a usual orientation are listed below.

Cross-Departmental (taken by all concentrations)
E800 Problems in Hermeneutics
S894 Creeds and Confessions
H894 History of Philosophy and Worldviews

Biblical Studies Concentration (the following are required)
E804 Advanced Reading of the Old and New Testaments
EO802 Old Testament Issues I
EO803 Old Testament Issues II
EN802 New Testament Issues I
EN803 New Testament Issues II
Two Old Testament and two New Testament courses and two Major Figures courses

Doctrinal Theology
(the following is a sampling of the courses that students might take)
S850 Studies in the Theology of Luther
S870 Seminar in Contemporary Luther
S80x or S81x Locus Seminar
S80x or S81x Locus Seminar
S82x Seminar in the Lutheran Confessions
S8xx Figures in Contemporary Theology

Reformation Studies/Modern World
(the following is a sampling of the courses that students might take)
H830 Luther: A Study of His Writings
H840 Interpretations of the Reformation
H841 Reformation and Humanism
H842 Reformation and Education
H804 Early Church Fathers
S850 Studies in the Theology of Luther
S82x Seminar in the Lutheran Confessions
Theology and Culture
(the following is a sampling of the courses that students might take)
P879 Christ and Culture
P871 Cultural Anthropology in Christian Perspective
P876 Culture and Communication Theory
P841 Liturgy and Culture
P8xx Ethics
(the following topic areas are also often represented)
Christian Education
Missions
Contemporary Theology
Doctrinal Theology (locus)
Luther or Reformation

Student Status and Classification
International students must maintain full-time status as a condition of their class F1 visa. Students in the Ph.D. program maintain full-time status if they satisfy one of the following conditions:
• Are registered for at least two 800-level courses (six credit hours) per quarter (excluding summer);
  or
• Are registered for and engaged in full-time preparation for Ph.D. comprehensive examinations;
  or
• Are engaged in full-time research and writing of the doctoral dissertation.

The current Ph.D. program involves a two-year residency requirement (i.e. two years full-time). This requirement is especially important for those students who have not obtained a degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The residency required of those who have obtained an S.T.M. degree at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will take into account their previous residency on this campus.

Graduate Student
Students admitted to the Ph.D. program enter as undifferentiated graduate students until they have completed 18 credit hours in the program. Graduate students in this category may choose to work toward an S.T.M., with its lower requirements, and, upon completion, may apply for admission to the Ph.D. program.

Doctoral Student
The Graduate School will undertake a review of undifferentiated graduate students in the Ph.D. program who have completed 18 credit hours to determine their continuation in or termination from the program. A positive decision allows the student to enter the Ph.D. program proper, and the student is reclassified as a doctoral student. A negative decision prohibits the student from continuing in the Ph.D. program, but offers the option of completing the S.T.M. degree.

Doctoral Candidate
After the dissertation proposal has been accepted, doctoral candidate status is obtained by the student.

Preparation for Comprehensive Examinations
Comprehensive exams for the Ph.D. degree are taken after all course work has been completed (except the Biblical Studies concentration). All core (departmental) comprehensive exams must be passed before submitting a dissertation prospectus and before taking a research comprehensive. The dissertation prospectus also normally will be submitted before the research comprehensive exam is taken.

Dissertation
A dissertation worthy of publication must be produced, beginning with a prospectus and followed by a proposal. Specific details on the nature and timing of the steps involved in the production of the dissertation are available from the Graduate School section of the Seminary’s Portal site.

Time Limit and Reinstatement
Students are expected to complete all requirements, including the dissertation, within seven years from the time the first course is credited toward the degree. The files of students who are unable to complete the work in this time period will be retired. Students who fail to register for two successive quarters or fail to make academic progress will be retired. Those wishing to be reinstated may request this of the Advanced Studies Committee. Reinstatement, if granted, is valid for two calendar years and may be made only once.