Who May Apply?

The program is open to anyone with a master’s-level theological degree that is applicable to his or her chosen field.

The application deadline is December 7. For more information, please visit www.csl.edu/admissions/academics/graduate-school/phd, call 1-800-822-9545, or email admissions@csl.edu.
About the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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 non-academic 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, designed to train people at the highest level so that they may give leadership in the church and in the world.

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.

Areas of Concentration

**History of Exegesis**
Department of Historical Theology

**Goal:** to examine the exegetical methods and conclusions of the church through the ages, with special emphasis on the Early Church and the Reformation. This concentration also seeks to apply these insights to meet the needs of the church today.

**Representative Courses:**
- Cyril of Alexandria’s Commentary on John
- Luther on the Psalms
- Historical Delivery of the Word of God
- The History of the Exegesis of the Gospel of John

**Theology and Culture**
Department of Practical Theology

**Goal:** to apply theologically critical thinking to questions of contemporary cultural importance, in order to articulate and to foster theologically sound responses and practices in the church.

**Representative Courses:**
- Christ and Culture
- Liturgy and Culture
- Church in Postmodern Culture
- Cultural Anthropology

**Doctrinal Theology**
Department of Systematic Theology

**Goal:** to examine the biblical, creedal, and confessional testimonies of the church in order to identify from them doctrine that is timeless and to articulate from them theology that is timely.

**Representative Courses:**
- Creeds and Confessions
- Care of Creation
- Eschatology
- Doctrine of Providence

**Reformation Studies**
Department of Historical Theology

**Goal:** to examine the 16th century Reformation (including its causes and effects) and to understand and apply its insights to the church today.

**Representative Courses:**
- Luther’s Theology of the Word
- Studies in Calvinism
- Reformation and Humanism

**Modern World**
Department of Historical Theology

**Goal:** to investigate issues in the history of theology from the 17th century to the present. Major themes include civil religion, missions, and ecumenism. This concentration intentionally bridges the gap between Europe and America by stressing the mutual interdependence of theologies and theologians on the two continents.

**Representative Courses:**
- History of Philosophy and Worldviews
- Seminar in American Christianity
- Theology of the Utopias

**Biblical Studies**
Department of Exegetical Theology

**Goal:** to evaluate, appropriate, and apply historical and contemporary theories and methods of biblical research in a manner that respects the biblical texts as ancient literary texts and as sacred Scripture.

**Representative Courses:**
- Problems in Hermeneutics
- Advanced Readings in the Old Testament
- Advanced Readings in the New Testament
- Isaiah 1-39