



PURITAN REFORMED BIBLICAL SEMINARY



"Purify them in the Truth" (John 17: 17)

Ph. D Prospectus

Our Website: <http://prbseminary.org/>

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

(Concentration: Reformation Studies)

The Ph.D. degree in Reformation Studies is a dissertation-only degree program (British Model) offered through Puritan Reformed Biblical Seminary. This program is offered to facilitate doctoral degree holders with a Reformed theological understanding of scripture, who by their scholarly research evidence a heart for the proper exposition of the Reformed faith as they live their life according to Puritan principles in the modern-day.

PREAMBLE

The Ph.D. program aims at training godly people in the skills and competencies related to the systematic investigation of various issues and problems in the area of their study. Puritan Reformed Biblical Seminary awards the Ph.D. degree to a candidate who has successfully and faithfully undergone original research work, submitted a dissertation based on such work, and been approved by the seminary administration.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To implement Ph.D. program via distance mode internationally to only those already possessing an approved doctoral degree.
- To equip the Christian world with Reformed scholars for the edification of the saints internationally.
- To help doctoral students get their papers and articles regularly published through *Puritan Reformed Biblical Journal (PRBJ)*.
- To bring Reformed philosophical scholars, who by their sophisticated writings provide valuable thought in theological studies for the spiritual benefit of saints around the world.
- To encourage the study of Puritan literature, and in studying such literature to impart spiritual restoration and reformation both in the individual and in those to whom they minister.

APPLICATION FOR PH.D PROGRAM

- ♣ Candidates seeking admission to the Ph.D. degree program should apply through the online Application found on the website <http://prbseminary.org/>. Applications which are not correctly filled in, applications which do not include the prescribed certificates

and documents, or any other non-fulfillment of the terms of the instructions, will be considered defective and are liable for rejection.

ADMISSION INTO PH.D PROGRAM

For admission to the Ph.D. program in Reformation Studies, the applicants fulfilling the following criteria shall be treated as eligible.

- ♣ Individuals having a post-graduate degree (master degree) in any field and a doctoral degree in a theological field with at least 3.00 GPA. Honorary doctoral degrees are not considered for admission into the Ph.D. program.
 - a. Individuals, who obtained a religious Master degree and with a secular Ph.D. degree, are qualified for admission at PRBS. In this case, the applicant must provide his Master's thesis showing the proven ability and aptitude of the researcher for such kind of research work done during his course work. Such shall be examined by the seminary for recommendation of the student into admission. After verification of the research ability of the applicant, the admission will be confirmed.
 - b. Individuals who have a religious Master's degree and with a secular Ph.D. degree may not be qualified when they have graduated from a religious Master's degree with a non-thesis track.
 - c. Those who have never received any theological/ religious degree but have doctoral degree from secular universities are not eligible for admission into the Ph.D. program.
- ♣ Candidates should have engaged in the ministry at least five years preferably in the local Church context/ Seminary. If you are not worked in this aspect but have five years of ministry experience in other contexts and aspects, still you may apply for admission. In all of this, the candidate must produce a letter of such ministerial experience from the local Church or organizational body he served at.
- ♣ Candidates must show evidence by the way of transcript that they have working knowledge of biblical languages preferably Greek and Hebrew. Those who not have the knowledge of biblical Greek and biblical Hebrew will be admitted into program only after taking such courses with ability to read, parse and translate on their own. Candidates can take help from those who mentor them for doctoral degree.

- ♣ Candidates must be able to demonstrate that they can complete the degree in time limits within two years from the time of enrollment.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDED FOR ENROLLMENT!

- ♣ Candidates must have sent their *official transcripts along their recent photograph* to seminary. Students whose doctoral degrees are from the unrecognized seminaries must send more details about the course information (i.e., curriculum, course description and academic standards), to PRBS.
- ♣ Candidates should provide the seminary *two strong references*. One should be from the Pastor of your Church where you currently attend, and another should be from the Faculty Mentor with whom you worked for your highest degree. The seminary will send them the reference form to them, and they are received back the student will be notified immediately from PRBS. Make sure that your references are not your family members/relatives. Those who are Pastors must provide recommendation from your ecclesiastical body or organizational body.
- ♣ Candidates should write up *an essay* (1-2 pages, single spaced) indicating that why they want to pursue Ph. D degree.
- ♣ Candidate must have sent *a research paper* (25 – 30 pages) proving his research abilities for the doctoral work. The paper may be the one previously submitted for his studies or he may produce a new paper for determining qualification. Those who submit their thesis for enrollment need not to have sent this paper. Only those who hold doctoral degrees must sent this research paper for the admission purpose.
- ♣ Candidates should submit their *personal testimony* to PRBS. Please include the following areas of information [Introduction about yourself/ family, Conversion, Call to Ministry, Ministerial experience/experience in Christian service, Reasons to study in PRBS and your Vision].

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Ph. D Dissertation

Doctor of Philosophy degree in Reformation Studies is a dissertation-only program (British Model) at PRBS. The first step for those students enrolled into Ph. D program is to choose the topic in the scope of Reformation studies, and get approval from seminary and their Mentors. The approved student must be selective for his dissertation topic only in the field of Reformation Studies. He must produce a scholarly research paper (300 to 400 pages).

(i) *Choosing the Topic*

- ♣ *Careful Selection:* With that chosen topic, the student must contact the Seminary for approval. Before contacting PRBS, make sure that you have well consulted with your Mentor for choosing the topic. The topic should not be too broad, and pick the one that needs to be addressed for the Christian world with a new thought.
- ♣ *Change of Topic:* Change of research topic of the specific area may be permitted within two months of enrollment into the program, and requests must be submitted with the recommendation of the faculty to PRBS office.

(ii) Ph. D dissertation Prospectus

With the approved topic, the student must present the Ph. D prospectus to their Mentors. A very good question may be asked by anyone such as this: why Ph. D. dissertation prospectus is needed?

- ♣ This will enrich the scholar to fine tune his research presentation.
 - ♣ This will enable the scholar to think scholarly how to think and how to present his views.
 - ♣ This will ensure the scholar to have proper methodological approach, and the treatment of the issue in the best possible ways before the philosophical Christian thinkers.
 - ♣ This will help the scholar to get better insights from his Mentor how to step into the right track with the original research and how to accomplish it with improvements and so on.
 - ♣ This will prepare the scholar for his first draft so as to spot out the errors for corrections.
 - ♣ This will help the scholar to explain the findings/ problems faced.
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- ♣ Note that after topic approval, students will be guided by their Mentor till the completion of their degree program. Therefore, all the communication regarding the dissertation should be made between the student and Mentor, not to PRBS office after approval of the topic.
 - ♣ Ph. D program dissertation prospectus must include the following:
 - Reasons for the Present Study
 - Statement of the Problem
 - Method of Study
 - Limitations of the Present Study
 - Statement of the Thesis
 - Original Contributions of the Present Research
 - Complete Bibliography

The Ph. D prospectus must be no less than 10 pages, and not more than 15 pages. It should be double spaced, 12 point type, Times Raman font, one inch margins. This must follow the *Turabian guidelines*. PRBS does not accept assignments in any other format.

(iii) Ph. D. Dissertation System

- ♣ *Length:* Student must write up a dissertation (300 to 400 pages) with the approved topic. It should not be less than 300 pages, and not more than 400 pages. Content paper should be at least between 200 to 350 pages (not counting the front matter and back matter of the dissertation). It also should be in publishable quality.
- ♣ *Style & Format:* The dissertation should follow the Turabian guidelines and with the consultation of the seminary guidelines for papers and thesis. Your dissertation should be consecutively numbered, with table of contents and appendices, and it should be one inch margins, 12 point type, Times Roman font and double spaced.
- ♣ *Division:* The dissertation should be divided into the relevant chapters, Major headings, subheadings, first level headings, and second level headings, illustrations, use of tables and figures, abbreviations..etc.
- ♣ *Arrangement:* Your dissertation must be arranged as follows: Title Page, Copyright Page, Dedication Page, Abstract, Declaration Page, Table of Contents, List of Abbreviations, List of Tables, List of Figures, Acknowledgement, Body of Paper, Bibliography, Annotated Bibliography, Appendices, Subject Index, Scripture Index, Person Index, Glossary, and Vita. (You may find the sample of these in guidelines for Papers and Thesis).
- ♣ *Use of Language:* The dissertation can be written only in English language, not accepted written in other languages. Though the student writes in English he is not restricted to use of biblical languages (Greek, Hebrew and Aramic),¹ and other languages such as Latin, German, and French, Arabic. These languages can be used for the brief quotations and explanations when only in consultation with the primary sources, not the secondary sources. The student is also free to include a sound exegetical paper (Greek/ Hebrew) with the unit of passages when only they are in conformity to authenticate the writer's view with the chosen topic. For doing this, students may use UBS 4th edition/ 5th edition (Greek NT) and BHS. The dissertation must prove the caliber of the work done during the original independent research work.
- ♣ *Bibliography:* The dissertation must include at least thirty references.
- ♣ *First Draft & Final Draft:* After the completion of the dissertation, the student must submit it to his mentor for correction and suggestions. Finally the student follows the

¹ If the student prefers to include a brief quotation from any of those languages which were use in biblical times such as writings in the Ancient Near East (Sumerian writings, Akkadian writings, Egyptian writings, writings of Phoenicians and Greeks...etc) can be used. A sound translation and interpretation must be given properly correlating the truth with sound interpretation.

suggestions provided by his Mentor and have sent the final copy of dissertation to both his Mentor and seminary. Upon receiving the final copy of the dissertation, the Mentor shall contact PRBS for the approval of satisfactory work done by the student for graduation.

- ♣ *Correspondence*: All the correspondence including the submission of the dissertation may be via Internet.
- ♣ *Book Review*: Your dissertation must include one book review related to your topic, and must be attached at the back matter with Appendices. Follow the book review guidelines of PRBS.
- ♣ *Publication of Dissertation*: The dissertation, once submitted, becomes the property of the seminary. Upon the submitting the course work to PRBS, students are in good agreement that their work can be used by the seminary without their permission or prior notice. Nevertheless, the students must acknowledge that they still hold copyright on their work. If they want to get it published, they may do that only after obtaining necessary permission from the authorities.

The dissertation shall be accepted generally with the following conditions for the Ph. D. degree:

- It should be a piece of independent original research work characterized either by new findings or by a fresh approach towards interpretations of facts and theories in the reformed context.
- It should reflect the candidate's capacity for critical examination and judgment.
- It should authenticate the sound interpretation of the reformed teachings with the best analysis of the historical data/ historical theology.
- It should contain in the majority of primary sources throughout the paper.
- It has the accuracy for theological/ historical/ and grammatical interpretation of Scripture.
- It should be satisfactory in terms of presentation, adhering to proper mechanics of thesis writing.
- It should reflect the caliber of Ph. D degree research work, without any syntactical and grammatical issues.
- It should be in the publishable quality.

PENALTY

- When the student is caught up with his/ her serious misbehavior both legally and biblically, they will be barred from their student rolls.

- The Ph.D scholar who has committed an act of plagiarism, then his thesis will be forfeited, and the degree shall be cancelled at any time.

See Dismissal section in this prospectus

DURATION OF RESEARCH

The program should not take more than two years. In order to continue after two years, the student must contact the office and may request extension for one more year.

FEE DETAILS

PRBS offers Ph. D degree in Reformation Studies completely free of cost only when the student is able to demonstrate his/ her ability to complete the course work in time limits. In case, when student wants extension for additional one more year, he/ she may be charged with the minimal fee at the discretion of the seminary. Therefore, the students must acknowledge the time and opportunity given for their studies by His grace, and must dedicate sufficient time for their research work on daily basis.

MENTORS

Who is the doctoral Mentor at PRBS? A Mentor normally guides the students in his research in the scope of reformation studies. He completely supervises his students till the end of his studies, and provides suggestions for the better improvement and writing of dissertation. Upon the completion of the course work by the student, the Mentor shall grade the student's dissertation and recommend him for graduation. The Mentor, not only cares for student's academic studies but also for his spiritual life. Therefore, the Mentor may question the student's spiritual life and counsel him. If more information about the student needed, the mentor shall contact his local church officer and have conversation over the spiritual life of the student. In case, any weakness in the student's spiritual life found, he may ask the church officer to counsel him so that he may see a spiritual restoration.

Students will not be assigned a course Mentor from PRBS when there is no Mentor availability for this option. Therefore, the students have to find out the qualified Mentor for their studies. They cannot choose their mentors from their family or relatives. The seminary has all the rights to summarily withdraw the mentorship of a Faculty on grounds of

- Moral turpitude / Sexual Harassment
- Plagiarism

- Fraudulent academic claims
- Any act that spoils the reputation of the seminary

The Mentor qualifications are furnished below:

- The Mentor, who has an earned doctorate, preferably Ph.D degree from recognized seminary/ university in the any field of theological studies is eligible to mentor Ph. D students at PRBS.
- The Mentor who has earned Th. D degree from recognized seminary/ university and has at least Five years of teaching experience in recognized seminary/ university or has served as HOD for his specialized area of study in recognized seminary/ university is also eligible to mentor Ph. D candidates at PRBS.
- Those who have other doctoral degrees from recognized seminary/ university with the above mentioned teaching experience may also be eligible as the PRBS qualifies such person for mentoring, and it is solely up to the seminary discretion whether to accept him or not.
- The Mentor, who has earned Th. D degree from recognized seminary / university and has at least Five years of pastoral experience in Church ministry, is also eligible to mentoring.
- The Mentor must have reformed faith in his life and ministry.

To be accepted as a Mentor for Ph. D students, the Mentor shall send his CV to admin@prbseminary.org. The mentors also must able to provide any documentation the seminary requests.

Note: In case a mentor under whose guidance, the dissertation has been prepared substantially or fully, ceases to be a faculty of the seminary, it is the student's responsibility to find out the suitable mentor when the seminary has no availability of a doctoral Mentor.

STUDENT LIFE

- ♣ The students must check in with their Mentor on every month, discussing the progress of their dissertation.
- ♣ The student must demonstrate scholarly research abilities throughout their entire program.
- ♣ Students must write up at least one scholarly article for the publication of *Puritan Reformed Biblical Journal (PRBJ)* annually till their Ph. D graduation. The due date for the article will be notified after the approval of admission. Before submitting the articles, it must be submitted to their respective mentors for review and suggestions. With final copy of good product without any syntactical and grammatical errors, the students must send in their articles to PRBS. The article should follow Turabian format, between 10 to

15 pages, Times Roman font, 12 point type, single spaced with one inch margins. Students may choose the topics in the scope of the reformation/ puritan studies.

- ♣ Students must be an active member in the Church and participate in Church activities regularly. This is to ascertain the spiritual growth of the Ph. D students.
- ♣ Students must have intellectual humility as pride stands an enemy for many Ph.D graduates.

DISMISSAL

When the student has fallen into any one of the following categories, he is dismissed automatically from his student rolls with the notification received from the office:

The dismissal of the candidate is possible, if

- The student has found in ethical, social, moral and spiritual issues privately and publically.
- The student adulterates the pure teachings of Scripture embracing heresies or any other religions.
- The student has found not progressing in his original independent research work.
- The student has not submitted the dissertation within the maximum period the seminary permits.
- The student is found guilty of plagiarism.
- The student violates the rules and regulations of the Ph.D. program.

ENQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mention your Registration Number in all the correspondence.

Email Address

Administration/Admissions: admin@prbseminary.org.

President: pres@prbseminary.org.

Seminary website: <http://prbseminary.org/>

To donate us, visit our donation page: <http://prbseminary.org/donate.php>