



## The College of Metaphysical Studies

### **Ministerial Education Program Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) Standard for Graduation**

The Doctor of Theology degree program is offered to students wishing to enhance their knowledge and ministerial or teaching competence in certain advanced areas of theology and ministry. It differs from the PhD in its integrative character and clear connection to the theological aspects of the ministry and pastoral counseling. Applicants must possess a Master of Theology or equivalent degree.

The Doctor of Theology program emphasizes the study of the institutions, and religious/spiritual literature that have shaped the metaphysical humanistic traditions in their histories and in their encounters with other cultures and religions past and present. This study is conducted with special attention to the concerns of the metaphysical/spiritual theological traditions.

Candidates for Doctor of Theology degree will specialize in one of the fields of theological scholarship, such as:

- Scriptural Studies including, the Bible, the Koran, the Upanishads, A Course In Miracles, etc.
- History of Religions or Spiritual Belief Systems.
- Theology (Historical and Systematic)
- Ethics
- Comparative Religion
- Religion and Society
- Religion, Gender, and Culture
- Pastoral Counseling

The right of graduation from the Doctor of Theology Education Program is granted when you provide evidence of being prepared to practice as a pastoral counselor, senior pastor or teacher of the highest levels of pastoral counseling the ministry and theology. This evidence is more than spending a certain length of time in training and completing designated course. Evidence of being prepared to practice the ministry emphasizes spiritual, mental, and emotional maturity; devotion to a life-style of service to others; metaphysical, spiritual and intellectual clarity about the purpose and meaning of the ministry; and the demonstrated skills to work effectively with people, organize one's own life, and understand administrative responsibilities appropriate to your chosen field of service. Specific requirements are:

1. The satisfactory completion of a Masters degree, preferably a Masters in Theology or certified equivalent.
2. The satisfactory completion of a minimum of 60.0 credit hours of work over a minimum period of two calendar years.
3. The satisfactory completion of a professionally bound thesis of at least 50,000 words. No waiver for the thesis is allowed.
4. Any additional requirements that the faculty may assess as a result of reviews or conferences.
5. All work counted toward the hours required for graduation must be completed with the grade of E (excellent) or S (satisfactory).
6. Evidence of such metaphysical, spiritual, mental, and emotional maturity as will support the judgment, by the faculty, of your readiness and fitness to practice the metaphysical/spiritual ministry.
7. Recommendation of the faculty.

*Supervision:* during the student's studies, up to approval of the thesis prospectus, the Doctoral Committee on the Study of Theology will monitor his or her progress. Once the prospectus is approved, the dissertation shall be written under the supervision of one or more advisors approved by the Doctoral Committee or the Dean of Education.

*Prospectus:* As soon as possible after passing their general examinations, but no later than twelve months, candidates are expected to submit a dissertation prospectus. Ten copies of the 2000-word prospectus, stating clearly the argument of the thesis and showing why it gives promise of making a contribution to learning, must be presented to the Doctoral Committee for its approval. The context of the problem and the student's acquaintance with the literature in the field should be indicated. The Doctoral Committee then ordinarily appoints a prospectus subcommittee, including representatives from other fields where advisable, to discuss the candidate's project with her or him and to advise the Standing Committee regarding its acceptability as a thesis topic.

*Dissertation:* The degree shall be awarded on the basis of the successful completion of a doctoral dissertation and its defense before a faculty committee appointed by the Doctoral Committee or the Dean of Education. The dissertation shall be written under the supervision of an advisor approved by the Doctoral Committee. The dissertation should include original research and be based on firsthand investigation, with clearly developed theoretical foundations, of a problem related to the theology. Normally, a thesis should be submitted within two years of approval of the prospectus, but it must be submitted within seven years from the date of entrance into the program. The length of the thesis is limited to a maximum of 300 pages, exclusive of bibliography. Three or more unbound copies of the thesis, typed in its final form, must be submitted in spring binders (or equivalent binders), by September 15 for receipt of the degree in December. A dissertation abstract, with a maximum length of 350 words, must be submitted with each copy.

*Thesis Defense:* If the thesis is deemed acceptable by the student's advisor and the Director of Th.D. Studies, the Doctoral Committee will appoint a committee for the oral defense. If the examining committee accepts the thesis and its defense, and the examination is sustained by the Standing Committee, then the original and the first copy of the thesis in bound form, together with their abstracts, and an unbound, boxed copy, should be submitted to the Registrar prior to the awarding of the degree.

*Leaves of Absence:* At the discretion of the Doctoral Committee, the calendar of requirements as noted above may be interrupted by a maximum of one year's leave of absence. The candidate must pay a \$100 program fee during the year on leave.

*Extensions:* A student who has not met degree requirements or an established deadline may, with the endorsement of the Director of Th.D. Studies, be granted an extension, normally for one year.