



# The College of Metaphysical Studies

School of Parapsychology and Spiritual Esoteric Studies

**Doctor of Comparative Religion**

**Standards for Graduation**

**An Open Course of Study Not To Exceed Five Years**

*Note: Students enrolled in doctoral degree programs in the College of Metaphysical Studies should refer to the College of Metaphysical Studies Doctoral Student Guide for specific rules and regulations.*

The Ph.D. degree is specifically designed to give students a broad interdisciplinary exposure to the historical, religious, legal, political, philosophical, and sociological dimensions of the religious/spiritual/metaphysical/holistic fields. A student who receives this degree must have demonstrated proficiency in a broad subject of learning and ability to initiate and evaluate work in this field. Furthermore, the student must have shown the ability to work independently in the chosen field and must have made an original contribution of significance to the advancement of knowledge. The technical requirements stated or implied below are minimum requirements for all candidates for the degree.

## **Admission**

Only an applicant who is fully qualified for admission to postgraduate work at this institution and for starting on some particular field of study and research is admitted to a Ph.D. program. This normally means that the applicant will already have completed a Master's program in a field that is relevant to the proposed Ph.D. program of study.

## **Stages of advancement**

The three stages through which the student advances to the degree are: (1) in the first two years, the student refines an area of specialization within the chosen field of study in preparation for candidacy; (2) after attaining candidacy, the student concentrates on the area of specialization in preparation for a qualifying examination; (3) the student writes a dissertation and defends it in a CMS oral examination.

## **Candidacy**

At the end of each academic year, the Dean of Education will recommend second-year students for candidacy on the basis of all relevant information, and especially on the student's thesis prospectus that includes the approved declaration of an area of specialization, and two substantial papers written for courses during the previous two years.

Candidates for Ph.D. degree will specialize in one of the following fields of religious/spiritual/metaphysical/holistic scholarship, such as:

- General religious/metaphysical/spiritual/holistic philosophy
- History of religious/metaphysical/spiritual/holistic practices
- Theology (Historical and Systematic)
- Ethics
- Comparative Religion
- Holistic/spiritual/complimentary healing practices
- Teaching principles of religious/metaphysical/spiritual/holistic philosophy
- Parapsychology
- Esoteric Arts
- Esoteric Studies

The right of graduation from the Ph.D. Education Program is granted when you provide evidence of being prepared to practice at the highest levels of the religious/spiritual/metaphysical/holistic areas of endeavor. This evidence is more than spending a certain length of time in training and completing designated course. Evidence of being prepared to practice 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 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 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 Dean of Education 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 and the Dean of Education. The dissertation should include original research and be based on firsthand investigation, with clearly developed theoretical foundations, of a problem related to the religious/spiritual/metaphysical/holistic areas of endeavor. 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 Dean of Education, 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 Dean of Education, 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 Dean of Education, be granted an extension, normally for one year.