Doctor of Theology

By Prior Publications

Handbook

1. **Introduction**

These guidelines provide potential applicants, candidates, and faculty involved with the degree of Doctor of Theology by prior publication and should be read in conjunction with the degree description, admissions information, and tuition rates of Forge Theological Seminary. This information is provided at https://forge.education.

The Doctor of Theology by prior publication allows those who have not followed the traditional academic route towards a research doctorate to obtain academic recognition for having undertaken and produced research and developed their research skills and subject knowledge to a doctoral level.

The Doctor of Theology by prior publications differs from the 'traditional' research doctorate in that it is normally based upon research already undertaken before registration for the degree that has led to a number of coherent publications or a body of publicly-accessible creative outputs. Whereas a traditional research doctorate requires students to receive training in research methodology and develop appropriate personal and interpersonal skills, for the Doctor of Theology by prior publications, such training would normally have been done previously through the applicant's vocation, personal research, and academic interests. These would be demonstrable through the publications the applicant has made available. The research skills obtained are, therefore, recognized and evaluated in retrospect and would be expected to be equivalent to the traditional research doctorate student who has reached the beginning of the project stage.

2. **Eligibility**

The award of the degree of Doctor of Theology by prior publications shall be open to those who can evidence:

a) an undergraduate degree with an overall GPA of at least 3.0 of no less than four years of full-time study, *preferably* in biblical and(or) theological studies, Christian education, pastoral ministry, or a related disciple.

b) a graduate degree with an overall GPA of at least 3.0 in biblical and(or) theological studies, ministry, Christian education, pastoral ministry, religious studies, or a related discipline.

c) quality academic-level research (available to the public) equivalent to that of a traditional research

doctoral student who has reached the beginning of the production of his dissertation project.

d) be at least equal to the length, magnitude, and depth of a 200 pp. dissertation.

e) the production of academic-level material that accords with the orthodox Christian faith and evidences general agreement with Forge Theological Seminary's doctrinal stance.

f) Longstanding membership of a local church and service to God's people.

3. <u>Phases to Completion: Phase 1: Application and Admissions</u>

Before admittance for the Doctor of Theology by prior publications, candidates will be required to undergo a preliminary evaluation via both the application and Prior Publications Applicant Summary. Upon the basis of these, the Seminary will make a preliminary judgment as to the quality and coherence of the publications and whether these are suitable to be assessed for the Doctor of Theology by prior publications. Both the application and Prior Publications Summary are available at https://forge.education.

4. <u>Phase 2: Appointment of Supervisor; Preparation</u>

Successful applicants with be assigned an appropriate supervisor who will:

- Help the student decide what publications to submit;
- Make suggestions and guide the student;
- Instruct the student on his or her examination
- Additionally, the supervisor will lead the review committee that will determine whether the student receives his or her degree.

5. Phase 3: Preparation for the examination

The preparation for examination should consist of the following:

a) **Presentation:** The production of a video made available to the committee which presents:

- A summary of the student's educational and vocational background as well as a summary of his or her's theological commitments and involvement in a local church.
- Presentation of the relevant publications to be considered.
- A summary and explanation of the purpose, meaning, and impact of each of these publications.
- An explanation of what research, preparation, and study he or she achieved through the production of the relevant works.
- These publications should demonstrate that the quality, extent, and level of research undertaken is at least equivalent to that expected of a traditional research dissertation.

b) **Documents:** Accompanying the aforementioned presentation, the following documents should be presented for examination:

- A full *curriculum vitae* detailing all work history, publications, and educational history.
- PDF copies of each of the publications to be considered.
- A written summary and explanation of the purpose, meaning, and impact of each of the submitted publications include a section relating to the candidate's research methodology. These documents should precisely follow Turabian/SBL as to pagination, structure, format, and citation.
- A detailed confession of faith (10,000 words or less) with footnoted biblical references produced by the student which covers the following headings: The Word of God; the Triune God; the Father; the Son; the Holy Spirt; the creation; the gospel; the church; the sacraments; the consummation of redemption; the final judgment. This confession should leave no question among the committee as to what the student believes pertaining to these headings. This document should precisely follow SBL guidelines for biblical citations.

6. **Phase 4: The Examination**

The student should announce to his supervisor that he has adequately prepared the aforementioned presentation and documentation. This material should be sent to the supervisor in an email. The video should comprise a readily viewable link, and the documents should be in PDF format. Following this:

a) The student's supervisor will convene an examination of the presentation and documents with a minimum of two degreed readers.

b) Doctoral readers possess a doctoral degree in a relevant field, and together with the supervisor, these men comprise the committee.

c) A period of time, determined by the committee but not exceeding three calendar months, will be afforded for examination.

d) At the close of the examination period, the committee will privately issue recommendations.

e) Successful candidates will receive notification from their supervisor or a Seminary official as to their completion of the program.

Note that plagiarism detection software may be employed.

7. **Tuition & Fees**

The tuition and fees for the Doctor of Theology program consist of a monthly subscription of $100 due at acceptance into the program and a $65 graduation fee.

8. **Award**

The degree of Doctor of Theology in Christian Studies will be awarded by mail following payment of the graduation fee.

Appendix A: Materials acceptable for Submission

Suitable Publications:
Articles from peer-reviewed journals
Popular-level books that benefit the church
Presentations
Book Chapters
Academic treatises and monographs

Appendix B: Examination Grades

Assignment	Weight
Presentation	500
Documentation	500
Total	1000

Grading Scale:

930+	A	93-100%
900-929	A-	90-92%
870-899	B+	87-89%
830-869	B	83-86%
800-829	B-	80-82%
770-799	C+	77-79%
730-769	C	73-76%
700-729	C-	70-72%
670-699	D+	67-69%
630-669	D	63-66%
600-629	D-	60-62%
0-599	F	0-59%