

Reformation International Theological Seminary

A

Sola Scriptura

Sola Gratis

Solus Christus



Semper
Reformanda

Sola Fide

Soli Deo Gloria

Ω

A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

For

Doctorate and Other Advanced Degrees

This is a supplement for Advanced Degrees to the full catalog of the seminary.
Please see the full seminary catalog for further details on the seminary.

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Cover Picture & Watermark

On the front cover, and on each page as a watermark, is the Reformation Wall of *The International Monument to the Reformation*, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Wall is located on the grounds of the University of Geneva, founded by John Calvin in 1559. It was built in 1909 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Calvin's birth and the 350th anniversary of the university's establishment. The Wall was built into the old fortified city walls of Geneva, thus representing the city's integral importance to the Reformation.

The four statues at the center were the men God used to establish biblical churches which in turn changed the world through the *right preaching of the Gospel* with all its implications by applying the Word of God to every aspect of life. That Reformation continues to this day and needs again the renewed vigor of such men as memorialized there.



From left to right, the figures are those of William Farel (1489 – 1565); John Calvin (1509 – 1564); Theodore Beza (1519 – 1605); and John Knox (c.1513 – 1572).



The Seminary Insignia

The insignia for the Seminary found on the front cover and following page is composed of the Word of God written (represented by the open Scriptures) as the beginning and the end of all creation (represented by the Alpha and Omega). This word from God not only created the world, but is central to the task of the Great Commission to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15) to the end of making disciples from all the nations (Matthew 28:19). The sword beneath illustrates that God's word is the *sword of the Spirit* (Ephesians 6:17) which is *quick and powerful* (Hebrews 4:12). The Alpha and Omega on both sides also represent the Lord Jesus Christ (the Word) whose birth, life and death as Immanuel (God with us) is not only the beginning and ending of true faith, but also of the world. Reformation is founded upon these fundamentals and must start in the sovereign election of God both of men and nation (Israel and now the church). It finds its life alone in the Gospel of grace and its power by the Holy Spirit through the word. This is represented by the four *solas* of the Reformation placed on the Bible as their source and authority: "*Sola Scriptura*" (by Scriptures alone), "*Sola Gratia*" (grace alone), "*Sola Fide*" (faith alone) and "*Soli Deo Gloria*" (God's glory alone) all of which come from "*Solus Christus*" (Christ alone) and upon these foundations alone must lead in our lives and in our world to "*Semper Reformanda*" (always reforming). Reformation International Theological Seminary has been given these truths *to commit to others who shall be able to teach others also* (2 Timothy 2:2). May God grant more men such as those of Geneva memorialized on the Reformation Wall, as seen behind and beneath this insignia symbolizing their submission to these same truths.



Reformation International Theological Seminary





WHAT IS A GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY?

It is a very new, and yet very old method of study, of contribution, of achievement, and of recognition of achievement and contribution to the propagation and understanding of the Christian faith.

A graduate school is exactly that—a school for *graduates*, for men and women who have already graduated successfully from other institutions of learning and have proven and demonstrated academic ability. In other words it is a forum for *post-graduate* studies, and an avenue to higher (usually doctoral) degrees.

It is an **old method** because it traditionally was for gifted graduates to undertake post-graduate studies and research while holding a lecturing post because of the need to remain “on campus”.

It is a **new method** because this is a *distance learning* graduate school. Candidates work from their own homes under the guidance of a *mentor*, who oversees their progress until their thesis is ready for submission to the Doctoral Review Committee.

It is a **graduate school of theology**, specifically the theology of Scripture as it came to expression in the sixteenth century Reformed and Presbyterian Reformation on the continent of Europe and the British Isles spreading from there throughout the whole world. Most students will normally have graduated with a *first degree* from Reformation International Theological Seminary or another Reformed or Presbyterian Seminary, though this is not imperative. It is expected that all students will be intimately acquainted

with the doctrinal stance of Reformation International Theological Seminary which finds its expression in the great Reformed creeds, most particularly the Westminster Confessional Standards (*Westminster Confession, Larger and Shorter Catechism*) and the *Three Forms of Unity* (*Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort.*)

YOUR AIM in working with Reformation International Theological Seminary Graduate School should be to gain a recognized Doctorate or other higher level Degree, with the specific aim of furthering and advancing the Biblical and Reformed Christian faith. Normally the School will expect your study and qualification to be allied to a specific Christian vocation or ministry, and *not to be an end in itself or for mere self-improvement*. You will also normally be expected to seek to add to the wider understanding and promotion of the faith by the publication of your thesis in either book or electronic form, so that it does more than “gather dust” on a Seminary’s thesis shelves. (Conversely, the challenge is that thesis suggestions, and therefore enrollment, will not be accepted unless they are judged to have publishable and usable potential.) Your mentor will be an experienced Christian academic author with published works, who can advise and help you with this at the appropriate time.

OUR AIM is simply stated. We need another *Great Awakening*, and we need it urgently. There is no “easy fix” to achieve this. God is sovereign. But when we again see men and women *understanding, believing, and living out the Reformed faith of the Bible* we may begin to lift up our heads again. But how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach (and teach, and publish and witness) unless they



be sent and trained? We are to commit the truth of Scripture to faithful men who shall be able to teach others. (Romans 10:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:2)

The fields are white unto the harvest (John 4:35). If you feel that you might be called to be a co-worker in preparing for that harvest, please read on!

The Doctoral Committee

Reformation International Theological Seminary

THE ADVANCED OR DOCTORAL DEGREE

The Doctorate is the highest of all academic distinctions, and is awarded in recognition of a genuine and original contribution to the understanding of a particular subject. To achieve this the candidate must be a student of significant learning, original thought, and extensive research; and his contribution must be acknowledged worthy of achieving the ranks of the Doctorate, by a committee of men themselves holding Doctoral degrees.

In today's society most 'Doctorates' are earned, that is, they are specifically worked towards as a means of acquiring academic standing and the highest of all *certificata* qualifications, but this was not the pattern in the past. In the great universities of the Middle Ages, and of the Reformation and Puritan periods, Doctorates were usually *honorary*. The *Senatus* or faculty of a university might take note of the achievements and writings of a scholar. He would be proposed by a Professor, and invited to appear before the *Senatus*

where he would be required to verbally "defend" his writings and opinions. This defense would, traditionally, be conducted in Latin throughout. The *Senatus* would then vote; and if the majority agreed that the candidate was of the required standard they would proceed to award the Doctorate, and so enter him into their scholastic "elite ranks". Slightly later a pattern developed in which candidates might spend most of their active lives within the university precinct as "research fellows," mixing their own studies with lecturing, and working always with an eye to Doctoral standing, and ultimately a Professorship.

Reformation International Theological Seminary aims to utilize the strengths of the past for the needs of today's world, and so has developed its Graduate School to offer a unique pathway into the ranks of the Doctorate.

Following in the footsteps of the past, for the student with a previous degree, the Reformation International Theological Seminary Doctorates are achieved primarily through independent research and writing/lecturing. The study must produce an original work, adding to the corpus of available knowledge on the selected subject.

The written work or thesis should be book length (typically 50,000-125,000 words), and of a publishable quality, with an appropriate number of references to scholarly sources.

The decision to grant or not, as in the past, is made by a panel or committee of three or more Doctors; each of whom will sign the degree awarded.



Approach to Study

From what has been said it will be noted that post-graduate, and especially Doctoral degree streams, are essentially different from everything in the main catalogue which caters to the Bachelor and Master level student. Here the candidate is not a *student* as such, nor is he or she under the normal undergraduate restraints as to reporting, written submissions and rigid time scales, nor are several *drafts* of the thesis required. In return for this more free atmosphere (equivalent to the *research scholar* of old), the candidate is expected to be a person of experience and maturity, to be self-motivated and self-disciplined, capable of correcting and improving his own work before submission and, in many ways, acting as the colleague and equal of his *mentor* and the Doctoral Committee who will appraise his work.

Who may Apply?

An Academic and preferably theological first degree is a normal prerequisite for Doctor's level studies. (If you do not already have this please refer back to the regular Reformation International Theological Seminary catalog. Return to this page when you have the pre-requisite qualifications!). If you have, or think that you may have, the entry qualifications, you need to decide whether or not you believe yourself to be capable of producing work of the standard necessary. If you are uncertain, your mentor (see below) will be able to advise you on all of these points.

Applications and forms may be found at:

[https://reformationseminary.org/
applications-forms/](https://reformationseminary.org/applications-forms/)

What is "Mentored" Research & Writing?

Every Doctoral candidate must work under the guidance and oversight of an agreed-upon mentor. Your mentor will (usually) be assigned to you by the Seminary, who will work with you in person, via mail, phone, or e-mail. Your mentor will discuss your suggested thesis with you, oversee your enrollment, and periodically assess your progress. He will make suggestions and criticisms as he sees fit as your thesis progresses. The level of this interface will be worked out in practice between the candidate and the mentor in a manner in which both feel comfortable. Finally your mentor will read and review your completed thesis before submission to Reformation International Theological Seminary, with a view to ensuring its maximum opportunity of acceptance. (He, in conjunction with the administration, may also be able to advise on publishing tactics and possible outlets for your completed work.)

Will the Seminary consider previously written work that has not been offered to any school towards a degree?

Candidates with completed work such as a thesis, or published/unpublished book they consider to be of a suitable academic standard, and which has not been used for previous academic credit, may apply to have their work considered for doctoral credit at R.I.T.S.



Is it possible to enter the doctoral program with a completed thesis without mentoring and save some money?

An applicant who applies with a completed thesis which he believes requires no mentoring may do so using the procedures of a “Read & Defend Only” thesis. In such cases, when accepted, they do so at their own risk and may receive a proportionately reduced fee. Please see the “Read & Defend Only” procedures and fees on pages 17-18 for details and conditions. It should be noted that some degrees (such as the Doctor of Ministry) and with those who have no “reformed theology” training and require classes or additional non-thesis work, are not available on this basis.

What about the ‘Verbal Defense of Thesis’?

This is still an essential part of the Doctoral assessment process, but you will be pleased to note that we do our assessments in English and not Latin! Verbal defense is carried out as candidates defend their thesis in the form of a recorded tele-conference interview between members of the Doctoral Committee and the candidate, which will take place either in person or by phone. This defense will then be submitted for review. (See below for more detailed information.)

How would a typical Doctoral program progress?

1. Are you qualified in terms of existing degree(s), research and writing ability?
2. Do you have a thesis subject selected?

If so, then contact Reformation International Theological Seminary. You will be put in contact with a mentor who will discuss your ideas informally with you. If the thesis appears to be workable, complete the *Application for Admission for Doctoral Studies*, including all supplemental papers as declared on the application. Then send this and all supplemental documentation to the seminary with the application fee of \$100.00 to the attention of the Registrar.

Once the seminary administration receives all necessary application forms, confirms all is in order, and receives the Doctoral Committee’s approval, a letter will be sent to you declaring acceptance for enrollment. At this time, your first installment of fees will be due. (See *Fee Payment Structure* below.) Upon receipt of first payment for your program of study, a separate letter will be issued declaring your official enrollment.

Any doctoral candidate who has not taken formal courses in Reformed theology, and who is not thoroughly familiar with the Westminster Confession of Faith or comparable standards, will be interviewed and may be required to take one or more courses in theology as part of his program. The cost of these courses will be in addition to doctoral fees at a discounted tuition rate. If the Doctoral Committee determines any preliminary courses are needed, this will be discussed with you before any doctoral tuition is to be paid.

An **outline** of the thesis and schedule of events for completion of thesis must be sent to the Registrar as soon as possible after enrollment. Your mentor should assist in this process. *Then you go to work and write your thesis!*



About the Doctoral Program

Remember, all *administration* is in the hands of Reformation International Theological Seminary in Florida. Mentors are *academic* advisors, answerable to Reformation International Theological Seminary Education Committee and the central Doctoral Committee.

Your completed thesis should be submitted within two (2) years of enrollment. Work progressing beyond the two-year mark requires an estimated completion date to be supplied and agreed to by the Seminary. All fees must be fully paid before the Doctoral Committee can assess any thesis. All fees must be paid within the two years, irrespective of whether extensions are granted on the thesis completion.

Where a Practicum is required (D.Min. candidates), the mentor is to review this and submit the papers along with his recommendation for the Doctoral Committee to assess. The Practicum and thesis are to be submitted simultaneously.

When you and your mentor are satisfied that the thesis is complete and is of an acceptable standard, your mentor will inform the Reformation International Theological Seminary Doctoral Committee Chairman, arrange for the verbal *defense of thesis* to take place, and submit his questions for your doctoral defense to which others may be added by those who are thesis readers as well as participants in the *defense of thesis*. You will also need five (5) hard copy prints of your thesis (even if it is available on disk), which must be sewn-bound and mailed to Reformation International Theological Seminary for review by its doctoral evaluators. The format of the thesis must be in accordance

with instructions provided in the *Thesis/Dissertation Submission Instructions for Doctoral Candidates*.

Copies of your thesis will be distributed to the evaluators for their review. Upon completion of their review, they will submit a list of questions for your thesis defense.

Once all reviews are completed and questions submitted, arrangements will be made to conduct the thesis defense. All defenses are to be recorded. Copies of the defense will be distributed to the evaluators for their review. The thesis defense is best done in person with a Doctoral Committee member. If this is not achievable, the defense will be conducted by telephone with a Doctoral Committee member.

In cases where even a telephone call is not practical for the thesis defense, arrangements will be made to have a proctor conduct the process on behalf of the Doctoral Committee. If a proctor is needed, a *Proctor Application Form* must be completed, two letters of recommendation must be submitted, and the proctor approved by RITS administration.

All defenses are to be completed in one sitting and within four hours. Contact seminary administration for further instructions pertaining to this process when you are close to completing your thesis.

Once the defense has been completed, a copy of the recording is to be sent to the RITS Registrar. The Registrar will then distribute copies of the defense to



the evaluators for their review. The evaluators will submit their votes to the Registrar with copies to the seminary President. The President, in concert with the Doctoral Committee Chairman, will make the final determination for the candidate. These will either be “yea’ (to accept and issue the Doctor’s standing) or “nay”, which must be accompanied with reasons. The Chairman will inform the Education Committee of the majority decision. They will, in turn, either a) issue the Doctor’s degree, or b) return the thesis with a summary of the “reasons for failure”.

What happens if my work fails to pass the Committee?

The reasons for failure will form a constructive criticism and indication of any areas of weakness. Discuss these with your mentor. You may then re-work your thesis and re-apply. In cases of resubmission you will be responsible for an additional one-third fees, payable upon resubmission. You are usually granted but one resubmission of the thesis/defense.

Can I publish my thesis?

Strictly speaking, any doctoral or similar thesis or dissertation becomes the property of the institution granting a degree qualification on the basis of that writing. This is why Reformation International Theological Seminary will file the master copy bound thesis in its library, along with a copy of the recorded defense discussion. These may also be placed in a microfilm library for ultimate archiving or on the Reforma-

tion International Theological Seminary web site for access around the world. Reformation International Theological Seminary exists to promote knowledge of all aspects of the Biblical Reformed faith and lifestyle, and so all successful candidates who seek publication for their written work need only complete an agreement with the seminary prior to publication. In fact, Reformation International Theological Seminary publishes books via Reformation Media & Press and will aid in this process as much as possible.

What authority does the Seminary have to grant degrees, and from where does its academic standing come?

In the U.S., and even more so in most other nations today, “higher education” is largely in the hands of the State, which funds much education out of taxation revenue (although students may have to contribute in part themselves, or promise to repay tuition “loans”). The State then finances its schools, colleges, and universities and establishes state and national guidelines and curricula. For theological education, these are, nowadays, typically “liberal” and “higher-critical” schools, and unacceptable to biblically conservative and reformed students. Strictly speaking it is the desire to qualify for State financial credits or funding which motivates most schools to seek “accreditation”; a term which is inapplicable to those who reject the clear “Erastianism”¹ of that situation. One traditional alternative used in the U.S. has been for groups of like-minded seminaries and schools to mutually rec-

¹ *The supremacy of the state over the church in church matters.*



Doctoral Degrees Available

ognize each other's certificates. This is in line with the theory of absolute separation of Church and State. One key reason for locating within the State of Florida is that Florida provides an environment for Bible-based education. The State of Florida has formally granted approval and authority to the "Florida Council of Private Colleges" (FCPC) <http://www.fcpc-edu.org>, composed of independent educational institutions, to function as a self-regulatory body. Reformation International Theological Seminary is a certified member in good standing of the FCPC, and so its standards are monitored by the wider private education sector. This is intended to give the soundest possible 'authority' and backing to Reformation International Theological Seminary degrees, whilst maintaining the Scriptural independence of the Church from State control or domination. We are also a member of the Council of Private Colleges of America (CPCA) <http://www.cPCA-edu.us/>.

It is important to note that accreditation does not guarantee success to a student nor the acceptance of credits from one institution to another. Every student who is thoroughly prepared for his or her respective ministry will generally find doors opened on the basis of proven competence rather than on the basis of a degree from an accredited institution, especially amongst those of like doctrinal standards.

Doctoral Degrees Available

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

[degree may focus on Christian Intellectual Thought, Christian Intellectual History, Christian Biblical Counseling or other specialty areas.]

Doctor of Theology (Th.D.)

Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

DESCRIPTIONS:

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

This Doctorate is designed for the student who is actively engaged in the practice of ministry (for example, pastors, missionaries, and those in specialized ministries). The D.Min. degree is built upon a Biblical and theological foundation, and therefore the pre-requisite qualification for admission is a Master Degree in Divinity (M.Div.) or its equivalent from an approved institution. Reformation International Theological Seminary acknowledges that ministry, with a proper theological base, is as important to the work of the church as is theological study. However, such attempted ministry should never proceed without proper theological foundations since the Scriptures are to be the basis of all true ministry. This degree is designed to benefit the student who wishes to deepen his understanding of specific fields of ministry, especially advancing his study beyond that achieved by the M.Div. program. It is the goal of the D.Min. program to offer qualified students the opportunity to deeply research and study an agreed upon theological subject which can have a practical application and outlet in strengthening their ministry, by advancing and deep-



ening the theological base for that ministry and thus their understanding and effectiveness therein. As a ministerial Doctorate, the D.Min. also has a practicum element, which consists in certified and proven ministerial (missionary or other) work over a minimum three year period. Certification of this practicum must be supplied along with the dissertation and taped defense before a degree can be granted.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

This Doctorate is awarded in Christian Thought or in other Christian disciplines. The Ph.D. degree at Reformation International Theological Seminary is built upon Biblical and theological foundations and therefore requires a first degree from a recognized institution as the normal prerequisite for admission to this program. In some circumstances, it is possible to work directly into a Ph.D. program through a combination of classes and thesis. In all cases, a proper theological base must be demonstrated for this work, since Christian thought cannot exist apart from the Scriptures and the proper theological and Biblical interpretation thereof. This base must be demonstrated in the candidate's written thesis, reflecting adequate reading and research, and an appropriate number of cited scholarly sources.

Doctor of Theology (Th.D.)

The Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) is the highest of all theological advanced degrees, and therefore is also the most demanding and difficult. The Seminary seeks to encourage candidates who are capable of advancing to the highest possible level of theological scholarship, and making new and positive contributions to the understanding of the Christian faith. Reformation International Theological Seminary therefore permits highly qualified seminary graduates the opportunity of participating in advanced theological research and

writing, leading to consideration for the degree of Doctor of Theology. The Th.D. written thesis will thus be more formally scholarly and less 'popularly' written than some others, and must demonstrate a proportionately higher level of reading and research, and of scholarly sources cited and referenced.

Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)

The Doctor of Letters (*Litterarum Doctorum*—D.Litt. or Litt.D.) is an earned degree awarded in Christian Literature to acknowledge outstanding and sustained contribution to the literature of Reformed Christianity. Candidates must have already achieved high quality written work, and will be assessed on a further original thesis, which must demonstrate conspicuous writing ability and thorough research. Submissions may be original English works of special literary merit, theses dedicated to the study of Christian literature past and present, or first translations of major Christian texts from ancient or modern languages into current English. The D.Litt degree is a higher level Doctorate, suitable for those with a proven record of contributing to the literature of Reformed Christianity.

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) is awarded in 'Christian Education' aimed at furthering the work of education of Christian subjects as well as Christian methodologies. Some subjects in this category may fall under Reformation International College, though overseen by the Seminary.

Con't on page 16.



Other 'Advanced Degrees'

Reformation International Theological Seminary also offers the degree of Master of Theology (Th.M.).

Master of Theology (Th.M.)

The Master of Theology degree (Th.M.) is an advanced theological degree, available only to students who have an M.Div. or equivalent degree. The Master of Theology degree is awarded in 'Theological Interpretation' and should be thought of as a reading-and-research expansion of the subject matter covered in the M.Div. program. Broadly speaking, the Th.M. is a 'doctoral' type degree, but having a less stringent workload and lesser writing requirement. Rather than a completely independent research and writing project (as with a Doctorate), the Th.M. candidate selects an area from his previous studies that is of particular interest to him, and undertakes an agreed-upon program of advanced studies in that area, in consultation with an approved mentor and the faculty.

The degree is progressed exactly as are doctoral degrees (see above), but with the following exceptions:

- a) An extensive reading list must be agreed upon with Reformation International Theological Seminary and completed as part of the degree requirement. Students must certify completion of their reading, and fully reference their own dissertation from the works consulted.
- b) A dissertation of 25,000-37,500 words is required, and must be presented in five bound copies for evaluation by the Review Committee, just as for a doctoral thesis. The Th.M. dissertation subject must be agreed and approved before enrollment.

- c) The time-limit for Th.M. is normally one year, and all extensions of this period must be agreed upon by the faculty.
- d) There is no requirement for a 'verbal defense' of thesis/dissertation to achieve a Th.M.
- e) Th.M. dissertations that are considered to have suitable potential may be considered for expansion and submission as doctoral theses (with the approval of the Committee). In this case an additional year is normally allowable beyond completion of the Th.M.

All appropriate fees must be paid before the thesis can be considered. The same thesis cannot be used for both Th.M. and doctoral degrees.

For traditional master degrees, download the Seminary catalog at <http://reformation.edu/pdf/forms/ritscat.pdf>.

Doctoral Degree Prerequisites:

All of the following degrees require a undergraduate Bachelor and graduate Master degree, at least one of which must be theological in nature.

Degree

Prerequisite beyond Bachelor

Th.D.

Th.M.* and M.Div.*

D.Min.

M.Div.*

D.Litt.

Master*

Ph.D.

Master*

Th.M.

M.Div.*

All candidates must read and understand our doctrinal basis (*Westminster Standards* or *Three Forms of Unity*) and agree not to present any material in substantial opposition to the cardinal doctrines (as interpreted by the doctoral committee) as requirements for a degree being sought.

Any questions? Ask!

* or equivalent



Teaching Practicum Program

Portions of the advanced degree requirements may be met through courses provided for the Seminary. A candidate who is able to sign the Faculty Covenant may be invited to serve as a registered Teaching Fellow of the Seminary and teach one or more courses for the seminary during his last year of study. Various assignments can be considered in this responsibility.

Fees and Payment

All fees quoted in U.S. dollars.

Application fee **\$100.00**

(Submitted with application for admission package and is non-refundable.)

Untimely Mentor Reporting penalty fee **\$100.00**

(Doctoral Candidates are to report their research and thesis progress with their mentor ideally monthly, but at least quarterly. Any failure to report at least quarterly will result in this penalty being assessed. Two such penalties in a row without legitimate acceptable reason will result in the student being declared "inactive".)

Reactivation fee **\$500.00**

(Doctoral Candidates declared inactive may be reactivated within two years of being inactive by paying this fee. Should the schools fees be raised in the interim, the candidate will be responsible to pay the difference between what has been paid and the new fees.)

One-Year Extension fee **\$250.00**

(Doctoral Candidates are normally given two years to submit their thesis. Two one-year extensions may be granted under normal circumstances. Any exceptions require written administration approval.)

Graduation Fee (payable before graduation) **\$150.00**

All fees fully prepaid by cash or U.S. check drawn on a U.S. bank within one of the 50 U.S. states may deduct 10% as a prepayment discount.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) **\$6,900.00**

(in Christian Thought or other Christian discipline)

Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) **\$6,900.00**

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) **\$6,100.00**

Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) **\$6,100.00**

Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) **\$5,500.00**

Master of Theology (Th.M.) **\$4,500.00**

Read & Defend Only Fees & Procedures

This fee arrangement is only applicable to those applying with what they deem to be a completed thesis requesting no mentoring.

1. A normal doctoral application (including thesis topic and outline) is submitted along with the normal \$100 applications fee.

2. At the same time, they must submit an additional \$1,000 as an Advanced Thesis Analysis Fee along with the proposed "completed thesis". On receipt of this fee a R.I.T.S. Doctoral Committee Member will read and analyze the thesis, and report to both the Seminary and the applicant as to its suitability for consideration (in terms of size, quality, scholarly apparatus such as notes, references, bibliography, etc). Acceptance for Committee consideration does not presuppose



ultimate success, merely approval for the reading and voting procedure.

3. In this process either of the following situations might arise:

A. **The student is not qualified based upon his application and thesis topic.** He loses his application fee and his thesis is not evaluated, and therefore his \$1,000 Advanced Thesis Analysis Fee is forfeited.

B. **The student is qualified based upon his application and thesis topic** and his thesis is evaluated resulting in one of the following three scenarios:

1) **The thesis evaluation finds it to be of an acceptable standard and topic** and should be received strictly as a read-only thesis, that is, that nothing more needs to be done in which case he will be levied as a read-only fee on the following schedule:

- a. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) \$5,900 (normally \$6,900)
- b. Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) \$5,900 (normally \$6,900)
- c. Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) \$4,500 (normally \$5,500)
- d. Doctor of Education (Ed.D) \$5,500 (normally \$6,500)

If the student decides to proceed, then he will need to submit the balance of the fees

needed to bring him up to the Read & Defend Only fee mentioned above [1] a-d]. Upon its receipt, the appropriate bound thesis copies need to be sent and the official thesis reading and defense will follow as with any doctoral candidate. If the students decides not to proceed, then no fees are refundable.

If a majority Committee *accept* vote is recorded, after reading and evaluation of the thesis and verbal defense, the candidate is informed of their success, and a Diploma to that effect is issued by the Seminary in due course. If, however, the majority Committee *accept* vote is not secured, then the candidate has failed. Should the Committee recommend some needed additional work or revision to again be revisited by the Committee, then that will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Additional expense will be involved if the candidate wishes to revisit the process.

2) **The thesis evaluation determines that the topic is good but deficient in presentation standard** requiring some need of minor revision and thus some mentoring. A determination as to what kind of revision will be needed and an additional mentoring fee determined (minimum revision fee is \$1,000). If the student decides to proceed, then he will need to submit the balance of the fees needed to bring him up to the Read & Defend Only fee mentioned above [1] a-d] plus whatever minor mentoring assessment is added. Upon its receipt, the appropriate bound thesis copies need to be sent and the official thesis reading



and defense will follow as with any doctoral candidate. If judged successful by the Committee majority, the candidate is informed, and the Diploma issued as soon as possible thereafter. In the event the candidate does not secure an accept vote, then the candidate has failed. If the Committee recommends some needed additional work, then the same procedures apply as in 1) immediately above.

- 3) **The thesis evaluation determines that the topic is good but that major work will be required before it can be recommended for submission** and thus is not suitable for a read-only thesis basis. If the applicant decides to proceed, then the fees already paid will apply to the normal student fees and arrangements must be made for the payment of the balance of fees needed as with a regular student. He will receive the appropriate mentoring and proceed accordingly as with a normal student, until the mentor advises that the thesis is ready to submit for consideration by the Committee, who will read, hear the spoken defence, and vote as in all other cases. Should the candidate decide **not** to accept the services of a mentor and proceed, then no fees are returned, but with the reserved option of resuming within 6 months of the initial application without incurring additional charges.

Payment Options

Full Prepayment 10% Discount Option: payment must be made in cash or U.S. dollar certified check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank.

Note: *Read & Defend Only* fees will not qualify for the usual 10% advance payment discount. Graduation fees of \$150 still apply.

Installment Options:

3 X 1/3 plan: 1/3 upon acceptance, 1/3 after first year; 1/3 before submission of dissertation or after second year.

Monthly Payments: 24 or 30 month plan available. Fully paid before final dissertation submission.

Payment Methods

All payments, except the full prepayment plan, may be made as follows:

FROM THE US —

by *personal or business check, money order or credit card* (Visa® or Mastercard®). Note: Any check that does not clear shall be charged \$75 and no payment by check privileges will be henceforth allowed.

FROM ALL OTHER COUNTRIES —

by *certified check in U.S. dollars draw on a U.S. bank, U.S. dollar money order or credit card* (Visa® or Mastercard®).

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS in non-U.S. currency —

Please make all credit card payments in non-U.S. currency via our website shopping cart for school fee payments or by contacting the U.S. office to determine the correct amount at current currency exchange rates.



Refund of Fee Policy

Any candidate having **fully prepaid his fees** who withdraws from an advanced degree program of the seminary because of illness or other sufficient cause as determined by the Seminary, may receive a refund as follows based upon the date the payment was received by the Seminary:

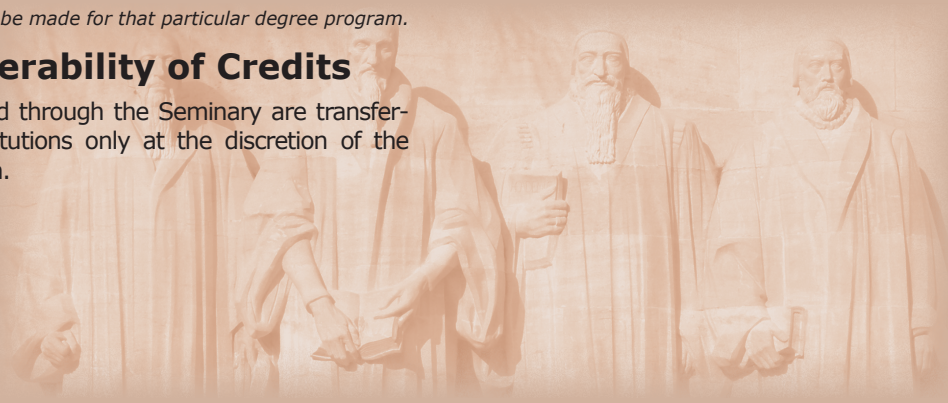
75% refund within one week. 50% refund within two weeks.

25% refund within three weeks. No refund after four weeks.

To receive a refund of pre-paid tuition fees the Seminary must be notified in writing within the time periods specified above. Three weeks after any fees have been paid, no refunds for that or any future payments shall be made for that particular degree program.

Transferability of Credits

All credits earned through the Seminary are transferable to other institutions only at the discretion of the receiving institution.





Doctoral Committee Members

The following men serve or have served in various capacities on the Doctoral Committee of the Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey K. Boer B.A., Dordt College; M.Div., Westminster Theological Seminary; D.Min., Whitefield Theological Seminary; Post-graduate studies, Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology and the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation, as well as a Certified Level II Member of the National Association of Christian Counselors. **Minister — Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Dr. Carl W. Bogue B.A., Muskingum College; M.Div., Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; Th.D., Free University of Amsterdam. **Minister — Presbyterian Church in America**

Rev. Dr. Wesley L. Bredenhof B.A., University of Alberta, Edmonton; M.Div. & Diploma of Missiology, Canadian Reformed Theological Seminary; Th. D., Reformation International Theological Seminary. **Minister and Pastor— Canadian Reformed Churches, Writer**

Rev. Dr. Leonard J. Coppes B.A., Bethel College; B.D., Bethel Theological Seminary; Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary; Th.D., Westminster Theological Seminary. **Minister and Pastor— Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Grossmann, B.S., University of California (Berkeley); B.D., Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia); STM, D.D., Whitefield Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Reformation International Theological Seminary. **Minister and Pastor — Reformed Church in the United States**

Rev. Dr. Richard Knodel, Jr. B.A., Westminster College; M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Reformation International Theological Seminary. **Missionary and Pastor — Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.**

Rev. Dr. Russell R. McKendry, Th.B., The Master's Seminary; Th.M. & Th.D., Reformation International Theological Seminary.

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Last Revised 6-15-2021