



Graduate Theological Foundation  
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## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### Course requirements:

10 Units of Study

5 Units from any GTF online, on-site, or distance course offerings

5 Units from the GTF or from transfer credit

*Research Methodology* is a required non-credit course for Ph.D. students

### Thesis requirements:

The student must nominate a member of the GTF faculty to serve as Thesis Supervisor. This enables the student to receive helpful and pragmatic evaluative feedback from a member of the faculty during the development of the thesis. Questions regarding the selection of a Thesis Supervisor should be directed to the Office of Academic Affairs ([academicaffairs@gtfeducation.org](mailto:academicaffairs@gtfeducation.org)).

Once the student and Thesis Supervisor are in communication, a formal Doctoral Thesis Proposal (form 145b) is developed and submitted by email to the Office of the Registrar ([registrar@gtfeducation.org](mailto:registrar@gtfeducation.org)).

After approval of the thesis proposal and following completion of all coursework, the student undertakes the research and writing of a doctoral thesis of 45,000-60,000 words (180-240 pages) in their field of specialization. The thesis must be a work of original academic scholarship that makes a contribution to the field. The thesis must be written in 12 point Times New Roman (or comparable) font, double-spaced, and with must be submitted to the GTF with the following forms:

Cover sheet (form 143)

Abstract (form 134)

Biographical Statement (form 102)

When the thesis in its final form has been reviewed and approved by the student's Thesis Supervisor, it must be submitted by the student to the GTF for final review. One copy of the thesis, cover sheet, abstract, and biographical statement must be sent electronically to the Office of the Registrar ([registrar@gtfeducation.org](mailto:registrar@gtfeducation.org)) a minimum of three months prior to the intended date of defense.

### Doctoral Defense:

The doctoral defense is offered by written disputation, by videoconferencing, or onsite.

Defense date: First week in March

Eligibility deadline: December 1 (Thesis and forms must be submitted and all financial requirements met)

Defense date: First week of June

Eligibility deadline: March 1 (Thesis and forms must be submitted and all financial requirements met)

Defense date: First week of September

Eligibility deadline: June 1 (Thesis and forms must be submitted and all financial requirements met)

Defense date: First week in December

Eligibility deadline: September 1 (Thesis and forms must be submitted and all financial requirements met)