



Edinburg Theological Seminary - 2112 W. University Drive, Edinburg, TX 78539

ACADEMIC DIVISION

Dr. Darrel Hilbrands-Vandertuig

DEAN

Dear Students:

Edinburg Theological Seminary is recognized for its high level of theological and worldview studies. The mission of the Academic Division is to provide a learning environment which will promote this advanced level of education throughout the student's pursuit of graduate studies at ETS.

In order to achieve its goals, our division seeks to bring an inspiring sense of wonder in God's world, word and will, in all of the programs we administer. To this end, we seek this inspiration, both as teachers and students, in the love and under the authority of Jesus Christ, Lord of all—especially in our institutional life as a theological community of higher education in the Rio Grande Valley.

The "academic covenant" our division offers every student, stipulates that all of our professors, without exception, shall be:

- confessionally committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, not only in their personal life, but equally so in their life of research scholarship and teaching;
- dynamic expositors of the powerful Word of God, in whatever Seminary Department they are teaching;
- decided defenders of "the faith that has once for all been given to the Saints" (Jude 3).
- effective communicators in the areas of their expertise, and finally,
- ready and willing to promote the educational goals—, and affirm God's calling in the lives of—, each of their students, to the honor of God and the extension of His Kingdom.

The **Academic Division** is composed of several Offices, their Departments and Programs:

First, the *Office of Graduate Studies*, which is comprised of the departments of *Masters Studies*, *Advanced Pastoral Studies* and that of *Testing & Evaluation Services*;

Second, the *Academic Services Office*, which co-ordinates the various academic departments: the departments of *Biblical Studies*, *Systematic & Apologetical Theology*, *Church History*, *Practical Theology* (and its *MDiv Program*), *Christian Education* (and its *MEd* and *CEU Programs*), as well as the *Department of Seminary Curriculum Development*, the *ETS Teaching Assistant & Fellowship Programs*, and the *Interdepartmental Studies Program*.

Third, the *Office of Undergraduate Studies*, which, through its independent programs, operates as the *Edinburg Christian College (ECC)*. ECC includes, among its own departments, the *Department of Communications*, with *Biblical (Greek, Hebrew) and Modern Languages (English, Spanish)*, and *Language Proficiency Evaluation* for ETS.

As the student explores these academic areas of the Seminary in the following pages of this Catalog, he or she should be assured that each section has as its goal the advancement of the student's standing as a "minister of God's Word"—be it as a current or future church pastor, or as a Christian teacher, counselor, evangelist, youth pastor or music leader in their church. In all these callings, it is our goal and prayer that they will be challenged by the personnel and programs of our Division to "do it all unto His glory."

Darrel Hilbrands V., Ph.D.,
Academic Dean

for further information you may contact

(956) 380-1714

www.edinburgseminary.org

EDINBURG THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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ACADEMIC DIVISION

Office of Graduate Studies

Dr. J.P. Roberts Haine

Director

The Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) at ETS consists of the *Department of Master Studies* and its programs, the *Department of Advanced Pastoral Studies* (the latter coordinating its programs with a consortium of post secondary and upper level institutions, AMECES), and the *Department of Testing and Evaluation Services*.

Although the graduate-level studies offered by our Office emphasize ecclesiastical and educational ministries, they in fact provide a foundational basis for Christian leadership in all areas of life. In addition, taking advantage of the unique location where God has placed us between two nations, we strive to capture a missionary vision throughout the course of studies we offer. This distinctive emphasis has led us to establish both English and Spanish components in all of our programs, as we seek to serve our bilingual and bi-cultural border community. This, in turn, has uniquely appealed to and drawn in leaders from both the northern areas of the United States, as well as from the furthest reaches in Mexico and Central America.

Our graduate programs, which emphasize advanced academic research and investigation, include the following degree programs: in the lower-level academic graduate programs, the Master of Bilingual Christian Studies, and the Master of Arts in Religious Studies. The professional Master of Divinity Degree is coordinated in conjunction with the Academic Office's Department of Practical Theology, and the Master of Christian Education in conjunction with the Academic Office's Department of Christian Education. The higher-level APS programs offered by our office include the *Theologiae Magister* (ThM), and the *Theologiae Doctor* (ThD).

We invite you to apply for admission to any of our programs, the particulars of which you may find listed in the following pages of this catalog. If you have any additional questions, you may contact me directly: I will be happy to be of service!

J.P. Roberts H., Ph.D.

Director, Office of Graduate Studies

for further information you may contact

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OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Department of Advanced Pastoral Studies (APS)

Place and Task of the APS Department and its Programs

A terminal degree provides the highest level of studies for leadership in the Body of Christ. In contrast to a bachelor-level degree, which leads to a broad understanding and beginning specialization in one or another of the lawfully-ordered spheres of God's creation, or to the master's degree, which leads to a superior concentration in the chosen specialization, doctoral studies—as integrative and critical research—seek to find the *interactive meaning* of one's specialization, in relation to the other spheres and greater fullness of life.

Application to the Department and its Programs

Overview

Entrance into the APS department is reserved for those who demonstrate a real promise of superior academic, personal and professional growth and leadership potential in the Kingdom of God. A master's degree, or its equivalent, is required, together with a demonstrated high level of academic studies and professional work.

The departmental programs are developed in relation to an academic consortium of institutions of higher learning. The goal of this broader community of scholarship is (1) the spiritual formation of pastors and church personnel who are called to fulfill various areas of ecclesiastical ministry, as well as (2) to meet the needs of leaders in various fields who wish to contextualize their previous studies within the Light of the Word of God, such as teachers in Christian schools, seminary professors, spiritual counselors and other professionals who wish to give spiritual direction to their lives and career goals.

Entrance Requirements

Entrance into an APS program depends on meeting all of the *general* and *specific* admission requirements stipulated in this Catalog.

Specifically, these following requirements are, *inter alia*, the responsibilities of the prospective student:

1. Having met all of the general *institutional* requirements for studies at ETS of the **Admissions Office** (see *Catalog*, "Admissions Office");

2. Having met all of the relevant *language* stipulations for studies at ETS of the **Department of Advanced Pastoral Studies**. In particular, all of the APS programs require a designated combination of modern and classical languages, as follows:

- a. **English.** Most of the departmental studies and texts are elaborated and given in English, although certain courses, research groups and exegetical / hermeneutical programs are available from the department in Spanish, and may be completed by the student in that language. Over-all, APS studies offer a continuous and sustained emersion in English, requiring the student in the department to arrive at the highest level of philosophical, theological and historical literary sufficiency in the English language.

As part of the admissions process to APS programs, foreign students may be evaluated as to their English proficiency, and a recommendation made as to English-language studies; this recommendation must be met, prior to candidacy at the institution. English courses may be taken elsewhere, or through the ETS Office of Undergraduate Studies (at *Edinburg Christian*

College), and any student receiving a "B" or higher grade in a recommended sequence of English-language studies at ECC will be considered as having met the APS English as a second language requirement;

b. **Spanish.** APS students may elect Spanish (among other languages) as one of their two modern languages, and all comprehensive examinations (oral and written) may be taken in Spanish or English. The defense [see "Dissertation Defense," below] may be taken and passed with English and Spanish components, for those using Spanish as their first modern language;

c. **Greek and Hebrew.** In order to write a ThM thesis or ThD dissertation which requires biblical exegesis, either Hebrew, Ugaritic or Aramaic will be required for a study of the Old Testament, or Greek, Syriac, Latin or Coptic for a study of the New Testament and its history, depending on the nature of the study and the requirements of the candidate's Academic Department, as stipulated by the relevant supervisory committees;

d. **Intensive Biblical, Classical and Modern Language Summer Program.** Candidates may demonstrate knowledge of the required linguistic skills employed in specialized biblical studies, by asking for, and completing with a passing grade, the tests offered in the language requested, or by taking and passing the relevant courses offered by the language department of ECC, during a regular semester or in the intensive course of studies they offer in the summers;

3. Having met all of the *financial* obligations for studies at ETS required by the **Office of Finances and Scholarships** (see *Catalog*, "Office of Finances and Scholarships"), including:

a. Remitting the Entrance Fee established by the OFS (\$25 US dollars, 2005 - 2015 period);

b. Initiating an acceptable program of payments and scholarships, with the Director of the OFS;

4. Having met all of the initial *departmental* admission requirements of the **Academic Department** in which the applicant seeks to study (see *Catalog*, "Biblical Studies"; "Church History"; "Systematic & Apologetical Studies"; "Practical Theology"; "Christian Education"), including:

a. Turning in the summary of *CB-5-101*, written for the Admissions Office, to the Chair of the department in which the applicant proposes to study;

b. Meeting with the Chair of, and being *provisionally* accepted into, the department in which the applicant proposes to study.

Institutional Commitment

ETS reserves the right to change the process and requirements of institutional admissions, study and graduation, but the departmental academic requirements of the APS *under which the student entered* are not subject to change, unless and to the extent only that both student and institution were to be in agreement. The date of the *Letter of Admissions*, as recorded in the **Office of Admissions**, is taken as the date for the establishing of the institutional requirements under which the student entered, and the academic programs and plans elaborated and published in the *Catalog* of that date, when met, provide the necessary and sufficient requirements for graduation.

For any further information with regard to these requirements, the student may seek further clarification with the Registrar, the Director of the APS Department, and with the Chair of his academic department.

Advanced APS Study Programs

Length of Studies

The ETS / APS advanced programs (ThD, DCE), generally may be completed within a span of six to eight semesters, in particular if the student begins reading and research on his dissertation during the residency period (see "Residency," below; the ThM program is discussed separately, as an adjunct in the doctoral process; see "ThM, below). Those who are graduates of a masters program at ETS and have an exceptional academic career (including

a 3.75 or higher GPA at ETS), or are institutional Fellows, may request their comprehensives (see "Comprehensive Examinations," below) after only the fifth semester; if these are passed at a superior level, the candidate (see "Candidacy," below) may have his program considerably advanced, at the sole discretion of the student's *academic advisory committee*, specifically, the Student's Graduate Committee (variously referred to by students and faculty as the student's "academic" and/or "advisory committee," or most often, as the student's

“Graduate Committee” or “SGS”; see “Student’s Graduate Committee,” below), with final approval of the Academic Dean.

After five years, the Candidate who has not completed his dissertation must present a formal, written request (directed to his Dissertation Committee) to extend the program (for a maximum of two additional years). Failure to do so will terminate his or her APS program of studies at ETS.

General Calendar

The usual course of studies at ETS is that of five-month semesters (summer programs follow their own calendar); these are,

– **Fall Semester:** *the first semester of the ETS Academic Year* (August, September, October, November and December), and

– **Spring Semester:** *the second semester of the ETS Academic Year* (January, February, March, April and May). The graduation ceremonies for commencement are held on the first weekend in June, and all intensive summer programs are held in July. For those not participating in the summer programs, June (after commencement) and July provide an institutional recess.

Specific Academic Calendar

A more detailed, long-range Academic Calendar is elaborated every second year, and the current edition is provided for all entering students, at the time of enrollment.

Practicums

All APS programs include field work, whether in the areas of (1) Christian education, (2) spiritual counseling or (3) homiletics / preaching (ETS Fellows and TAs fulfill this obligation in conjunction with their departmental teaching obligations).

Unless already a professional teacher, pastor or counselor, with more than two years of active work in their field (ask for requirement waiver), in the normal course of study APS students will take,

1. *In education*, one semester of mentored teaching in a full-time classroom, with a final evaluation/report, or one year of continuing, mentored teaching in a formal church setting,

with a final evaluation and report;

2. *In counseling*, accompanying an ordained pastor or certified spiritual counselor in a series of counseling sessions, as determined by the practicum’s mentor, with a final evaluation and report; and

3. *In homiletics/preaching*, a preaching series of no less than five (live-audience) sermons, to be monitored, graded and reported on by a seminary professor, fellow or TA assigned by the Chair of the ETS Department of Practical Theology, or by a person designated by the Chair of ECC Communications Department.

No student shall graduate from an APS program without having *certified the fulfillment of all practicum requirements*, whether by participation in assigned field work, or by a letter waiving the practicum requirements (signed by the Chair of his chosen academic department).

N.B. Students other than those in education, spiritual counseling or theological leadership, should inquire with his or her departmental Chair as to any required field work, in addition to the ones previously indicated.

Student-Led Initiative

In the following sections, dates and academic schedules, the entire responsibility for seeking and securing timely submission of required academic forms, activities, studies, examinations, signatures and any other stated requirements, lies with the graduate student, fellow or candidate pursuing timely graduation. All such seeking graduation should be warned that self-motivation and initiative is in-itself one of the over-all considerations in weighing the suitability for acquisition of an ETS advanced graduate degree.

APS Academic Expectations

All APS students, whether general students, TA’s, or Fellows, both in Residency and Candidacy, are expected to achieve the highest levels of academic excellence, spiritual discernment and moral formation. As a community of scholars, our institutional Faculty and Staff will seek to promote these goals; however, at the core of their studies and research at ETS, *each student* in this community must be keenly aware that, throughout his or her course of study, *they* must be in a continuous

state of self-evaluation—a measuring of themselves by the light of the Word of God, and in His Spirit of Truth, knowing that few should aspire to be teacher-leaders, since a higher standard will be held for them (James 3:1).

First Period of the APS Course of Study

Residency Program

Advanced APS programs (ThD, DCE) normally require three years of *academic residency* studies, in order to reach the status of Doctoral Candidate. The student should especially note that **the residency period leading to candidacy** has a *precise schedule* following a *specific time-line*, with which the student must become intimately acquainted, and scrupulously follow, in order to remain within the program. No section of the residency may be omitted: failure to follow the schedule and its time-line in an expeditious manner, will jeopardize the integrity of the student's entire doctoral program, and constitute grounds for dismissal from the Department of Advanced Pastoral Studies.

N.B. All references, below, to "(student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members" requires **written (e-mail) communication** with each member; failure to do so, may allow **Committee member not copied** to obligate, from student, a **redoing** of the entire process, item or form under consideration; persistent failure to communicate/copy individual items and required forms to all Committee members, is deemed equivalent to not meeting with the Committee at a duly stipulated or called meeting, requiring a formal interview with the Academic Dean for further clarification, program re-assignment, or termination.

--Note that while all *signed* hard copies should be turned in to, and secured by, the student's Departmental Chair, all other confirmations, copies of forms/documents, or other communications sent by student to his/her Chair and/or any other of the student's Graduate Committee Members, **should be sent by e-mail**, with hard copies of same always kept by student for permanent records. In all correspondence of all APS students, to identify item to which student is referring use only Department (APS), name of item, and *number* (not semester or year) used below. Examples:

"Dear Chair, I am requesting an APS *Provisional Departmental Acceptance Letter*, (#2)."

"Dear Members of the Committee, please find attached a copy of my **approved** APS *Proposed Research Outline and Provisional Research Bibliography*, (#17, a, b).

First Year of Residency

--Prior to First Semester:

1. Complete all *institutional* admission requirements: secure "**Letter of Institutional Admission**," signed by Director of Admissions Department; Fellows (or prospective Fellows) should sign and submit their Doctrinal Confession to the Director of the Academic Office (ETS Teaching Assistant & Fellowship Program). Only upon receipt or confirmation of Institutional Admission, proceed to following step # 2, below (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

2. Secure a first meeting:

a. with the OGS Director, and be *provisionally* accepted into the OGS graduate-level pursued, after review of student's academic and professional goals, in light of the Seminary's institutional *Vision Statement, Mission Statement* and *Educational Creed* (see *ETS Catalog: 2010-2012*, for same); (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*); ask for "**Provisional Letter of OGS Level Pursued**," signed by OGS Director (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

b. with the Chair (or designate) of the Department of student's research/study interest, and be *provisionally* accepted into the department in which the applicant proposes to study; ask for "**Provisional Departmental Acceptance Letter**," signed by the selected Departmental Chair (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

First Semester:

3. Participate, **when offered**, in the OGS "APS Orientation Seminar" (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS*

Director);

4. Meet together, by **second or third month**, with both the OGS Director and with the provisionally assigned Departmental Chair, in order to

a. secure requisite full admission to academic level pursued; ask for OGS "**Letter of Graduate Level Pursued**," signed by OGS Director (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

b. secure requisite *full admission* to an ETS **Academic Department**; ask for "**Letter of Departmental Admission**," signed by the Departmental Chair (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

c. secure OGS /Departmental Chair approval of student's doctoral Academic Residency Advisor ("AR" or "Academic Advisor"); ask for "**Academic Residency Advisor Assignment Form**," signed by the Departmental Chair (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

d. set **date/time** for the formation of, and first meeting with, the student's Graduate Committee (*e-copy all correspondence with ETS Secretary & OGS Director*);

5. Attend, by **fourth month**, *first meeting with student's* **Graduate Committee** (includes the Departmental Chair, as Chair of the Committee; the Academic Advisor; the Director of OGS, and, when needful, the Academic Dean [or a designate, in Dean's absence], *ex officio*), in order to

a. review student's administrative status and academic prospects, according to the his or her goals, and

b. review the institutional programs under consideration, as well as their confessional stance, as expressly manifest in the Institution's *Educational Creed* (see *ETS Catalog: 2010-2012*) **and** the Admission's Office assigned summary of *Man in God's World*;

c. secure the form, "**Provisional Degree Program Approval**," signed by the Committee (Departmental) Chair **and** Academic Dean (*student should confirm same by e-copying of all Committee Members, specifically, the:*

1. --Committee/Departmental Chair;
2. --OGS Director;
3. --Academic Advisor;
4. --any other professor formally assigned to the committee);

6. Secure, by **fourth or fifth month**, an *individual meeting with Departmental Chair*, for review of student progress and overview of Departmental goals, requirements and suitability of student to meet them; this will include a review with Chair (or designate) of a student's initial thoughts on a "working" Outline and possible Bibliography, deemed academically viable and of import to the Department, according to the programs the latter offers, their academic requirements and their confessional outworking (*student should confirm same by e-copying of all Committee Members*);

7. Fulfillment, by **end of the semester**, of a recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

8. Fulfillment, by **end of the semester**, of a required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program-"ISP") with a minimum 3.00 GPA in the class and 4 ISP academic credit hours (this will bring the student to a minimum recommended total of 13 academic credit hours for the semester);

9. Have attended, by **end of the semester**, such intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student's Graduate Committee Chair);

student should confirm same by e-copying of all Committee Members.

Second Semester:

10. Secure, by **second month** of second semester, a second meeting with student's Graduate Committee, for review of over-all progress of student in his/her program (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

11. Work up, by the **third month** of the second semester, with his/her Academic Advisor,

a. an *initial, working* "**Proposed Research Outline**" (PRO - "Outline") for the Advisor's review and approval;

b. an initial, "**Provisional Research Bibliography**" (PRB - "Bibliography");

(1). student must secure the Advisor's signature on the Outline and Bibliography, and

(2) send a copy of same to all members of the student's Graduate Committee;

c. work closely with his/her Academic Advisor throughout semester, on any research/revisions of the approved Outline and Bibliography (or, if being re-considered, an alternative study should be brought to Advisor's attention, to be approved by the Advisor and Chair);

12. Secure, by **end of the semester**, of a first oral review of a student's thoughts on his/her working Outline and Bibliography, from any ETS independent (non-committee) faculty member (or from another acceptable graduate institution); student must secure the Reviewer's signature on the Outline, and send an e-copy of same to all members of the student's Graduate Committee;

13. Fulfillment, by **end of the semester**, of a recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

14. Fulfillment, by **end of the semester**, of

a required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program) with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, four /4/ academic credit hours, and a minimum recommended total of thirteen /13/ academic credit hours for the semester;

15. Have attended, by **end of the semester**, any intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student's Graduate Committee Chair);

16. APS Fellows completing at least their second (2nd) semester, may request, on a timely basis,

a. conferral of the ThM degree, providing:

(1). they have completed one year of APS residency;

(2). they are in good standing in their APS (ThD or DCEd) program; student should request *Letter of Good Standing* (see "Letter of Good Standing," above) from the Departmental Chair (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

(3). they complete, submit to their Graduate Committee and have a highly promising "**Proposed Research Outline**" (note that this is not the final Dissertation *Prospectus* submitted by the student in Candidacy; see below, #47, "c"), approved by the Committee and signed by the Departmental Chair, one month prior to conferral, at a duly established ETS commencement program (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members); and

b. renewal of Fellowship; submit same "**Letter of Good Standing**" from Departmental Chair, to the ETS Teaching Assistant & Fellowship Programs, Academic Office (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members).

Note: New ETS Fellows must personally sign and present their approved "Doctrinal Confession" at the first duly convened ETS Commencement Program; see current ETS Academic Calendar.

Second Year of Residency

Third Semester:

17. Secure, by **second month** of third semester, a *third meeting with student's Graduate Committee*, for review of over-all progress of student in his/her program; this meeting includes:

a. present, for Committee approval, his/her **Proposed Research Outline** and **Provisional Research Bibliography**;

b. secure Chair's signature on the above referenced ("a") *Outline and Bibliography (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members)*;

c. overview, with Committee, nature and expectations for taking Oral/ Written Comprehensive Examinations (developed by the academic departments). Students *must take*, and hence should begin to master, each of the following area examinations:

--*Biblical Studies*;

--*Systematic & Apologetical Theology*;

--*Church History*;

Students *may choose*, and hence should prepare to master, at least two of the three following area examinations:

--*Practical Theology*;

--*Christian Education*;

--*Interdepartmental Worldview Studies*.

d. examinations will be administered beginning in the fifth semester (for Fellows), or sixth semester (for all others);

18. Work, **throughout the semester**, closely with his/her Academic Advisor, on any research/revisions of the approved Proposed Research Outline (or, if being considered, an alternative study should be brought to Advisor's attention, to be approved by the Advisor and Chair);

19. Secure, **by end of the semester**, a *second oral review of the student's Proposed Research Outline* (or a first review of the alternative, if approved by Advisor and Chair) from any ETS independent (non-committee) faculty

member (or other acceptable graduate institution); student must secure the Reviewer's signature on the **Proposed Research Outline**, and send a copy of same to all members of the student's Graduate Committee;

20. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a *recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses* (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

21. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a *required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course*, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program) with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, 4 academic credit hours, and a minimum recommended total of 13 academic credit hours for the semester;

22. Have attended, **by end of the semester**, any intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student's Graduate Committee Chair);

23. All other APS Graduate Students (non Fellows or Research/Teacher Assistants) completing *at least their third (3rd) semester*, may request, any time after the third semester *but at least the commencement ceremony prior to the semester in which they take their Comprehensive Examinations*, conferral of the ThM degree, providing:

a. They have completed a year and a half of APS residency;

b. They are in good standing in their APS (ThD or DCEd) program; request **Letter of Good Standing** (see "Letter of Good Standing," above) from your Graduate Committee (see "Graduate Committee," above); *(student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members)*;

c. They complete, submit and have an acceptable ThM thesis, approved by their academic Department (see "ThM Thesis," below), *two months prior to conferral*, at a duly established ETS commencement

program. (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members).

NB, After the APS Comprehensive Examinations, no Candidate may receive the ThM degree from any ETS terminal program.

Fourth Semester:

24. Secure, by **second month** of fourth semester, a fourth meeting with student's **Graduate Committee**, for review of over-all progress of student in his/her program; this meeting includes:

a. present, for Committee approval, progress on expansion/revisions of his/her *Proposed Research Outline* (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

b. review, with Committee, dates and student questions regarding Comprehensive Examinations during fifth semester (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

c. review, with Committee, language requirements and their timely fulfillment;

d. demonstrate work with his/her Academic Advisor throughout semester, on any research/revisions of the approved Proposed Research Outline (or, if being considered, an alternative study should be brought to Advisor's attention, to be approved by the Advisor and Committee);

25. Secure, **by end of the semester**, a third oral review of the student's *Proposed Research Outline*, from an ETS independent (non-committee) faculty member (or other acceptable graduate institution); student must secure the Reviewer's signature on the *Proposed Research Outline*, and send a copy of same to all members of the student's Graduate Committee;

26. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

27. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program) with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, 4 academic credit hours, and a minimum recommended total of 13 academic credit hours for the semester;

28. Have attended, **by end of the semester**, any intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student's Graduate Committee Chair).

Third / Final Year of Residency

Fifth Semester:

29. Secure, by **second month** of fifth semester, a fifth meeting with student's **Graduate Committee**, for review of over-all progress of student in his/her program; this meeting includes:

a. Present, for Committee approval, progress on expansion/revisions of his/her *Proposed Research Outline* (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

b. Review, with Committee, dates [fifth semester, Fellows] and student questions regarding Comprehensive Examinations; (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members);

c. Review, with Committee, language requirements and their timely fulfillment;

30. Secure, **by end of the semester**, a third oral review of the student's *Proposed Research Outline*, from an ETS independent (non-committee) faculty member (or other acceptable graduate institution); student must secure the Reviewer's signature on the *Proposed Research Outline*, and send a copy of same to all members of the student's Graduate Committee;

31. If taking Comprehensive Examination during this (fifth) semester, request, take and turn in Comprehensive Examination,

according to Examination Guidelines (see OGS, *Department of Testing and Evaluation Services*). Students failing an initial examination (oral or written), may re-take during next two semesters after initial examination. Failure to meet the requirement at third re-take will lead to suspension from the APS program, until the requirement is met (for reinstatement, see “APS Reinstatement Policy,” above).

32. If taking Comprehensive Examination during this (fifth) semester, also request dates (up to 3 months before graduation) for Oral or Written Examination of chosen foreign language, unless waived by student’s Chair (*student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members*);

33. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

34. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program) with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, 4 academic credit hours, and a minimum recommended total of 13 academic credit hours for the semester;

35. Have attended, **by end of the semester**, any intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student’s Graduate Committee Chair).

36. Fellows *who have completed* these requirements,

a. should seek from their Chair, and have signed, the “**Approval for Candidacy Form**”; once secured,

b. student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members, then

c. proceed to #47, in “Second Period of the APS Course of Study,” below;

37. Fellows *who have not completed these requirements*, must continue to take:

a. two graduate elective APS courses,

until all Residency requirements are met, *or*

b. *take one* elective course, and *teach another*, until all Residency requirements are met; *or*

c. *teach two* courses, until all requirements are met.

Note: *When the above semester guidelines (recommended and required) have been met, the completion of the fifth semester generally will fulfill the 65 graduate academic hours Residency requirements for all Fellows and guided Research/ Teaching Assistants at ETS.*

Sixth Semester:

38. General APS students who have normally **not** completed all Comprehensive Examinations and Residency Requirements for his/her program (all non-Fellows fall into this category), secure, by **second month** of sixth semester, a sixth meeting with student’s academic Graduate Committee, for review of over-all progress of student in his/her program; this meeting includes:

a. Present, for Committee approval, progress on expansion/revisions of his/her *Proposed Research Outline*; (*student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members*);

b. Review, with Committee, dates [sixth semester, all APS who are not Fellows] and student questions regarding Comprehensive Examinations; (*student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members*);

c. Review, with Committee, language requirements and their timely fulfillment;

39. Secure, **by end of the semester**, a fourth oral review of the student’s Proposed Research Outline, from an ETS independent (non-committee) faculty member (or other acceptable graduate institution); student must secure the Reviewer’s signature on the **Proposed Research Outline**, and send a copy of same to all members of the student’s Graduate Committee;

40. If taking a *Comprehensive Examination* during this (sixth) semester, request, take

and turn in Comprehensive Examination, according to Examination Guidelines (see OGS, *Department of Testing and Evaluation Services*).

41. If taking Comprehensive Examination during this (sixth) semester, also request dates for Oral or Written Examination of chosen foreign language (up to 3 months before graduation), unless waived by student's Chair (*student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members*);

42. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a recommended minimum of three [3] academic departmental courses (see current ETS Class Schedule, for selection), with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, and 9 academic credits;

43. Fulfillment, **by end of the semester**, of a required minimum of one [1] academic inter-departmental Independent Research course, (see Academic Office, Interdepartmental Studies Program) with a minimum 3.00 GPA in each class, 4 academic credit hours, and a minimum recommended total of 13 academic credit hours for the semester;

44. Have attended, **by end of the semester**, any intensive seminars, colloquia, labs, conferences or field practicums, as required by his/her degree program (confer with student's Graduate Committee Chair).

45. General APS students *who have completed* these requirements,

a. should seek from their Chair, and have signed, the "**Approval for Candidacy Form**"; once secured,

b. student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members, then

c. proceed to #47, in "*Second Period of the APS Course of Study – Candidacy*," below;

46. Fellows *who have not completed these requirements*, must continue to take:

a. two graduate non-required APS courses, until all Residency requirements are met, or, if recommended by the Department, *or*

b. *if recommended* by the Departmental (Graduate Committee) Chair, *take* one course, and *teach* another, until all

Residency requirements are met.

Note: *When the above semester guidelines (recommended and required) have been met, the completion of the fifth semester generally will fulfill the 65 graduate academic hours Residency requirements for all Fellows and guided Research/ Teaching Assistants at ETS.*

Note: *When the above semester guidelines (recommended and required) have been met, the completion of the sixth semester by most students will generally fulfill the 78 graduate academic hours Residency requirements for all APS students who are not Fellows at ETS.*

All APS students who have completed these requirements, (a) should seek from their Chair, and have signed, the "Approval for Candidacy Form"; once secured, (b) (student should confirm same by e-copying all Committee Members, then (c) proceed to #45, "Second Period of the APS Course of Study," below:

Second Period of the APS Course of Study

Candidacy Program

Seventh Semester:

(Sixth for Fellows):

47. Students who are Candidates should meet, as soon as possible during the **first month** of the Candidacy semester, with his or her academic advisory (Student Graduate) committee; at this meeting,

a. the Candidate's former Graduate Committee will be re-nominated as the **Dissertation Committee** (*Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members*);

b. the Candidate's former "Academic Advisor" will become a regular *Dissertation Committee member*; in unusual circumstances, the Candidate may request he or she be retained as his/her thesis or **Dissertation Advisor**; otherwise, another Dissertation Advisor may be recommended by the Candidate, and adopted, when there is a unanimous approval of the proposed advisor by the Dissertation Committee

(Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members);

c. the Candidate's former "Proposed Research Outline" will be adopted by the New Dissertation Committee as the **Dissertation Prospectus**, with recommendations for its advancement (Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members);

d. the Candidate will secure, at this meeting or as soon as possible, a "**Degree Program Approval**" (signed by the Chair of the sponsoring Department *and* by the Dean of the Academic Division.

N.B., until this Degree Program approval is attained, Candidate may not continue in the Program);

48. Candidates with Degree Program approval will attend and participate in the first

a. *Orientation to Candidacy Seminar* offered, and

b. the first *Doctoral Research & Investigation Seminar* offered;

49. Will meet on a timely basis, as follows:

a. **weekly**, personally, by Skype or other effective electronic means, with their Dissertation Advisor;

b. **monthly**, and *in person*, with their Dissertation Committee;

50. Candidates

a. who are Fellows will teach a minimum amount of one or two courses per semester (in lieu of higher tuition), until the defense of his/her Dissertation;

b. all other Candidates are required to take a minimum of one course per semester (may be Independent Research course), until the defense of his/her Dissertation;

Eighth Semester:

(Seventh for Fellows)

51. Candidates will continue course of work detailed in #47-50, above, until the *Defense of their Dissertation*.

52. Candidates should request from his Committee or Chair, the assignment of Institutional and External Readers, preferably *the semester prior to the submission* of his/her dissertation to the Committee, or as soon as feasible (Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members);

53. Candidates may request permission of their Advisor for the submission of their Dissertation to the Committee,

a. any time after the Seventh Semester (General APS Candidates) or Sixth Semester (Fellows), together with a

b. signed approval of the Dissertation by the Dissertation Advisor (only use **form provided by OGS: "Advisory Letter: Approval of Dissertation 'x-Title-x'";** Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members);

54. The Dissertation Committee will accept *submission of the Dissertation for defense*, and *set a date for the same*, on the basis of

a. its timely initial submission, *at least* four [4] months prior to a duly scheduled Commencement exercise;

b. its acceptance, without decided disapproval of any Committee member, for defense;

c. a "**Defense Approval Date**" letter, signed by the Chair, stating its acceptance for defense, with dates for the same, as approved by the Committee (Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members);

55. The Candidate will meet at the indicated time and place, with the full Committee and

a. all Institutionally invited members, and

b. any guests invited by the Candidate (personal, professional or academic; limit of three);

56. The Dissertation/Departmental Chair will provide the parameters of the Defense, including topical and temporal, and open with the first question(s);

a. the Defense will generally be divided

into the following (approximate) sections, as guided by the Committee's Chair and Candidate's Advisor:

i. the first quarter of the time set will be broadly devoted to the philosophical/ theological context or world view with which the Candidate approached the main themes comprehended by the topic, while

ii. the Candidate, in the second quarter, will address more narrowly the history of the topic, and the historiography used in exposing that time-line;

iii. the second half will be geared to the specific development of the Candidate's themes, the problematic(s) encountered, the solution(s) sought, the conclusion(s) made and the concrete proposal(s) offered as a bridge to building avenues, structures or institutions of blessings for the foundational relations all Christians, and especially the leadership of the Church, must maintain: in reverence to God, as brother-sister of his or her Neighbor, and in custodial care of God's good Creation.

57. Although the Chair will guide the overall direction and length of the Defense program,

a. the Candidate will have liberty to proceed and openly answer within these guidelines, as guaranteed through the presence of his Dissertation Advisor.

b. all formal members of the Committee will be guaranteed opportunity for questions and other observations by the Chair;

c. guests of the Candidate will not have voice, unless otherwise indicated and to the degree provided by the Chair.

58. At the conclusion of the Defense, as indicated by the Chair,

a. the Chair will ask for an Executive Meeting of the Committee, and request all those present not formal members of the Committee to remove from the room, until (and if) invited to return;

b. at the conclusion of the Executive

Meeting, the Chair will request the return of the Candidate, and indicate which others, if any, are also invited.

59. Candidates who *do not have their dissertation defense approved*, must re-apply to the program; if the application is accepted, various options and alternatives may be suggested by the Chair.

a. a *new* Dissertation Committee will be formed, as specifically approved by the Academic Dean in consultation with the Departmental Chair;

b. this Committee will seek an expedited alternative dissertation proposal. Several courses may be required, and such work as this new Dissertation Committee may deem necessary (*Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all new Dissertation Committee Members*).

60. Candidates who have a *conditional approval*, must have all conditions reviewed and approved by Chair (or other members assigned the task), before proceeding to graduation; depending on the time left, the doctor-designate will be responsible for accelerated arrangements for all payments, binding and required distribution of the dissertation: ask for Chair's "Letter of Dissertation Acceptance" (*Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members*);

61. Candidates who *sustain the defense of their dissertation* with full approval (or minor corrections) before the Committee, may continue to the regular program for graduation, after making arrangements for all payments, binding and required distribution of the dissertation: ask for Chair's "**Letter of Dissertation Acceptance**," which will appear, with other "preliminaries," near the front section of the bound dissertation (*Candidate should confirm same by e-copying all Dissertation Committee Members*);

62. Doctorate-designates will follow all stipulated requirements for graduation; he/she should coordinate with his or her Department Chair, and review all the

stipulations found in:

a. "Requirements for Graduation,"
Administrative Division:

--Office of the Registrar;

--Office of Payments and
Collections; and,

b. "Requirements for APS
Commencement Exercise," Academic
Division:

--Office of Graduate Studies;

--The Academic Office.

Note: For a review of the policy and procedures of the APS Language Requirements, see "Office of Graduate Studies," "Department of Testing and Evaluation Services," "Policy and Procedures for Language Evaluation", above. For a review of the policy and procedures of the APS Comprehensive Examinations, see "Office of Graduate Studies," "Department of Testing and evaluation Services," "Policy and Procedures for Comprehensive Examinations," above).

Theologiae Doctor (Th.D.)

With Five Areas of Leadership Emphasis:

Biblical Worldview Studies
Theological & Apologetical Studies
Church History Studies
Ecclesiology (Practical Theology) Studies
Christian Education

The Doctor of Theology, at ETS with an emphasis on Hispanic Ministries, brings into focus the great need to establish dynamic, living programs of Godly transformation in life and thought for the largest and fastest growing minority social grouping in North America: those who speak Spanish as a first or generationally second language. With this in mind, it is especially geared to those who wish to invest residency in a place where the need for leadership in Hispanic, Border and Trans-Cultural issues is an everyday reality: the Rio Grande Valley, between Texas and Mexico. Here we focus, daily, on the social problematic of the Church of Jesus Christ as it is confronted by some of the over-riding challenges of the day in our nation.

The future graduate of the program is thus driven to find the balm of Biblical peace as a condition of the Kingdom of Shalom, where Christ's rule is witnessed to as truth and hope, according to the insights and teaching of Scriptures:

First, by means of a broad, but at the same time profound, academic cementation in the seminary's core theological program and the Candidate's biblical-theological area of specialization and amplification, especially as he or she develops it within a Biblical worldview;

Second, at the highest levels of academic topical selection, the investigation, contextualization

and verification, in the application of his or her studies, of the great and defining issues today confronting (an often undermining) society and church.

By this means the program seeks to prepare a leadership for the church as the Body of Christ that will open new avenues of understanding based on a Kingdom Perspective, where the Body of Believers in the Sovereignty of God and Lordship of Christ might have a pervasive

cultural-historical influence in promotion of the highest standards of His Kingdom of Shalom: that place and time of prophecy and promise by our Savior and Lord as the conclusion to all of our efforts when guided by His Spirit and for the honor of His Father.

The ThD program includes, then, in addition to the first two "theological" steps mentioned above, a study of:

1. leadership methodologies for administrative *planning and programming* at the highest levels for non-profit organizations (NPOs);
2. *legal definitions* and a basic understanding of rights and obligations of NPOs, within the Church/State debates and actual rulings;
3. changes related to new administrative techniques, a positive understanding of *personnel management* within a biblical understanding of the limits and conditions of

power assumed in leadership, seeking an ethical, juridical, and social balance as defined by one's worked-out biblical perspective;

4. the revolutionary impact of *hyper-connectivity in all social, business and inter-personal magnitudes and developmental processes*; specifically,

- (a) in electronic webs and
- (b) in manipulation of data, as these
- (c) amplify control of
 - (i) administrative areas,
 - (ii), cognitive production of ideas and their intellectual derivatives and property rights,
 - (iii), and in the adapting of optimum human mental ergonomics in promotion of "i" and "ii" above.

A schematized outline or Summary of the ThD Program at ETS is as follows (for a more detailed look at the specific courses, see the individual academic departments referred to in this Summary):

Hours by Departments

--Interdepartmental	12 hrs
--Biblical WV:	12 hrs
(Includes 6 hours of independent investigation)	
--Church History:	12 hrs
(Includes 6 hours of independent investigation)	
--Systematic Dept:	12 hrs
(Includes 6 hours of independent investigation):	
--Practical Theol/Eccl:	9 hrs
(Includes 3 hours of independent investigation)	
9 hours of Evangelism and Missions):	
--Educ Dept:	9 hrs
(Includes 6 hours of independent investigation)	
--Additional Courses in Academic Department of Research Emphasis	12 hrs
(Includes 3 hours of Research Methodology)	
-- Dissertation	6 hrs

84 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM

Dissertation: The ThD requires a doctoral dissertation of approximately 180 pages (minimum, 120 pages; for the maximum allowed, see corresponding section entitled ETS Guide for Theses and Dissertation, Academic Office, where the subject is treated in greater detail).