

# THD: DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

Roy E. Gane, *Director*

The primary purpose of advanced academic studies leading to the Doctor of Theology (ThD) degree is to provide teacher-scholars in the fields of biblical and theological studies for the Seventh-day Adventist Church—primarily its institutions of higher learning (colleges, seminaries, universities) around the world. This academic degree meets the need of individuals in areas of the world where a ThD is the preferred academic degree. The normal doctorate in religion is the PhD.

The ThD program is offered in two fields of study with areas of emphasis as listed below.

## Biblical Studies

Archaeology and History  
Exegesis and Theology  
Languages and Literature

## Theological Studies

Historical Theology  
Systematic Theology

A minimum of two academic years of formal course work or not fewer than four semesters of full-time study at 12 credits per semester is required. This ordinarily amounts to a minimum of 48 credits of formal course work, 24 credits of which must consist of seminars, directed study, and reading courses. The student chooses a field of study and within that field an area of emphasis to which at least one-half (24 credits) of the course work is devoted. The student also chooses a supporting area, normally in another field, to which at least one-fourth (12 credits) of the course work is devoted. Of the remaining 12 credits of course work, 3 are used in GSEM854, 3 in GSEM920, and 3 in GSEM860. Students with recognized experience as college/graduate-level teachers may devote the latter 3 credits (together with the other remaining 3 credits) to the area of emphasis or to the supporting area.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants must meet the general admission requirements listed in the Graduate Programs Admission section of the bulletin, p. 47, and in the Seminary Admission Requirements, p. 295. Admission to the ThD in religion program is granted by the PhD-ThD Committee to applicants who also have the following qualifications:

- Applicants must hold an MDiv degree or its equivalent from an approved seminary or university. For students holding the MTh degree, the minimum requirement of course work may be lowered, subject to the discretion of the PhD-ThD Committee.
- Applicants must show high promise of future usefulness to church and society.
- Applicants must have a reading proficiency in ancient and modern languages as noted in the Language Requirements section below.

Depending upon the applicant's academic background, the PhD-ThD Committee may also require proficiency examination(s) before granting admission to the doctoral program.

**Admission Procedure.** The admission procedure for the ThD degree program is the same as for the PhD degree program. See

p. 318. Complete and return the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire as directed.

**Language Requirements.** Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in specified foreign languages in one of these ways:

- By passing language proficiency examinations.
- By taking specified language courses (e.g., advanced courses in Hebrew and Greek and FREN502 and GRMN502) at Andrews University and earning a grade of B or above.

*If French or German (or a substitute modern language) is the student's native language and he/she has been using it regularly, no special demonstration of competency is required for that language.*

Foreign language requirements for the ThD program are listed below.

**Biblical Languages:** Advanced Level Hebrew and Greek

**Modern Languages:** Reading knowledge of French and German

**Language Substitution.** Another foreign language may be substituted for either French or German (but not for both) if the substitution is warranted by the student's program. The student must submit a petition requesting the substitution and indicating a rationale for the request. The student's adviser and the program director must approve the petition before the substitution is allowed.

Because of the amount of study and the length of time usually required in developing prerequisite-level skill in languages, the PhD-ThD Committee may require applicants to clear all the language prerequisites prior to admission.

**Advanced Standing.** A limited amount of post-MDiv work may be accepted by transfer from an accredited institution (including Andrews University), giving the student an advanced standing in the ThD program. The credits must be applicable to the ThD requirements and have been earned within a six-year period before the student's enrollment in the program. All transfer courses must carry a grade of B or better. An Andrews University MTh student whose credits have been earned within this time frame may yield up to 16 credits of advanced standing in the ThD program. The work must be applicable and not have been taken as an entrance requirement because of deficiency in GPA and/or course work. Transfer credit is granted at the discretion of the director of PhD-ThD Programs, and a transcript must be on file at the Academic Records Office.

Information on Residence and Course Requirements, Comprehensive Examinations, and the Doctoral Dissertation Information is the same as for the PhD program (see above).

## COURSES

(Credits)

See inside front cover for symbol code.

Course numbers used in this bulletin are the following:

- 500-599 Master's level courses for professional programs
- 600-699 Master's and doctoral level courses
- 700-799 Professional doctoral courses
- 800-999 Academic doctoral courses

Whenever an alternative number of credits is designated for a given course, a hyphen (e.g., "2-3 credits") indicates that the student may choose the number of credits within the designated amount (corresponding work is assigned by the teacher); the word "or" (e.g., "2 or 3 credits") indicates that in any given term the course is available for one of the amounts of credit (but not both). Courses may be increased or decreased by 1 credit in extension schools at the discretion of the dean.