

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
PH.D IN THEOLOGY**



**STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026 - 27**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE PH.D. PROGRAM

1.1 Purpose of the Handbook

The purpose of the handbook is to provide prospective and current student with an overview of the Ph.D. in Theology program. This document describes the history of the program, mission and vision of Oral Roberts University and the College of Theology and Ministry, the structure of the program, academic policies, graduation requirements, faculty, and resources. The handbook is subject to revision. It should be seen as a work in progress and should be used by the readers as a point of reference regarding the developmental phase of the Ph.D. program.

1.2 History of the Ph.D. Program

The inspiration of the Ph.D. program derives from a planning committee assembled in 2015 by Dean Thomson Mathew, Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry. The committee, consisting of Edward Watson, Eric Newberg, Trevor Grizzle, and Daniel Thimell, originally suggested the development of a doctoral program in Global Christian Studies. After giving due consideration to placement of graduates, it was decided that the best option would be to offer a degree in theology with a focus on global Spirit empowered movements. With the support of ORU President William Wilson, the committee consulted with Dr. Wonsuk Ma of the Oxford Centre for the Study of World Mission and concluded that the first track in the program should be in Contextual Theology. In August 2017 Dr. Ma assumed the position of Distinguished Professor of World Christianity and took over as Director of the ORU Ph.D. in Theology.

The committee has been developing the program within the challenging theological higher education climate as informed by the commissioned Hanover Report document. The school's commitment to the program is based on three factors: 1) the vision of the school to build a strong research component to serve the global Spirit-empowered movements; 2) the radical changes in global Christianity which afford unique new opportunities to reshape the world church and its mission; and 3) the outcome of the two surveys conducted by the committee. One may ask, why a new Ph.D. in Theology. Dr. Ma responds by pointing to the two premises on which the new program is positioned. The first is ORU's unique locus in the worldwide Pentecostal-Charismatic (or Spirit-empowered) movement. ORU is one of two U.S. institutions with this level of the educational program, which caters to the explosively growing segment of Christianity, called Charismatic and Neo-Charismatic movements. The second premise is the global trend of practitioner-based theological higher education. Dr. Ma has personal experience of this trend. His work at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (ocms.ac.uk) is the largest Ph.D. program in Mission Studies within Europe. Most of its 120 students are practitioners from the global South. In recent years, it has ranked amongst the top programs in the world.

Under the direction of Dr. Ma, the Ph.D. Committee prepared proposals for accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). During this process, in May 2018, Dr. Wonsuk Ma transitioned from his role as Program Director to assume the position of Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry. Dr. Vinson Synan succeeded him as Program Director. Dr. Synan oversaw the final stages of the program approval process. Following site visits from both accrediting agencies, the Ph.D. program

received provisional accreditation and formally began in the fall semester of 2019. Dr. Synan passed away on March 15, 2020. Afterwards, the university subsequently entered a period of transition as it identified new leadership for the program.

In May 2021, Dr. Peter Althouse was appointed as the Director of the Ph.D. in Theology, a role he continues to hold today. A distinguished scholar in Systematic Theology with a Ph.D. from the University of St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, Dr. Althouse specializes in global Spirit-empowered Movements, Pentecostal Eschatology, and the Theology of Renewal. Having served as the President of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (2022–2023), he brings a high level of academic leadership to the program. Under his supervision, the ORU Ph.D. Program continues to bridge rigorous research with practitioner-based education, with a primary focus on training and equipping emerging scholars in Pentecostal and Charismatic studies to serve the global academic and theological community.

1.3 Accreditation

ORU's regional accrediting agency is the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The programs of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry are accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). ATS requires its member schools to abide by its educational standards.

1.4 ORU Mission and Vision

Oral Roberts University is a charismatic university, founded in the fires of evangelism and upon the unchanging precepts of the Bible. The founding vision of the university emerged as a result of evangelist Oral Roberts obeying God's mandate to build a university on God's authority and the Holy Spirit. God's commission to Oral Roberts was to "Raise up your students to hear My voice, to go where My light is dim, where My voice is heard small, and My healing power is not known, even to the uttermost bounds of the earth. Their work will exceed yours, and in this I am well pleased."

It is the mission of Oral Roberts University—in its commitment to the Christian faith and to the university's Founding Vision—to assist students in a quest for knowledge of and relationship to God, humanity and the universe. Dedicated to the realization of truth and the achievement of one's potential life capacity, the university seeks to educate the whole person in spirit, mind and body, thereby preparing its graduates to be spiritually alive, intellectually alert, physically disciplined and socially adept. To accomplish this purpose, Oral Roberts University seeks to synthesize, by means of interdisciplinary cross-pollination, the best traditions in liberal arts, professional and graduate education with a charismatic emphasis to enable students to go into every person's world with healing for the totality of human need.

1.5 College of Theology and Ministry

The ORU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry seeks to prepare students for competent and Spirit-led Christian ministry. The seminary is called to develop men and women who know the Bible, who have a deep compassion for people, and who, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, can revitalize the church, evangelize the world, and heal the nations.

Professional theological education at this seminary will integrate biblical and theological training with practical skills. This integration will take place in a charismatic/Pentecostal ethos where the gifts of the Spirit are manifested and spiritual formation is nurtured. The seminary seeks to develop leaders who can communicate the message of the gospel to those in need of a Savior, and God's healing power to the world's suffering. The goal of the school for its graduates is to carry this vital message of redemption, holiness and healing to those places "where God's light is seen dim, where His voice is heard small, where His healing power is not known."

The Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, the Seminary of Oral Roberts University, educates and equips men and women biblically, theologically, and professionally to serve as Spirit-empowered leaders in the church, society, and the global community.

2.0 PROGRAM INFORMATION

2.1 Purpose of the Program

The purpose of ORU Ph.D. program in Theology is to explore creative theological constructs from dynamic experiences of global Spirit-empowered Christianity in engagement with given contexts to produce original research and scholar/practitioners that serve the kingdom of God. The mission of the program is to prepare Spirit-empowered leaders and scholars to impact the world with God's healing.

The PhD program coincides with the university's vision and mission in five strategic aims:

1. Strive to Become the Premier Spirit-empowered University.
2. Serve the global Spirit-Empowered Movement as ORU's Primary Constituency.
3. Teach and Demonstrate the Healing Power of Jesus Christ.
4. Improve the Quality and Value of the Academic Education Received by ORU Students.
5. Create a Thriving Global Culture within the University.

The leadership of the university has been closely following the development of global Christianity and Spirit-Empowered Movements in order to help position the institution with what the Holy Spirit is doing. The PhD program addresses these six contemporary developments in global Christianity:

1. Current global shifts in Christianity.
2. Academic studies of the integral relationship between Spirit-empowered Christianity and the growth of global Christianity
3. Rising social engagement in Spirit-empowered movements and the widening range of cultural and social issues raised by academics and practitioners.
4. The increasing interaction of Spirit-empowered movements with other religions.
5. The heritage of ORUs global vision and theological heritage.
6. Increase in the Holy Spirit's movement amongst marginalized as opposed to inside the institutional church.

2.2 Program Goals and Outcomes

The program goals (G) of the PhD in Theology express the mission and vision of the ORU Graduate School of Theology and Ministry in general and the PhD program in particular. The learning outcomes (O) identify advanced and integrated knowledge, skills, and competencies that a graduate of the program is expected to be able to demonstrate.

Goals	Outcomes
G1. To enable students to acquire comprehensive knowledge of the disciplines of theological study with	O.1.1. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge in and a general mastery of their major area of specialization.

specialization in a particular area of study	O.1.2. Demonstrate expertise in the specific area of theology by means of dissertation research.
G2. To provide students with the skills needed to engage in original research at the university and seminary level in their area of theological expertise and to contribute to the body of knowledge in the field through actionable research and publications.	O.2.1. Demonstrate a capacity to produce publication-worthy research and writing that contributes to the knowledge and advancement of the field
	O.2.2. Disseminate the findings of research through traditional and digital means.
G3. To engage students in a sustained exploration of the connections and interactions between the academic disciplines of theological studies and the practices of Christian ministry, mission, spirituality, and social engagement.	O.3.1. Articulate knowledge of the interrelationships between the subject matter of Christian theology and the practices Christian ministry and mission.
	O.3.2. Engage critically in theological reflection on Christian spirituality and social engagement.
G4. To equip students with pedagogical competencies that prepare them to teach and lead in their area of theological expertise in diverse academic and vocational contexts in local and global constituencies.	O.4.1. Demonstrate knowledge of learning theories and methods of assessment in order to help learners to think critically with global awareness and engagement.
	O.4.2. Demonstrate ability to teach and lead effectively in their area of concentration and in their chosen vocational context.
G5. To equip students to interpret and communicate knowledge with sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.	O.5.1. Demonstrate an ability to interpret and to communicate knowledge from a charismatic perspective.
	O.5.2. Demonstrate an awareness of the distinctive characteristics of ORU's constituency, the Spirit-empowered movement.

After completing the program, our students will achieve the above goals by performing the above outcomes in the following three domains:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of new trajectories in theology, especially in relation to Spirit-empowered movements in the Global South
- Display an understanding of the spectrum of contextual theology from a Spirit-empowered perspective
- Master the conventions of advance academic research, including scientific methodologies of scholarly inquiry and data collection
- Understand the significance of the turn to context in global theology.
- Acquire an research-based best practices in teaching strategies, instructional planning, attention to the needs of learners, and assessment techniques

Experience

- Confirm the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the reliable standard of faith, doctrine, and conduct
- Attest to the power of the Holy Spirit as the living presence of God and the source of truth and empowerment in theological reflection
- Know the empowering, renewing, and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in their lives
- Comprehend the integration of spiritual experience and ethical integrity as the starting point for Christian scholarship, ministry, and service
- Value academic excellence as integral to seeking the Kingdom God

Practice

- Develop acumen as leading researchers, teachers, and practitioners the Spirit-empowered movements
- Teach with distinction in universities, seminaries, and colleges
- Produce original research and participate in academic associations and conferences at the highest level
- Publish dissertations, monographs, and articles in scholarly series and journals

2.3 Structure of the Program

The structure of the program is modular. This format allows students to remain in their teaching and ministry context as an integral part of the learning experience. This goal is achieved by combining intensive residential periods of instruction with instructor mentoring facilitated via cutting edge educational technology. Each Ph.D. course consists of three sections:

1. Pre-residency
2. Residency
3. Post-residency

Course syllabi will follow these three sections with specific dates and corresponding assignments. All courses will run the length of a full semester, fall, spring, and summer. A student's schedule must allow for ongoing participation throughout the entire semester. Pre-residential assignments differ from course to course but generally include pre-course reading assignments, processing audio-visual or online resources, and/or engaging the student in online dialogues with his/her colleagues. During the on-site residency of five days, students will engage in academic dialogue with the professor and other students during class hours and have the opportunity to utilize the library research facilities after class hours. Students will only come to the ORU campus during the residential portion of each course. Hence, it will be necessary for students to travel to Tulsa, Oklahoma for one-week periods during the fall and spring semesters. Some courses will be conducted with virtual presences, e.g., online using interactive video hook-up. Students must make plans to attend the required residencies during the program. Post-residential seminar assignments may differ from course to course. Generally, they will include the submission of a major research paper.

2.4 Curriculum

Contextual Theology Track (PhDCT)

Course Code	Title	Credits
ASSESSMENTS (2 hours)		
PRFT 901	Orientation Assessment†	0.5
PRFT 910	Entry Level Assessment†	0.5
PRFT 920	Mid-Level Assessments†	0.5
PRFT 930	Candidacy Level Assessment†	0.5
PRFT 990	Comprehensive Exams	0
COMMON (12 Hours)		
PRFT 947	Research Methods (previously PRFT 949)	3
GTHE 990	Dissertation* ††	3
GTHE 990	Dissertation* ††	3
GTHE 990	Dissertation* ††	3
GTHE 995	Dissertation Continuation**	1
GTHE 905	Dissertation Defense	0
CORE (21 Hours)		
GBIB 911	Seminar in Old Testament Theology	3
GBIB 921	Seminar in New Testament Theology	3
GBIB 931	Spirit Hermeneutics	3
GTHE 951	History of Christian Doctrine	3
GTHE 962	Doing Theology in the Global Christian Context	3
GTHE 965	History of Global Spirit Empowered Movements	3
GTHE 967	Contemporary Issues in Spirit Empowered Christianity	3
TRACK (15 Hours)		
GTHE 961	History and Methods of Contextual Theology	3
GTHE 972	Theology of Spirit-Empowered Mission	3
GTHE 981	Integrated Seminar in Contextual Theology 1	3
GTHE 982	Integrated Seminar in Contextual Theology 2	3
ELECTIVE	Elective (select one of the following)	3
	• GTHE 971 History and Theology of Missions • GTHE 974 Christian Theology and Other Religions • GTHE 976 Contextual Leadership Development • GTHE 978 Global Pentecostalism and Social Engagement • GTHE 980 Directed Study	
ORU DISTINCTIVE COURSES		
GHPE 903	Health Physical Education (online)	1

† Artifact required for Assessment

†† Rubric required for Assessment

*GTHE 990 Dissertation and GTHE 995 Dissertation Continuation are full-time.

**If dissertation is not completed during GTHE 990 enrollment then GTHE 995 registration is required semester until the completion of the dissertation.

Contextual Theology Track (PhDCT)**Total Required Hours 52 (42+ Dissertation)**
(Suggested course load)

Name _____

Date ____/____/____

Contextual Theology Track (PhDCT)

Course Code/Title	Credit	Course Code/Title	Credit
FALL—First Year			
PRFT 947	Research Methods (previously PRFT 949)	3	
GTHE 951	History of Christian Doctrine	3	
PRFT 901	Orientation Assessment†	0.5	
SPRING—First Year			
GTHE 962	Doing Theology in the Global Christian Context	3	
GBIB 921	Seminar in New Testament Theology	3	
SUMMER—First Year			
GTHE 967	Contemporary Issues in Spirit Empowered Christianity	3	
GTHE 965	History of Global Spirit Empowered Movements	3	
FALL—Second Year			
GBIB 911	Seminar in Old Testament Theology	3	
GBIB 931	Spirit Hermeneutics	3	
PRFT 910	Entry Level Assessment†	0.5	
SPRING—Second year			
GTHE 961	History and Methods of Contextual Theology	3	
GTHE 972	Theology of Spirit-Empowered Missions	3	
SUMMER—Second Year			
GTHE 981	Integrated Seminar on Contextual Theology	3	
	(Elective – select one of the following based on yearly offering)		
GTHE 978	Global Pentecostalism and Social Engagement	3	
GTHE 974	Christian Theology and Other Religions	3	
GTHE 971	History and Theology of Missions	3	
GTHE 976	Contextual Leadership Development	3	
GTHE 980	Directed Study	3	
GHPE 903	Health Physical Education (online)	1	
Fall - Third Year			
GTHE 982	Integrated Seminar on Contextual Theology 2	3	
PRFT 990	Comprehensive Exams	0	
PRFT 920	Mid-Level Assessment	0.5	
Spring - Third Year			
GTHE 990	Dissertation ††	3	
Summer - Third Year			
GTHE 990	Dissertation ††	3	
Fall - Fourth Year			
GTHE 990	Dissertation ††	3	
Until Dissertation Completion			
GTHE 995	Dissertation Continuation**	1	
Upon Dissertation Completion			
GTHE 905	Dissertation Defense	0	
PRFT 930	Candidacy Level Assessment	0.5	

† Required artifact for PhD Program.

†† Rubric required for Assessment.

*GTHE 990 Dissertation and GTHE 995 Dissertation Continuation are full-time.

** If dissertation is not completed during GTHE 990 enrollment then GTHE 995 registration is required per semester until the completion of the dissertation. A fee is assessed for each iteration of GTHE 995.

In order to remain in the PhD Program, students must earn a grade no lower than “B” for each course throughout the program. See the Program Handbook for details.

*Students are required to follow the sequence of courses on the Degree Plan Sheet***In order to remain in the PhD Program, students must earn a grade no lower than “B” for each course throughout the program. See the Program Handbook for details.**

2.5 Contextual Theology Track

The contextual theology track explores the contextual theologies of global Christianity. Contextual theology utilizes a method of doing theology that takes into account four facets of theological reflection:

- The Spirit and message of the Gospel;
- Historic theological orthodoxy;
- The religions and culture of a particular nation or region;
- Global trends in Spirit-empowered Christianity.

Attention will be given to connections and interactions between theological studies and the global explosion of Spirit-empowered Christianity. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit is important for the dynamic engagement of Spirit-empowered Christians within the diverse contexts of the world. The outcome will be original research that produces contextual and transnational theologies, prepares graduates to teach in higher education, and equips practitioners to engage the world with the Christian message.

2.6 Graduation Requirements

General requirements

- Satisfactory completion of all Ph.D. program requirements.
- Minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25.
- In good standing at the seminary.
- Completion of the three levels of assessment courses.
- Completion of research language requirements.
- Successful completion of the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examinations.
- Completion of an acceptable and approved Ph.D. dissertation proposal/prospectus.
- Completion of an acceptable and approved Ph.D. dissertation.
- Acceptable oral defense of the Ph.D. dissertation.
- Register for graduation by submitting the graduation application. For details on how to apply, see the “[Apply to Graduate](#)” information below.
- Approval to graduate from the Doctoral Studies Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and Faculty.

Specific graduation requirements

- Comprehensive Examination

After the completion of 47 credit hours of seminar courses, the student shall register for the Comprehensive Exams. Comprehensive exams will cover the material from the core courses as well as the specialization courses. The exams will be graded Pass with Honors, Pass, Pass with stipulations, and Fail. If a student fails he/she may petition the faculty to retake the exam(s). A second failure results in termination from the Ph.D. program. After the successful completion of

the Comprehensive Exams the student will prepare and submit the Dissertation Proposal and, upon approval of the proposal, will begin work on the dissertation.

- Accessing past D2L courses for the comprehensive exams.

Often students studying for their comprehensive exams ask for access to the D2L content of all their past courses. The D2L administrators typically discourage giving students access to all past courses because the task is very time-consuming. They would only open past courses at the request of each course's instructor. Therefore, if any student requires D2L access to past courses, they should contact the course professor with the name of the course and the year taken, and ask the professor to contact D2L (D2LHelp@oru.edu) to request student access.

- Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus

Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, all Ph.D. program coursework, and language requirements, students will submit a Dissertation Proposal. Students should have no outstanding incompletes and should have passed PRFT 910 and PRFT 920. They will work closely with the assigned dissertation supervisor to make the work a clear, distinct, substantive, and unique work.

The completed formal dissertation proposal must be presented to and approved by the dissertation supervisor and the Ph.D. Director. The proposal should include a proposed title, abstract, table of contents, background, thesis and research questions, purpose and statement of the problem, significance, delimitations, definition of terms, research design and methodology, presuppositions or assumptions, and bibliography.

Proposals will be evaluated and the following assessments offered:

- Approved
- Not Approved

With the successful completion of the comprehensive examinations and the approval of the dissertation proposal, the student will work with a supervisor whose research expertise is directly related to the projected research identified in the proposal, and the Ph.D. Director, in order to develop the study program.

Please see the Dissertation Proposal Policy in the Appendix for additional details.

- Dissertation

A research dissertation advances knowledge in the field of study and enables the participant to integrate and apply his or her learning in global academic and ministry contexts. Dissertation Submission: The student will work closely with his or her supervisor on the writing of the dissertation and on the submission of individual chapters. The supervisor will give timely critique and feedback and the student will be expected to make the appropriate changes and edits. When the dissertation is completed, the student will submit the final draft for review by his or her entire academic team, in preparation for the Oral Defense (Please see: 3.10-3.12).

- Oral defense

When the student's dissertation supervisor confirms that the dissertation is ready for review, the dissertation will then be submitted to the ORU copy editor, who will work with the student as he or she corrects any content and formatting errors. The dissertation will not officially be accepted by the dissertation committee until approved by the ORU copy editor.

After completion of the formatting of the dissertation, the student must submit a copy of the dissertation to each member of his or her dissertation committee and any outside reader(s) appointed by the committee. When the dissertation committee and the outside reader(s) deem that the student's dissertation meets the standards of the academy, his or her oral defense will be scheduled at a time most convenient for both the student and the committee. Often the defense will be conducted residentially, but the defense can also be conducted via a long-distance (i.e., Skype, Robot, Zoom) conference phone call. The student's defense will be open to the academy if conducted in person.

If the student's dissertation defense is successful, the dissertation committee members and outside reader will approve the dissertation by signing the approval page. The student will make any final revisions suggested at the defense. The dissertation will then be submitted to the ORU copy editor for final approval. The dissertation will not officially be accepted by the Seminary until approved by the ORU copy editor.

- External supervisor

When a dissertation requires specialized expertise beyond the areas represented among available ORU faculty, an external supervisor may be appointed. An external supervisor must hold an earned terminal degree from an accredited institution and demonstrate research output and successful supervision of doctoral research projects. Prior to the appointment, the external supervisor's terms and conditions of employment must be agreed upon in writing by the chair, college dean, Provost/Chief Academic Officer, and President.

The external supervisor shall support the student in the development of research, provide expectations, progress and deadlines, prepare the student for and participate in the dissertation examination (defense), and supervise post-defense revisions, corrections, and edits to final completion. When an external supervisor is appointed, an internal ORU committee member shall periodically evaluate the dissertation and its progress to provide internal oversight.

See Appendix: Dissertation Research and Writing Policy.

2.7 Assessment

Assessment takes place at both the course and program levels. At the course level, faculty establish instructional objectives and learning outcomes that correspond with the mission of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry and the goals and outcomes of the Ph.D. program. Course assignments and evaluation rubrics are linked to these learning outcomes.

At the program level, students complete four assessment proficiency courses at designated stages of the program: PRFT 901 Ph.D. Orientation Assessment, PRFT 910 Entry-Level Assessment, PRFT 920 Mid-Level Assessment, and PRFT 930 Candidacy-Level Assessment. These

assessments evaluate the student's academic, professional, spiritual, and personal development, as well as readiness to proceed to the next stage of the program.

PRFT 901 ORIENTATION ASSESSMENT

This initial assessment proficiency course provides an orientation to the PhD program. Students will be evaluating themselves in the area of spiritual formation and development as a baseline for growth throughout the degree program. They will develop an individualized spiritual formation plan. Students will be provided an overview of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Assessment Program.

PRFT 910 ENTRY LEVEL ASSESSMENT

The second level assessment will be conducted by the PhD Assessment Committee at the end of the first academic year. Students will be assessed in the areas of academic, professional, spiritual, and personal development. A rubric determines whether progress on these criteria warrants continuation in the program. Criteria include the achievement of a B grade in all courses.

PRFT 920 MID LEVEL ASSESSMENT

The third level assessment is the comprehensive examination, administered by the PhD Assessment Committee. A rubric will be employed to evaluate the degree to which students demonstrate a broad knowledge of their subject area and preparation to begin research and writing of the dissertation. Students will be provided with guidelines for the comprehensive examination, including sample questions. Criteria include the achievement of a B grade in all courses.

PRFT 930 CANDIDACY ASSESSMENT

The fourth level of assessment is the oral defense of the dissertation, administered by the PhD Defense Committee. A rubric will determine the extent to which the student has demonstrated mastery of the field of his/her thesis research, made an original contribution to knowledge, and exhibited the requisite research and writing skills by the completion of a thesis and successful defense of his/her dissertation through an oral examination. Students will reevaluate themselves on spiritual formation and development.

2.8 Admission Process

Candidates applying for admission to the Ph.D. program must have completed a Master's degree in theology (typically an MDiv) from an ATS approved institution consisting of 72 credit hours or its equivalent. Comparable degrees from institutions outside North America may be accepted, provided schools meet the Standards of ATS Board-approved degrees. Candidates with less than 72 credit hours may be admitted with conditional acceptance. These Candidates will have options for leveling up to 72 credit hours. Applicants with 60 master's credits can register for ORU Ph.D. theology classes while completing leveling. A minimum GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale is required.

Each applicant must submit evidence of the following:

- Four letters of reference. Two academic, one professional, and one personal reference from a non-relative.
- A selection of written work comprising 1) a sample of best academic work (typically an essay with citations), 2) a vocational statement outlining reasons for pursuing a doctoral degree in philosophy from ORU, 3) curriculum vita/ resume, and 4) a research proposal that identifies the area of research, research question(s) or hypothesis, and why further research is desirable.
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies. Transcripts from non-US institutions must be accurately evaluated through World Education Services (www.wes.org) or another NACES approved agency. More information is available at www.wes.org and www.naces.org.
- Applicants whose first language is not English may be asked to provide an official record of scores earned on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), which is no more than two years old. This requirement may be waived if the applicant can produce evidence of proficiency in the English language.

The applicant must demonstrate proficiency in a biblical language (Hebrew or Greek) upon application and a modern language (typically French or German) or a language relevant to their research during the first two years of Ph.D. studies. All candidates must provide a transcript record of two terms of either biblical Hebrew or New Testament Greek. Those who have not taken two terms of a biblical language may be accepted into the program provided they agree to complete the biblical language requirement before the end of the first year of Ph.D. studies. Applicants may demonstrate proficiency in a modern language by completing six credit hours (college or graduate) of language study, or by completing three credit hours of Theological German/French, or passing a proficiency examination with a minimum of 80%.

Application to the program is made through online submittal. The Admissions Committee selects applicants with the strongest qualifications. Candidates who only meet minimal requirements in some areas but are exceptional in others may be accepted. The overall combination of strengths that the applicant brings to the program is assessed in the admissions process. ORU's Office of Admissions must receive applications and all required documentation no later than August for applicants to be eligible for the fall term.

2.8.1 Admission under Special Circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, the Admissions Committee may consider applicants who hold a theological or religious MA, MTS, or equivalent degree and who demonstrate strong research and writing skills and theological thinking. Such applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The following criteria will be considered:

- A graduate degree in Theology or a closely related theological or religious field. Applicants whose degree is not in Theology may be required to complete leveling courses.
- A graduate GPA of 3.8 or higher.
- The quality of the awarding institution.
- The quality of the master's thesis, when available.
- Strong academic recommendations, with at least one or two recommendations from university faculty.
- A record of academically rigorous coursework that demonstrates readiness for Ph.D.-level study.
- The applicant's demonstrated research and writing skills and theological thinking.
- Other pertinent academic artifacts submitted as part of the application.

Based on its review, the Admissions Committee will determine whether additional theological areas require development and whether leveling credits are required or may be waived.

2.8.2 Information for International Applicants

☐ **International Student Financial Guarantee Form**

All international students are required to document verification of their financial support for the first year of study. Support must be verified prior to the University issuing a Form I 20. This form is needed for an applicant to be issued a student visa. A new financial agreement form with verification of funds is required each year. The guarantor must guarantee to meet the actual expenses incurred for each year the applicant is enrolled at ORU

☐ **SEVIS Transfer Request**

This form is required of international students in F-1 Status transferring to ORU from another U.S. school.

☐ **World Educational Services (WES)**

All International students are required to use this or another NACES approved service for quick and accurate evaluation of transcripts. All transcripts must be submitted directly from your undergraduate and graduate institution to WES for evaluation. More information is available at www.wes.org and www.naces.org.

These are the minimal requirements. The Admissions Committee selects applicants with the strongest qualifications. Candidates who only meet minimal requirements in some areas but are exceptional in others may be accepted. The overall combination of strengths that the applicant brings to the program is assessed in the admissions process.

Please Note that applicants to the Ph.D. program who do not meet the ATS mandated requirements of 72 credit hours but have 60 masters-credit hours or more, may be accepted on a provisional basis into the Ph.D. program. In such cases, students may enroll in Ph.D. classes

concurrently while leveling up their masters-level credits to the ATS requirement. For example, a student could take a language class (counting toward leveling) and a Ph.D. class. Applicants who do not meet the biblical language requirement can either pass a proficiency exam or take Hebrew or Greek classes. Ph.D. program entry requires four courses of Hebrew or Greek, which the student can take concurrently with Ph.D. courses.

2.9 Graduate Theology Tuition and Fees

Current tuition and fee information for the 2026–2027 academic year is provided in the appendix and is subject to change.

2.10 Financial Aid Information

ORU is sensitive to the financial challenges students face and encourage students to plan carefully. Financial aid comes in three categories: scholarships, grants and loans. Financial assistance comes from a variety of sources including federal financial aid, aid from outside sources, such as scholarships, veteran's benefits, etc.

For federal financial aid, the student must determine their eligibility by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

The following information is relevant should a student be receiving financial aid.

- Repayment begins 6 months after a student ceases half time enrollment in a fall/spring setup.
- Summer enrollment is not required to be eligible for financial aid.
- A student who attends the fall term and sits out spring term will start repayment 6 months after the last day of the fall term (mid-May)
- A student who attends the spring term and sits out the summer will not start repayment as long as student attends the following fall term.
- A student who attends the spring term and does not attend summer or fall will start repayment 6 months after the last day of the spring term (late October or first of November)
- A student who attends the summer term and sits out the fall term will not start repayment as long as student attends the following spring term
- A student who attends the summer term and does not attend the following fall and spring terms will start repayment 6 months after the last day of the summer term (mid-February)

For more information on financial aid please see <http://www.oru.edu/financial-assistance/> or contact:

Tel: 918.495.6510

Email: studentservicegroup@oru.edu.

2.11 Scholarships

2.11.1 Scholarship Information

Every prospective student who starts a Ph.D. application receives an email directing them to complete their application and apply for the Graduate Quest Scholarship. The Graduate Quest Scholarship ranges from \$1000 to \$5000. There is also the option to apply for a Dean's Fellow Scholarships, which includes full tuition and a \$15,000 annual stipend. However, these Fellowship opportunities are only offered as vacancies arise.

A scholarship committee made up of members of the COTM faculty will assess and rank each scholarship application. This ranking will determine the scholarship amount each student receives. If a student fails to receive from the Graduate Quest Scholarship, they are welcome to apply to the other graduate scholarship found here: <http://www.oru.edu/financial-assistance/graduate/graduate-scholarships-theology.php>.

Enquiries regarding scholarships can be directed to the Enrollment Counselor.

2.11.2 Ministry Scholarship

The ministry scholarship contributes 25% towards the cost of tuition. Please note that the scholarship will not cover any books or fees. The applicant must submit two items to be eligible for a ministry scholarship:

1. Ministry Verification Letter – students must submit a letter on ministry/church letterhead from a supervisor or board member verifying the full time employment status of the student in the ministry.
2. Ministry Description – students must submit a short essay detailing their ministry experience.

Once students are admitted to their program, they may submit the documents to the admissions office for processing. The admissions office will send these to the financial aid department once the student has enrolled in their classes for that semester. The financial aid department will then scholarship 25% of the tuition for that specific semester. Please note that the scholarship will not cover any books or fees, just the tuition.

For example, if a student is enrolled in 6 credits at \$800 per credit, then the following would be correct: 6 (credit hours) multiplied by \$800 (cost per credit) = \$4,800 in tuition. A 25% scholarship towards the tuition amount would reduce the tuition cost to \$3,600.00. All book costs and fees will be added to the total amount after the scholarship, \$3,600.00.

2.11.3 David and Tracy Page Scholarship (Currently Unavailable)

The David and Tracy Page Scholarship for Missional Leadership celebrates the value of reflective practitioners who are actively engaged in both mission and theological research with missiological implication and application. The scholarship contributes 50% of tuition fees. The scholarship is awarded to one full-time ORU Ph.D. student for three years (for the course segment and the comprehensive exams). One recipient is selected from each cohort based on his

or her promising academic potential, demonstrated missiological application of research, and demonstrated financial needs. Please see the application form in the appendix.

2.11.4. Younghoon Lee Scholarship of Global-Spirit Empowered Leadership

The Younghoon Lee Scholarship of Global-Spirit Empowered Leadership contributes \$750 toward each 3-credit hour course. The scholarship is awarded to one full-time ORU Ph.D. student for three years (for the course segment and the comprehensive exams) for “service in return” (such as a research assistantship). One recipient is selected from each cohort based on his or her promising academic potential and demonstrated financial needs. All students entering the program are encouraged to apply for the scholarship upon enrollment, with one recipient chosen from each cohort (intake) by the Ph.D. Committee. Please see the application form in the appendix.

2.11.5. Jack Sharp Scholarship

The Jack Sharp Scholarship is a discretionary scholarship to assist students enrolled full-time (6 credit hours) in the Ph.D. program who demonstrates needs. The standard assistance is \$500 per course. The scholarship does not cover extracurricular courses, e.g., biblical and modern research languages. The Graduate School of Theology and Ministry administers the scholarship. Please see the application form in the appendix.

2.11.6. Dissertation of the Year

The Dissertation of the Year aims to promote excellence in ground-breaking Pentecostal research, especially in global studies in the Global South. A panel nominates dissertations duly completed the previous year for consideration. The award announcement will be made at the annual Empowered21 Scholars Consultation. The awardee will be invited to the consultation with their travel expenses paid. The award is \$5000 cash, with a certificate and plaque.

2.11.7. External Scholarships

Please note that students are welcome to apply for external scholarships. Here is a list of some potential sources.

Organization	Link	Availability	Note
ScholarLeaders International	http://www.scholarleaders.org/apply/leadership-studies-scholarships/	Awards scholarships to exceptional Majority World Christian leaders pursuing doctoral-level education in theology and related disciplines.	Only sponsors scholars who sign a covenant agreeing to serve in ministry in their home context for at least 10 years. According to the covenant, those who do not are required to repay the support they have received

Fellowships for Doctoral Students of African Descent	https://fteleaders.org/grants-fellowships/fellowships-for-doctoral-student-of-african-descent	Financial support for doctoral students of African descent who have completed the course work stage of their Ph.D. or Th.D. program in religion, theological studies or biblical studies.	
Fellowships for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students	https://fteleaders.org/grants-fellowships/fellowships-for-doctoral-student-of-latinoa-asian-first-nations-descent	Financial support for doctoral students of Latino/a, Asian, Pacific Islands or First Nations descent who have completed the course work stage of their Ph.D. or Th.D. program in religion, theological studies or biblical studies.	
Scholarships.com	https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-directory/academic-major/theology		List of potential theology scholarships for students.
Louisville Institute's Doctoral Study Fellowship	https://louisville-institute.org/programs-grants-and-fellowships/fellowships/doctoral-fellowship/		
FTE Doctoral Fellowship for Scholars of Color	https://fteleaders.org/pages/fte-doctoral-fellowships-general-instructions#Eligibility	FTE offers the Fellowship for Doctoral Students of African Descent and the Fellowship for Latino/a, Asian and First Nations Doctoral Students.	

3.0 ACADEMIC POLICIES

Below is a description of some of our policies. For a more thorough description of our academic policies, please see the ORU Student Handbook at <http://handbook.oru.edu/>

3.1 Registration and Enrollment

3.1.1 Faculty and Staff Roles

- Graduate Admission Role¹
 - The Graduate Admission representative (i.e., Joe Sim's) role is specific to entry of a new student but not re-enrollment of students.
 - Out of courtesy enrolls the student in their first semester.
- Department Faculty Role
 - Faculty help guide re-enrollment of graduate students through advisement, but students are ultimately responsible to re-enroll themselves.

3.1.2 Student Role

- Students are responsible to re-enroll themselves each semester.
- Students are responsible to work with the following departments themselves:
 - Student Accounts
 - Financial Aid
 - Student Development
 - Registrar
 - Faculty Advisement
 - Admissions Operations

Upon admission as a student, you should have received an acceptance letter that gave you your student ID, or Z number. You will use that number to log into VISION, our student enrollment system to complete the entire registration checklist:

1. Go to <https://vision.oru.edu>
2. Click on Enter Secure Area
3. Log in using your User ID (your Z#) and pin (your 6-digit birth date)
4. Once inside you will click on Registration Steps/Online Bookstore
5. Select the term you plan to enroll at ORU

¹ In some cases, Admissions Operations is responsible to work with the Registrar's office to place holds related to student's records that were needed upon entry. However, these are often deferred beyond the first semester so the student can matriculate successfully and work to obtain those items in the first semester. When it comes time for the student to enroll in later semesters, they will find they have holds on their account if they have not satisfied these holds upon entry. For re-enrollment needs or inquiries, often students work with Registrar but also lean into faculty advisement. It is a self-enrollment process.

6. You will then see a list of steps that will either say Complete, Incomplete, Optional or prompt you to fill in important information that is needed to complete your file.

Through this system you will be able to also access the housing system, see the status of your financial aid file, setup a payment plan or pay in full. Once all the steps are complete you will be prompted to click a button that says, "Complete Registration". If you have completed all the steps mentioned above, you should be ready to complete this step. It is important that you finish this process prior to arriving on campus for classes. If you have any questions or need help, talk to your Admission Counselor and he or she will be able to walk you through this process. For more information go to <https://oru.edu/admissions/complete-enrollment/enrollment-steps/enrollment-online-graduate.php>

During the program the student must remain continuously registered as a full-time course load for the Ph.D. program is 6 credit hours per semester, with the exception of the dissertation phase. To make satisfactory progress, students must maintain a 3.25 and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic year. Student receiving financial aid must maintain full-time status, as defined by the Financial Aid Office.

It is recommended that student complete 48 hours of coursework in three years by taking 18 hours in year one, 18 hours in year two, 9 hours in year three, and 3 hours in the following year. Students should complete the coursework in a maximum of four years. Students must submit a petition to the Program Director to request approval to take less than 6 credit hours per semester. All students are required to take the core and track courses when they are offered according to the rotation schedule in their degree plan.

Students who wish to take additional course above the normal load must have permission from their advisor.

3.1.3 Holds

If there are holds on your account, you will have to contact the relevant department directly. Vision clearly states where you have holds and the other areas of their registration that are incomplete. You can see what holds you have on vision. For example, in the picture below, this student has an international hold and must go to the International Student Office to lift it.

3.2 Academic Probation and Suspension

In the Ph.D. program, a minimum grade of B is required in all coursework. Students who earn a grade below B in any course will be placed on academic probation. Accumulation of two grades of C or lower will result in suspension from the doctoral program. Students entering the seminary on probation must be removed from probation within one academic year of matriculation. Students placed on probation during the program are allowed one academic year to return to good academic standing. Students who fail to meet this requirement within the specified period will be suspended from the program.

3.3 Academic Suspension Appeals and Re-admission

Students who have been dismissed may petition for reinstatement after one academic year. Reinstatement can be attained sooner if specific conditions were included in the Dean's letter of dismissal. All petitions for reinstatement will be considered on an individual basis. Reinstatement will depend on the student's demonstration of motivation and capability to complete the academic requirements successfully. The Dean shall notify the student in writing of the decision regarding reinstatement. Students who are reinstated shall be required to comply with any conditions set forth in the letter of reinstatement. The school will send a copy of the reinstatement letter to the Registrar's Office to be placed in the student's academic file.

3.4 Incompletes

College and program policy regarding incompletes is as follows. You can find the procedure in the GTSM handbook.

http://web.oru.edu/current_students/class_pages/grtheo/mmankins/StudentHandbook/GSTM_Student_Handbook%20Rev_8-25-20.pdf. Page 5 describes the process as:

On rare occasions, the grade of "I" may be given for work that is incomplete at the end of the course semester due to a catastrophic event. The following procedures must be followed to apply:

1. The student must establish with the instructor and the academic dean that work is incomplete for good cause and submit a petition for incomplete grade with documentation.
2. Petitions are found at <https://petitions.oru.edu/>
3. The Petition must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester.
4. The submission of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an Incomplete.
5. The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.
6. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the petition, make up any incomplete work, and submit a completed Request for Grade Change form which has been signed by the course professor. The form is available at <https://petitions.oru.edu/>
7. If the work is not completed by the end of the subsequent semester, the incomplete will automatically convert to an "F," unless an extension is formally granted.

3.5 Leave of Absence

If a student in good standing is not able to register for courses in a given semester, he or she must request a leave of absence by submitting an email petition to the Program Director. Leaves of absence will only be granted in extreme circumstances. The Ph.D. Program Director will notify the student in writing of the decision.

When a student is permitted a leave of absence for a fall or spring semester, the returning student does not need to reapply to the program. Instead, the student must contact Admissions, so they

can re-encode him/her as an “active” student. Once this is complete, the student is free to enroll as normal.

3.6 Time Limit for Degree Completion

Students may have a maximum of seven years from the date of entry into the program to fulfill all degree requirements. Only student who have been approved for formal leaves of absence may have an extension beyond the seven-year limit. Exceptions to the time limit are granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

3.7 Human Subject Research

Please consult with the Ph.D. Program Director for protocols on human subject research, which are required for conducting interviews, surveys, or questionnaires with living persons.

3.8 Using Previously Published Material

A student may use/incorporate part of his or her published material in the dissertation with proper referencing. Such material may be in the form of journal articles or book chapters. This provision limits to three studies, and up to 50% of each published piece. The student must secure permission from the publisher for any copyrighted material and indicate that permission has been granted

Note: If a graduate student does not have continuous enrollment in fall/spring semesters, the system will mark them as ‘inactive’ and needing readmission. However, we there is a policy allowing graduate students to remain ‘active’ for one calendar year after their last enrolled term. For this reason, there is a process that can mark them as ‘active’ again, in the system. Any that you see with this error can be directed to the Registrar’s Office to get it resolved.

3.9 Modern Research Language Requirement

The Ph.D. program requires students to demonstrate proficiency in a modern research language, normally French or German. A three-credit Theological German course is generally offered during the summer; however, it may not be available every summer. Students should consult the Ph.D. Administrative Assistant regarding course availability. Students whose research requires proficiency in another modern or local language may petition for an exception to the Theological French or Theological German requirement. The request must explain the language’s relevance to the student’s research. Please see the Modern Research Language Declaration form in the appendix.

3.10 Dissertation Research and Writing Policy

Following successful completion of the comprehensive examinations and approval of the dissertation proposal, the doctoral student will register for GTHE 990 (Dissertation) and work closely with the dissertation supervisor throughout the research and writing process. The dissertation must make a contribution to new knowledge and should remain consistent with the approved proposal. Students are responsible for maintaining regular consultation with their supervisor and, where human-subject research is involved, must obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before beginning the research. The dissertation must conform to Ph.D.

form and style requirements and should not exceed 80,000 words, including notes and appendices but excluding the bibliography. Dissertation chapters will be submitted through Brightspace (D2L) and assessed using the appropriate rubrics, with revisions continuing until the supervisor determines that the dissertation is ready for examination. After completing the three GTHE 990 courses, students who have not completed the dissertation must register for GTHE 995 (Dissertation Continuation) each semester until the dissertation is completed or candidacy lapses. Please see the Dissertation Research and Writing Policy in the Appendix for additional details.

3.11 Dissertation Extension Policy

Extensions beyond the seven-year program limit are granted only in pressing and well documented circumstances. Submission of a petition does not guarantee approval. The petition must include supporting documentation, a current dissertation draft demonstrating substantial research and writing, a summary of progress and remaining work, and a proposed final submission date for defense that allows sufficient time for any required revisions. The student must also demonstrate that sufficient time and resources have been designated to complete the dissertation. The dissertation supervisor will review the petition and make a recommendation based on the student's progress and whether there is a reasonable plan to complete the dissertation by the end of the eighth year. The Ph.D. Program Director will make the final decision. Please see the Petition for Dissertation Extension form in the appendix.

3.12 Dissertation Defense and Post-Defense Requirements

The dissertation defense is required for completion of the Ph.D. degree and evaluates the student's understanding and mastery of the area of research. Before applying for the defense, the student should obtain provisional agreement from the dissertation supervisor that the dissertation is of a standard worthy of defense. Students are expected to provide the committee with a complete dissertation draft at least three weeks before the formal defense. The dissertation committee must be satisfied that the dissertation is of a standard worthy of defending before the defense is scheduled. Please see the Dissertation Defense and Post-Defense Requirements in the Appendix for additional details.

4.0 RESIDENCY

4.1 Residency General Requirements

Ph.D. students at ORU are required to attend a total of 4 weeks of residency each year during the coursework phase of the program. The residency takes place in the fall and spring semester, not summer (see points 4.2 and 4.3 for more information). Residential requirements are mandatory and cannot be waived. Students who request a leave of absence should consult Academic Policy 3.6 above.

Ph.D. residency dates are posted each semester on the Academic Calendar, which students can access through vision, D2L, and the course syllabus. Course instructors will distribute further information about their course's residency period during the semester. Students should consult this information before making travel arrangements to ascertain class times and classroom locations.

4.2 Fall and Spring Course Residency Requirements

All fall and spring courses have a one week on-campus face-to-face residency period that takes place in either the eighth or ninth week of the semester. Students taking a full-time load (minimum 2 courses = 6 credit hours) will be resident in Tulsa attending class at ORU during the residency weeks. According to allowances granted to the program by ATS (Association of Theological Schools), Ph.D. students are permitted to petition to take up to two additional fall or spring classes online (6 credit hours).

4.3 Summer Courses Residency Requirements

Summer courses are entirely online and have no residency week, except for international students staying in the USA of an F1 visa (see below for more information).

4.4 International Student Residency Requirements

The residency requirements are slightly different for international students staying in the USA on an F1 student visa. According to SEVIS (The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System), for international students to maintain their F1 visa, they have to be in a face-to-face classroom setting with their instructor once every five months. Therefore, although the Ph.D. program delivers summer session classes online, a residential portion is available for F1 students to meet their visa requirements. The duration of these residencies is typically one week and set by the ORU's International Office (<https://oru.edu/admissions/international/index.php>). These class sessions are also open for non-international Ph.D. students to attend should they wish. International students cannot travel to Tulsa to attend in-person residencies until they have obtained their F1 Visa. Once an international student has obtained an F1 visa, they must attend all the residencies per the government regulations.

International students requiring an F1 visa should plan their Ph.D. residencies in advance. Considering that the program's accreditors have approved students to take 50% of courses online, one possible scenario is for international students to enroll in online courses for their first year (fall, spring, and summer), apply for F-1 visa, and come to the USA for the fall-semester of their second year. Once their F1 visa is obtained, students must arrange to attend all campus residencies, either by staying in the USA or traveling to the Tulsa campus for each residency.

Bear in mind that immigration regulations state that F1 visa holders must attend class in-person every five months to maintain their visa immigration status and not face reprisal.

4.5 Typical Class Schedule

A typical class residency period is as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-10:15	Session 1	Session 4	Session 6	Session 8	Session 11
10:15-10:30	Break				
10:30-12:30	Session 2	Session 5	Session 7	Session 9	Session 12
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-3:15	Session 3	Class Discussion	Research at the Library	Class Discussion	Class Discussion
3:15-3:30	Break				
3:30-5:30	Class Presentation	Class Presentation	PhD Colloquium	Class Presentation	Class Presentation
5:30-7.30			PhD Dinner with Scholars & Faculty		

4.6 Housing and Transportation

Please see the list of local hotels and rental car agencies on the travel and housing page (<https://oru.edu/about-oru/visit-us.php>).

The following are estimates for the Ph.D. residency period. It assumes a residency period comprising two Ph.D. courses. Each course covers five days, Monday to Friday. The calculations include 14 nights and assume a student arrives Sunday, the day before class, and leaves Friday after class. It includes staying the weekend between courses.

	EA	Total
Hotel ¹	\$110 per night	\$1,400
lunch & dinner ²	\$155	\$155
Taxi to and from airport ³	\$30 one way	\$50
Car rental ⁴	\$40 per day	\$600

¹. This estimate is for the Crowne Plaza situated within walkable distance to ORU. The estimate includes breakfast and taxes. The total assumes a 14-night stay.

². Sodexo sells blocks of meals to commuter students redeemable at the campus cafeteria. Purchasing a block of 25 meals is one option available to students traveling to Tulsa for the residency period. Students may purchase meal blocks at the Eagle Card Center on LRC3 or Student Accounts on GC 2.5 West. See <http://www.oru.edu/oru-experience/experience-for-the-body/dining.php> for further information.

³. This estimate is based on calculations from Uber (<https://www.uber.com/us/en/price-estimate/>).

⁴. ORU is a short walk from the Marriott Tulsa Southern Hills. However, should a student wish to rent a car, this estimate is based on a student picking up and dropping off an economy vehicle at the airport (www.priceline.com).

5.0 FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Faculty

ORU faculty members hold a PhD or equivalent and are involved in training and research in a discipline relevant to the program. Qualified faculty members show that they have outstanding contribution towards ongoing research and academic publication. They have comprehensive experience of teaching at a graduate level, and are experienced in directing, supervising, and examining graduate and post-graduate level thesis and dissertations. All of our faculty are committed to leading Spirit-empowered lives, ministry, and scholarly contribution. They have a global perspective through which they have engaged in diverse expressions of world Christianity in various contexts from a Spirit-empowered perspective.

Faculty selection is determined by the following criteria:

1. Hold an appropriate doctoral degree. Typically, a PhD or equivalent.
2. Training and research in a discipline relevant to the program. The list of courses of the program can provide guidance. In addition to the first “Contextual Theology” track, a second track will be developed in the near future. This will require additional qualified faculty members in the future.
3. Outstanding contribution towards ongoing research and academic publication is essential.
4. Comprehensive experience of teaching at a graduate level.
5. Experience of directing, supervising, or examining graduate and post-graduate level thesis and dissertations.
6. Faculty must prove their commitment to leading a Spirit-empowered life, ministry, and scholarly contribution.

Faculty must show they have a global perspective to their life, ministry, or research, through which they have engaged in diverse expressions of world Christianity in various contexts from a Spirit-empowered perspective.



Name	Credentials
Dr. Peter Althouse (Full CV)	Ph.D., University of St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto M.R., University of Toronto B.A., Trent University



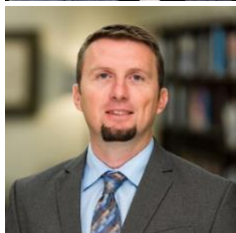
Dr. Wonsuk Ma
([Full CV](#))

Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary
M.Div., Far East Advanced School of
Theology
(presently Asia Pacific Theological Seminary)
B.B.S., Far East Advanced School of
Theology
(presently Asia Pacific Theological Seminary)
Dip. Theol., Full Gospel Theological College



Dr. Julie C. Ma
([Full CV](#))

Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary
M.A., Fuller Theological Seminary
M.A., Asia Pacific Theological Seminary
B.A., Asia Pacific Theological Seminary



Dr. Daniel D. Isgrigg
([Full CV](#))

Ph.D., Bangor University (Wales)
M.A., Oral Roberts University
B.A., Oral Roberts University



Dr. Jeffrey Lamp
([Full CV](#))

M.S., Oklahoma State University
Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in
Chicago
M.Div., Oral Roberts University
B.S., University of Oklahoma



Dr. Eric Newberg
([Full CV](#))

Ph.D., Regent University
M.Div., North Park Theological Seminary
M.A., Pacific School of Religion
B.A., University of Kansas



Dr. Willian Lyons
([Full CV](#))

Ph.D., Florida State University
M.A., University of Wisconsin
M.A., Oral Roberts University
B.A., Oral Roberts University

5.2 Administration



Dr. Adrian Hinkle
Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry
adhinkle@oru.edu
Office: 918-495-6868



Dr. Bill Buker
Associate Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry
bbuker@oru.edu
Office: 918-495-6493



Dr. Peter Althouse
PhD Program Director
palthouse@oru.edu
Office: 918-495-6085



Felicia Cindyana, M.Div.
PhD Dean's Fellow assisting the PhD Director
fcindyana@oru.edu
Office: 918-495-6860

6.0 RESOURCES

6.1 Global Learning Center

The Global Learning Center is a new leading-edge facility that will help expand the availability of ORU's unique, whole person education to students globally. It will pave the way for ORU to open satellite campuses around the world. Classrooms will be equipped with touch technology, interactive smart boards and added visual tools that give professors advanced options as they teach. Classes and programs can also be recorded and stored on file servers to be retrieved by students on their personal devices or computers. The new facility includes three stories with classrooms, studios, offices, conference rooms on each floor, and a 715-seated performance hall. The third floor has a multi-purpose production studio with high-tech facilities designed to produce video content of ORU faculty members and guest lecturers to be distributed worldwide. It also features a virtual/augmented reality room which will allow student access to more than 7,000 academic subjects in a live format. This special learning area includes an iCube, which projects 4-D images onto three walls and the floor. This special display allows students to interact with any of the academic objects in the library. Students will also have access to various occupational experiences, such as marine biology or flight simulation.

6.2 Library

The University Library, located in the J. D. McKean Library building in front of the ORU Praying Hands statue, holds over one-half million titles and resources, including printed books, journals, electronic materials, and audiovisual collections. The University Library website provides access to the University Library's online catalog, more than 90 electronic periodical databases and reference works, and over 35,000 electronic journals and magazines. Online students can take advantage of the many resources provided by the ORU Library. This includes access to all of the ORU Library's digital collections, a distance learning librarian, and assistance in locating resources needed for completion of assignments. Students who live in the region are welcome to use the campus library; students who live more than 100 miles from campus are encouraged to sign up for distance learner library services. Links to online library resources are posted on the D2L homepage and in every online course.

The theological collection is integrated into the Main Collection of the Library, which occupies the fourth and fifth floors of the Learning Resources Center and adjoining sections of the Graduate Center. In recent years the facility has been updated with a Library Information Commons (LINC) with a customized Reference desk and eight group-study rooms as well as new furniture and carpeting throughout the public areas of the Library. The Library provides an inviting, quiet study atmosphere and a wealth of resources for the pursuit of graduate study. In addition to the theological collection located within the Main Collection, ORU maintains several other theology-related special collections. The most prominent is the Holy Spirit Resource Center (HSRC), a special collection located on the third floor of the J. D. McKean Library, with holdings of more than 12,000 cataloged items as well as many uncatalogued items. Begun by Oral Roberts in 1965 when the University opened, the HSRC houses a unique collection of primary and secondary source materials related to the global Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement that draws researchers from around the globe and continues to acquire resources

documenting the growing global Spirit-empowered movement. The Center for Spirit-Empowered Research (CSER) is a separate organization housed in the Library that runs ORU's global theological scholarship projects from the third floor. The HSRC provides the connecting point between CSER and the Library. CSER is currently launching an online repository. Designated the Digital Showcase @ ORU, it will make a significant contribution to the University as a whole by providing a platform for hosting digitized materials, including materials previously unavailable on the Internet, as well as online journals, samples of faculty research, and student works such as senior papers, theses, and dissertations.

The Library provides state-of-the-art library tools to facilitate research. The tools include:

- The Library Catalog: Millennium is the integrated library system from Innovative Interfaces, Inc., that provides the platform for our online public access catalog and for tracking circulation transactions and acquisitions. Except for e-journals, virtually all library holdings, including books, e-books, and audiovisual materials, are searchable in the catalog.
- Publication Finder: This EBSCO product organizes e-journals and other e-publications by discipline and makes them accessible via a single search box.
- EagleSearch: This EBSCO discovery product allows a quick search of most of the databases to which the Library subscribes, including the online catalog.
- Database List: Using the A-to-Z EBSCO interface, the Library maintains a searchable list of databases arranged alphabetically as well as by subject and format.
- RefWorks: The Library subscribes to this citation management tool to help researchers organize references and create bibliographies.

LibGuides v2: Using this latest Springshare platform, a team of librarians redesigned the library web site (<http://oru.libguides.com/library>) during the summer of 2016 to better facilitate access to online resources, which are continuously available to current students, faculty, and staff from any Internet connection.

The Library provides 74 computers dedicated to student use, including 36 in LINC, 30 in the Library Instructional Lab (LIL), 6 public access catalog workstations, and 2 self-check stations. The LIL computers are available to students during library instruction sessions, the workstations in Main during regular library hours, and those in LINC an hour after the library opens on weekdays and 15 minutes before closing in the evenings. The LINC lab also provides three copier/printer/scanners, a stand-alone book scanner, and a microform printer/scanner. The LIL lab includes an LDC projector, a sound system, and a computer for the instructor's use. The University has other computer labs located across the campus to allow students convenient access to the Internet including online library resources as well as to download software packages that have been licensed for the entire campus. Access to licensed online library resources is restricted to current students, faculty, and staff through the use of an EZproxy server.

6.3 Student Services

The institution provides support for student learning and effective teaching.

1. The institution provides student support services suited to the needs of its student populations.
2. The institution provides for learning support and preparatory instruction to address the academic needs of its students. It has a process for directing entering students to courses and programs for which the students are adequately prepared.
3. The institution provides academic advising suited to its programs and the needs of its students.
4. The institution provides to students and instructors the infrastructure and resources necessary to support effective teaching and learning (technological infrastructure, scientific laboratories, libraries, performance spaces, clinical practice sites, museum collections, as appropriate to the institution's offerings).
5. The institution provides to students guidance in the effective use of research and information resources.

To ensure that an ORU education fulfills the stated mission and core values, the University provides support for student learning and effective teaching that focuses on the student learning outcomes. The University is proactive in its adoption of best practices to ensure that the design and delivery of student support services options are preparing students to live in a diverse world and that the options accommodate student diversity. ORU's student learning outcomes are derived from the whole person education philosophy identified in the University mission. ORU believes strongly that all learners should have access not only to the support that they need in order to be successful academically but also to the resources that help them to grow in the areas of spirit, mind, and body, in fulfillment of the University mission.

Students may also receive assistance in writing through peer tutoring, another service that the University provides to aid student learning. The Writing Center, located on the second floor Room 235 of the Learning Resources Center (LRC) and open approximately from 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday offers one-on-one tutoring primarily in English and writing skills. Students may reserve regularly scheduled tutoring times throughout the semester or may call ahead to schedule tutoring times. In addition to tutorial help, a full range of self-paced instructional programs are available to improve writing skills. The Academic Peer Advisor (APA) program provides academic support to students by encouraging group study in the residence halls, fostering better study habits, and providing peer tutoring services to students. Each dorm wing or floor has a peer advisor who assists students with academic matters such as studying, writing papers, finding tutors, and scheduling classes. APAs are credentialed through the Tutoring Foundations program from Crossroads of Learning, Inc. and are able to help students get the assistance they need, including information about all registration deadlines and explaining administrative processes at regularly scheduled hall meetings.

For online students, academic support begins during the admissions process when the Assistant Registrar creates a personalized education plan for each new admit based on the student's major and minor choice, the online course rotation schedule, and the student's transfer evaluation. The primary contact between online students and ORU are the Success Coaches, who work under

ORU Enrollment Management. They respond to any questions online students may have as they proceed through their program from first enrollment to graduation. Success Coaches are supported by Academic.

The Office of Student Resources, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations in modification of policies, practices, and procedures. The Student Resources Office offers reasonable accommodations to clients based upon their individual needs. Online students with diagnosed disabilities are served by the Student Resources department, which assesses intake documentation, conducts a phone interview, produces a letter of accommodation, and provides assistance with other issues related to accommodation as needed. Just as with main campus students, online students who are working with accommodations must maintain contact with Student Resources every semester for an updated letter of accommodation. A link to ORU's disability services information is posted on the D2L homepage and in every online course.

6.4 IT Help Desk

Information Technology (I.T.) at ORU provides students with services throughout campus with wireless technologies and support services presented in a student guide and available through a variety of access points including an I.T. Concierge help desk at the very front door of the Learning Resources Center, immediate service through phone helpdesk support, and through online support. The I.T. Concierge team and the ORU Online D2L Coordinator provide technical support to online students. Support contact information is posted on the D2L homepage and in every online course.

6.5 Food Services

The diverse dining options cater to various preferences, including traditional grill items, deli-style sandwiches, a variety of fruits and vegetables, salads, a salad bar, cereals, pizza, pastas, Asian, Mexican, and specialty cuisines, as well as gluten-free options. All options are conveniently available cafeteria-style, with ample choices to suit everyone's taste. In addition to the cafeteria, you'll find these delicious dining options around campus presented by Sodexo Food Services:

Daystar Dining Hall

Location: ORU Daystar Building

We are proud to offer a dining program complete with signature brands and menu selections that include just about every item you can imagine. Just feast your eyes on what we have available! Featuring a wide variety of fresh food designed to satisfy everyone's appetite with food choices to rival your favorite restaurants.

Would you like to pay at the door... here are the door prices for the 2026-2027 School Year!

Breakfast: \$7.28, Lunch: \$10.40, Dinner: \$13.52, Brunch (Sat/Sun): \$10.40

Regular Hours

- Monday - to Friday
Breakfast - Hot breakfast, made to order omelets, Bakery, fruit, & yogurt:
07:00 AM - 09:00 AM
Continental Breakfast - Fruit & yogurt, Bakery, & self-serve:
09:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Lunch: 10:45 AM - 01:30 PM
Light Lunch - Greenhouse, Grillhouse or La Bella, Bakery. Grillhouse Made to Order:
M/W/F La Bella: T/Th: 01:30 PM - 03:30 PM
- Dinner: 05:00 PM - 08:00 PM
- Wednesday, Friday
CLOSED for Chapel: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Saturday - Sunday
Brunch: 10:30 AM - 02:00 PM
Dinner: 04:30 PM - 06:30 PM

Pei Wei

Location: ORU Daystar Building

Your go-to spot for fresh, Asian-inspired cuisine. From signature rice and noodle bowls to delicious entrées made to order, Pei Wei offers something for every craving.

Regular Hours

- Monday - to Sunday
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM
- Wednesday, Friday
CLOSED for Chapel: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Monday - to Sunday
Lunch Meal Trade: 10:30 AM - 02:30 PM
Dinner Meal Trade: 05:00 PM - 09:30 PM

Chick-fil-A

Location: ORU Daystar Center

Enjoy Chick-fil-A favorites right on campus, now including breakfast! Start your morning with breakfast favorites, or stop by later for the Original Chick-fil-A® Chicken Sandwich, crispy Waffle Potato Fries®, nuggets, salads, and more.

Regular Hours

- Monday - to Friday
07:00 AM - 10:00 PM
- Wednesday, Friday
CLOSED for Chapel: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Saturday
10:30 AM - 10:00 PM
- Sunday
CLOSED: All Day
- Monday - to Friday
Breakfast Meal Trade Hours: 07:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- Monday - to Saturday
Lunch Meal Trade Hours: 10:30 AM - 02:30 PM
Dinner Meal Trade Hours: 05:00 PM - 09:30 PM

Armand Hammer Alumni-Student Center

- Moe's Southwest Grill, serving a variety of fresh, made-to-order southwest fare, as well as vegetarian and low-calorie options - Lunch 10:30 am to 2:30 pm (chapel days start at 12 pm) Dinner 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Mondays); 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm (Fridays); 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm (Tues/Wed/Thurs)
- Cinnabon, serving fresh-baked pastries, iced coffee, and beverages – Monday and Friday 9:00 am to 9:30 pm; Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am to 11:00 pm; Saturday 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and Sunday 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- Just Baked Smart Bistro Kiosk - Rotating selection of hot, ready-to-eat foods like Stouffer's Mac & Cheese, White Castle Classic Cheese Sliders, Wow Bao BBQ Pork Bao, and various desserts.

Graduate Center (GC) 3rd floor

- Panera Bread
Monday – Friday
Summer Hours: 08:00 AM - 01:30 PM
Regular Hours
Monday - to Friday
07:00 AM - 02:30 PM
- **Ethne**
Monday - to Friday
07:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Saturday – Sunday: Closed

- **Dolce Sweet Shoppe**
Monday - to Friday
09:30 AM - 05:00 PM
Saturday – Sunday: Closed

Nursing and Engineering Center (NEC):

- Uttermost Grounds – Lunch 10:45 am to 2:30 pm (Chapel days 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm)

Hamill Center

- Chick-fil-A, lunch & dinner; lower level - Lunch 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm; Dinner 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Freshens Eagle's Nest, serving healthy smoothies, yogurt, and snacks; located adjacent to Chick-fil-A - Lunch 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm; Dinner 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

CityPlex Towers

- Mama Delucca's Pizza, serving lunch and dinner, 1st Floor
- Subway, serving lunch and dinner, 1st floor

Residential & Apartment Meal Plan Options: more info, please click [here](#)

6.6 Chapel

During the school year, Oral Roberts University students and faculty gather for ORU Chapel services. Inspiring worship and dynamic teaching are the hallmarks of these services, focused on spiritual growth and development. ORU Chapel affords students the opportunity to shift their focus away from the business of college life and onto God.

6.7 Prayer Tower

An icon recognized throughout the world, the Prayer Tower of Oral Roberts University is situated at the center of the campus to symbolize the importance of prayer. A separate area within the Prayer Tower houses the offices of the men's and women's chaplains. Graduate assistants for spiritual life will also work in this area. The newly renovated room embraces many styles of prayer. There is a large gathering area for corporate prayer, a partitioned area in the main room for small-group prayer, and four individual spaces for private prayer. The room includes a map of the world to foster a global perspective, and a large cross, created by the ORU art department to remind participants of Christ's sacrifice and to see the world through the cross. Special prayer emphases will be identified at different times during the day such as prayer for the armed services or specific nations. Students will have an opportunity to pray for individual requests submitted to the university by people from throughout the world.

6.8 Aerobics Center

The Health, Physical Education and Recreation department, ORU Women's Volleyball, Co-Ed Cheerleading and Intramural sports all find a welcome home in the beautiful ORU Aerobics Center. The spacious facility includes:

- Four basketball courts
- Four racquetball courts
- A 50-meter Olympic-sized swimming pool
- A fully loaded weight room
- An exercise mezzanine completes with treadmills, spinner, stationary and recumbent bikes and other equipment
- A four-lane running track
- Gymnastics and tumbling room
- An aerobics studio



Students, faculty and staff take advantage of the opportunities the Aerobics Center provides for exercise and the promotion of personal health and well-being. As a student committed to maintaining optimal health and a strong spirit, mind and body, you will enjoy the many opportunities for personal growth available through this campus facility and the programs it offers.

7.0 INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Students who are not citizens of the United States or Green Card holders are considered international students. Go to <https://www.oru.edu/admissions/international/application-process.php> for a detailed description of the international admissions process.

The following is a typical list of items international students need to complete their admissions file:

- **Application:** The application is free and completed entirely online. We no longer use paper applications or charge an application fee.
- **Official transcripts:** Official transcripts are required from every college or university attended.
- **Transcript evaluation:** If a student's education was completed outside the United States, an official course-by-course transcript evaluation is required from one of the following approved agencies: Scholaro, SpanTran, ECE
- **Standardized test scores:** ORU is a test-optional institution, so standardized test scores are not required for admission.
- **English proficiency:** English proficiency is required only if the student's previous degree was not taught in English. If the student's first degree was completed with English as the language of instruction, the English proficiency requirement is waived. Otherwise, the minimum scores are: TOEFL: 550, Duolingo: 105, IELTS: 7.0

Once an international student has been admitted, Graduate Admissions will transition the student to the International Admissions team to complete the immigration documentation and I-20 process. The following documents will be required:

1. Financial Guarantee Form
2. Valid passport
3. Official immunization records

Please submit your application, test scores, transcripts, passport, immunization records, and Financial Guarantee Form no later than August to be eligible for the fall semester.

NEW USCIS POLICY

USCIS regulations limit the F1 visa for international student in a doctoral program to four (4) years. The visa holder must apply to USCIS six (6) months in advance of the visa end date for an extension if the student needs to stay longer in the United States to complete the degree. Consult with the International Student Office for details.

For assistance with the international admissions process, please contact the Office of Admissions.

Graduate Admissions Office
Email: gradadmissions@oru.edu
Phone: 918-495-6452

8.0 APPENDIX

8.1 GRADUATE THEOLOGY TUITION AND FEES

Current tuition and fee information for the 2026–2027 academic year is provided in the appendix and is subject to change.

Please note that the following is for the 2026 – 2027 school year, is subject to change, and is for information purposes only.

Tuition	\$ 800 Per Graduate Credit Hour
General Fee + Technology Fee	\$ 900 Per Semester (full-time students)
International Student Fee	\$ 200 Per Semester
Course + Material Fee	\$150 Per Semester (Optional)
Tuition deposit	\$150 A one-time deposit charged upon acceptance of Ph.D. entry

Tuition and fees are provisional and subject to change. Full-time is considered 6 credit hours/semester for doctoral level programs

Any levelling classes taken at ORU in order to meet the Ph.D. Program credit hour entry requirements will be charged at \$599 per credit hour. Classes taken in order to meet the ancient language requirements will also be charged at \$599 per credit hour.

The following is an example of what a full-time student studying 6 credit hours can expect to pay the following for one semester.

Tuition	\$4,800 (6 credit hours @ \$800)
General Fee + Technology Fee	\$900 Per Semester (full-time students)
International Student Fee	\$200
Course + Material Fee	\$150 Per Semester (Optional)
Total	\$6,050.00

For more information about tuition and fees visit: <http://www.oru.edu/financial-assistance/graduate/cost-of-education-grad-theology.php>

The student must anticipate the following additional costs for which they are responsible:

Costs incurred from buying books and class materials.

Expenditure during visits to ORU for the class sessions, e.g. board, travel, food, and any other costs.

The student is also responsible for the printing, binding, copyrighting of their dissertation. See below (all prices are subject to change).

The estimated cost of purchasing graduation regalia is \$145.14. For more information of graduation go to http://web.oru.edu/current_students/class_pages/grtheo/mmankins/Graduation/Grad08hp.htm

8.2 DISSERTATION PROPOSAL POLICY PH.D. THEOLOGY ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

I. OVERVIEW

a. Purpose

- i. This document details the dissertation proposal process.
- ii. This process evaluates the student's understanding and mastery of the concepts in their proposed area of research.
- iii. The proposal will determine whether a student is ready to begin researching and writing their dissertation.
- iv. Within the broader scope of the proposal defense process, each student's defense will be unique, involving different committee members and cross-examination germane to the student's research area, research methods, and practices.

b. Scope

- i. Students must have their dissertation proposal accepted before they begin writing their dissertation.
- ii. The Ph.D. committee evaluates the proposal to see if the student is ready to advance to the dissertation writing phase.
- iii. The proposal provides students with several benefits:
 1. It proposes a primary thesis, hypothesis, research questions that will guide the student's research;
 2. It keeps one from straying into areas that are not part of the student's study;
 3. It demonstrates that the student understands the topic well enough to begin writing;
 4. It describes the broader research context to which the student's dissertation will contribute;
 5. It organizes the student's thoughts.
 6. Writing a consistent and coherent proposal shows others the student knows where they are going and how they will get there.

II. REQUIREMENTS

- a. The dissertation proposal approval takes place after the students have passed all their comprehensive exams and completed all the Ph.D. program's coursework, including the language requirements.
- b. The student should have no outlying incompletes.
- c. Students must have met both the biblical and modern research language requirements.
- d. Students should also have passed PRFT 910 and PRFT 920.

III. PROPOSAL WRITING PROCESS

a. Writing the proposal

- i. The candidate should prepare the written draft of the proposal in close consultation with their dissertation supervisor.
- ii. Proposals should be no more than 20-25 pages double-spaced pages, including a bibliography.

iii. Proposal elements may include:

1. **Proposed Title:** A Title Page with a working title that captures the focus of your thesis and portrays what you are studying. E.g., “Exploring the Epistemological and Hermeneutical Sources for Socially Prophetic Theology”
2. **Abstract:** A concise summary of the thesis (approx. 150 words)
3. **Table of Contents:** a basic table outlining chapter design. Include 2-3 levels of sub-sections to clarify the material covered in each chapter. Providing a provisional timeline of when you will complete each section is helpful.
4. **Background:** This section provides the background for the study. Begin somewhat broadly and narrow to the area you are going to study. Include any cultural, social, political, or historical information that clarifies your topic. This is baseline knowledge that introduces the topic. It is not new research. The section should be about 3-5 paragraphs.
5. **Thesis:** This section should be a brief statement (1-2 sentences) representing the hypothesis to be demonstrated and the research questions to be explained. This is preliminary because you have not yet done the research. This is your working assumption about what your research will reveal. Student’s should have done enough background research to be confident about their thesis statement’s accuracy.
6. **Purpose and Statement of the Problem -** This section should state the research gap and the research problem you will attempt to solve. It contains precise statements about the thesis’ purpose: “This thesis seeks to...” Clearly articulate the problem and reflect on your chosen area’s current scholarly conversation. You should cite relevant works to demonstrate your knowledge of the relevant conversations to argue that your study should be conducted. This section should also articulate the key questions that your research will address.
7. **Significance:** Describe the significance of this study. Why does this need to be written? Who will benefit from this knowledge?
8. **Delimitations:** Outline the study’s parameters, articulating what will be discussed and not discussed and why. Define any limitations the study faces which affect the research.
9. **Definition of Terms:** Define any major concepts or terms your study will use. The definitions should flow from the academic field you are researching and be developed in the literature review.
10. **Research Design and Methodology:** In this section, answer the question, “How am I going to perform this study?” You should articulate the theoretical framework you will use to conduct the critical study and explain the type of theological method you will use. Will this be exegetical, historical, theological, empirical, etc.? What method within these disciplines will you employ? And how does the research question/topic determine the method(s) used? How will you collect and analyze data if an empirical study? Be sure and articulate how the method relates to your concepts.
11. **Presuppositions or Assumptions:** What epistemological assumptions guide your method? This section highlights your epistemological horizons and the personal, cultural, and hermeneutical assumptions brought to bear on the study.
12. **Bibliography:** Provide a bibliography of relevant sources, articulating their relevance to your study.

iv. Form and Style

1. The research proposal should follow the form and style guidelines in the Ph.D. manual (pp. 99-120).
2. It should be double-spaced with level 1 headings for each section. Appropriate citations should be included.
3. The bibliography should be formatted according to the manual. Writing should demonstrate excellence and academic quality.
4. All parts, except for the table of contents, should be in narrative form. Do not use bulleted lists or other formats.
5. Consult Turabian.

IV. PROPOSAL APPROVAL PROCESS

a. Proposal Application

- i. The student will work with their dissertation supervisor to prepare the final proposal.
- ii. When the student and the supervisor are certain the proposal is ready for defense, the candidate will complete a Proposal Application (see appendix).
- iii. The Proposal Application should be signed by the supervisor and submitted to the Ph.D. Director for review, along with a copy of the dissertation proposal.

b. Organizing the Committee

- i. The supervisor or the Ph.D. Director will work with other faculty and scholars to form a committee of three members.
- ii. The Ph.D. Director will function as the committee chair unless a committee member with more experience in the research area agrees to chair.
- iii. Once the committee is formed, the dissertation proposal should be distributed among members.

c. Proposal Assessment.

- i. The committee will confidentially discuss with one another and assess the proposal using the Proposal Approval Rubric.
- ii. After the committee reaches a decision, they will inform the candidate of their decision.
- iii. The committee will complete and sign the Ph.D. Proposal Approval Sign-off form (see appendix).
- iv. The chair may provide a document to the candidate and the supervisor soliciting suggestions from the committee.

d. Independent Review Board (IRB) Approval

- i. The IRB is a committee that applies research ethics by reviewing the methods proposed for research to ensure they are ethical
- ii. Students will gain access to the D2L IRB course shell. The shell contains information about gaining IRB approval, which involves passing IRB training and submitting the appropriate application documents into the D2L dropbox.
- iii. The IRB will assess the student's proposal and issue a certificate of approval for students to begin their research. **Students cannot start their research until IRB approves their proposal.**
- iv. Students must submit a copy of the certificate to the Ph.D. office and include a copy in the final dissertation's appendix.

- v. The Ph.D. Proposal Approval Sign-off form will then be signed of by the Ph.D. Director.
- vi. The IRB process and the review board are independent of the Ph.D. Program.

V. APPENDIX

- a. Approval application (see below)

PH.D. Program Dissertation Proposal Application

Please complete this form and return it to your advisor and the Ph.D. Director when you are ready to defend your dissertation proposal.

Name _____

Student Z# _____ ORU Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____

Students applying to defend their dissertation proposal must have met the following requirements. Do you meet these requirements?

Completed minimum 30 course credit hours?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Completed PRFT 910 Entry-Level Assessment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Completed PRFT 920 Mid-Level Assessment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Met the biblical language requirement?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Met the modern research language requirement?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Reviewed the dissertation proposal policy?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Has a supervisor agreed to supervise your dissertation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Name of Dissertation Supervisor _____

IRB Certificate number _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Approved ☐

Not Approved ☐

Ph.D. Advisor

Date

Approved ☐

Not Approved ☐

Ph.D. Director

Date

PH.D. Program Proposal Approval

This document indicates that _____ (name),
Z_____ submitted a dissertation proposal for final approval. Upon evaluation by the
following professors (minimum three), the student is approved to progress to the dissertation writing stage.

Signature 1 _____ Date _____

Signature 2 _____ Date _____

Signature 3 _____ Date _____

Ph.D. Director _____ Date _____

8.3 DISSERTATION RESEARCH AND WRITING POLICY PH.D. THEOLOGY ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

I. OVERVIEW

- a. Purpose
 - i. This document details the dissertation research and writing process.
 - ii. Each student's dissertation shall be unique and a contribution to new knowledge in the field of inquiry.
- b. Scope
 - i. Students must research and write their dissertation to meet the requirements of the Ph.D.
 - ii. All doctoral students are expected to produce a book length manuscript that contributes to the field of scholarship and shall work with their supervisor with regular consultations in the development of the dissertation

II. REQUIREMENTS

Registration

- a. Once the comprehensive examinations have been successfully passed, the doctoral student should register in GTHE 990 (Dissertation) at the next registration period.
- b. The doctoral candidate shall work with their dissertation supervisor to finalize the proposal. If a supervisor is not yet available, then a PhD faculty member will work with the student until a supervisor is appointed.
- c. The finalized proposal must be approved by the supervisor and director using the Dissertation Proposal Form.
- d. Once approval has been granted, then the candidate must submit their proposal for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. No human study research can be started with IRB approval. When IRB approval is granted, the candidate must submit the approval document to the director's office.
- e. After the three (3) GTHE 990 courses have been taken, the doctoral student registers for GTHE 995 (Dissertation Continuation) for each semester until the dissertation has been completed or until candidacy has lapsed. GTHE 995 courses are accounted as one (1) credit hour.
- f. This registration will be renewed each semester so long as the student continues to pay fees, until such time as the student completes the thesis, withdraws, takes a leave of absence, or until such time as their candidacy lapses.

III. Dissertation Supervisors

- a. The dissertation supervisor is approved by the PhD Director in consultation with the PhD faculty and the student. Students are advised to develop a relationship with a potential supervisor prior to appointment in order to determine working relationship and academic interest. The supervisor is involved in finalizing the dissertation proposal.
- b. In the event that a dissertation supervisor can no longer supervise a doctoral student, the PhD Director will work with doctoral faculty and student to appoint a substitute supervisor.

Responsibilities

- a. Supervisors support the student in the development of research, provide expectations, progress and deadlines, prepare student for and participate in the dissertation examination (defense), supervise in post-defense revisions, corrections, and edits to final completion.
- b. The supervisor is expected to support the students in the development of their research, provide expectations, progress, and deadlines, offer expertise and insight, prepare students for the dissertation examination, supervise in any post-defense revisions, corrections, and edits to final completion.

External Supervisors

- a. Professional Evaluator (University Policy): Recognized as field professionals who serve as doctoral dissertation committee supervisors, chairs, or members. Professional Evaluators must hold earned terminal degrees from accredited institutions and demonstrate research output and successful supervision of doctoral research projects. All other available data evaluated. Terms and conditions of employment must be agreed upon in writing by all parties involved (chair, college dean, Provost/Chief Academic Officer, and President) prior to the appointment.
- b. PhD Supervisors/ External Examiners: Professional evaluators shall function as dissertation supervisors and/or external evaluators. Supervisors shall support the student in the development of research, provide expectations, progress and deadlines, prepare student for and participate in the dissertation examination (defense), supervise in post-defense revisions, corrections, and edits to final completion. The external examiner shall be an expert in the research field who evaluates the dissertation, provides a detailed report, participates in the oral defense, and supports the student in post-defense revisions if necessary.

Writing the Thesis

- a. During the writing of the dissertation, the student must engage in regular consultations with the supervisor by a mutually agreed procedure and schedule.
- b. Consultation should continue on a regular basis even when the supervisor is on leave.
- c. The student is solely responsible to initiate regular consultations.
- d. Only the thesis supervisor and (if applicable the co-supervisor) has responsibility for dissertation direction of the student, but the student may also consult with the other faculty members for assistance.
- e. Other than the dissertation supervisor and (if applicable co-supervisor), no faculty member is required to read any sections of the dissertation.

IV. FORM AND STYLE

- a. The structure of the dissertation should accord as closely as possible with that contained in the thesis proposal.
- b. If the dissertation is substantially different than the proposal, then the student must submit a new proposal that must be approved by committee.
- c. The length of the thesis should be no greater than 80,000 words (including notes and appendices, but not including bibliography).

- d. If the dissertation significantly exceeds the word limit, then the thesis must be edited to conform to the word limit.
- e. The dissertation must conform to the PhD style regulations.

V. STRUCTURE

Title Page.

- a. The title page of the dissertation shall include the following elements:
 - i. the title and subtitle (on the upper third of the page)
 - ii. “A Dissertation Submitted to The College of Theology and Ministry in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy”
 - iii. degree specification, e.g., Contextual Theology
 - iv. the student's full legal name (no nicknames, diminutives, aliases, or post-nominal letters)
 - v. Oral Roberts University
 - vi. location: Tulsa, Oklahoma
 - vii. a notice of copyright with year of convocation (at the bottom of the page).

Abstract.

- a. The thesis must include a brief abstract of the thesis, of a maximum of 350 words, on the page following the title page. Although abstracts may vary in format, the student should:
 - i. Provide a succinct statement of the thesis in the opening paragraph.
 - ii. Briefly describe the history and present state of the topic.
 - iii. A statement of how the current dissertation advances the topic.
 - iv. Summarize central arguments supporting the thesis including methodology and results. The
 - v. What the dissertation has accomplished and implications for further study.

Table of Contents.

- a. The dissertation must include a table of contents following the abstract.
- b. The Table of Contents may include sub-categories defining sections in the dissertation

Introduction

- a. The Introduction establishes the research to be conducted and should include the following:
 - i. General Background
 - ii. Statement of the Problem
 - iii. Purpose of the Research
 - iv. Research Question(s)
 - v. Methodology and Sources
 - vi. Thesis statement/ Hypothesis
 - vii. Significance
 - viii. Terms/ Concepts
 - ix. Limitations
 - x. Outline

Review of Literature and Sources

- a. Review of literature and sources defines and critically analyzes that *status questionis* to establish a gap in the research to be addressed by the dissertation.
- b. It develops and expands the literature review in the Introduction.
- c. It should also assess the primary and secondary sources, and/or interlocutors to be discussed.
- d. The following should be included:
 - i. Background
 - ii. Seminal sources
 - iii. Theory or model
 - iv. Comprehensive and critical analysis of the literature and sources
 - v. Developing topics, themes, trends, and debates
 - vi. Range of references from different perspectives
 - vii. The research gap

Methodology

- a. Develop a rationale for the methodology or methodologies and how it addresses the research question(s) and aids the exploration of the research.
- b. Consideration of type of data, e.g., archival, theological sources, interviews, biblical, observations, etc.

Findings and Discoveries

- a. Accurately presents findings and discoveries integrated with evidence
- b. Analysis of data consistent with methodology
- c. Clarification of topics, concepts, themes, and models under investigation
- d. Balanced and unbiased assessment of findings
- e. Originality of findings and the development of new knowledge

Analysis, Discussion, Implications

- a. Engages in analytical discussions and implication of the findings, discoveries, themes, models, and theory emerging from the research.
- b. Give explanation to and interpret the findings and what they contribute to the scholarly literature.
- c. Continued analysis of the research question(s), topics, concepts, themes, debates and the contribution to new models and theories for understanding.
- d. Discuss the contextual, global, and theological implications of the study as appropriate.
- e. Appraises the significance of findings and the contribution the research makes to new knowledge.

Conclusion

- a. Succinctly summarizes the thesis, major themes, topics, and insights of the dissertation.
- b. Iterates the contribution to new knowledge
- c. Offers avenues for future research related to the conclusions of the dissertation.

Appendix

- a. A facsimile of the IRB Certification must be attached as the last page of the Appendix.
- b. All other Appendices should be organized in a logical manner consistent with the main body of the dissertation.

Bibliography

- c. The dissertation must include a bibliography at the end.
- d. The bibliography should distinguish primary from secondary sources in separate categories. It may include sub-categories as appropriate.

VI. BRIGHTSPACE (D2L)

- a. Brightspace (D2L) is to be used for chapter submissions.
- b. The chapter(s) will be assessed according to standard rubrics.
- c. Other supervisor annotations and comments should be submitted through Brightspace.
- d. The student research and supervisor will be paired in GTHE 990 and GTHE 995
- e. Access to individual research projects is found in the Dropbox under the Assessments button.
- f. Multiple iterations of each chapter will be submitted and assessed by chapter rubrics until the chapter is of dissertation quality.
- g. The entire dissertation will be assessed by rubric until the supervisor deems that the dissertation is ready for examination.
- h. The PhD Director shall be notified by the supervisor that the dissertation is ready for examination.

VII. RUBRICS

- a. Standard Rubric shall be used for chapters and different stages of the dissertation writing as an assessment tool.
- b. Successful completion of rubrics does not guarantee successful completion of the dissertation examination and degree completion.
- c. The dissertation examination shall use a rubric as well as a written report assessing the dissertation.

8.4 DISSERTATION DEFENSE POLICY PH.D. THEOLOGY ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

I. OVERVIEW

a. Purpose

- i. This document details the dissertation defense process.
- ii. The defense evaluates the student's understanding and mastery of the concepts in their area of research.
- iii. Within the broader scope of the defense process, each student's defense will be unique, involving different committee members and cross-examination germane to the student's research area, research methods, and practices.

b. Scope

- i. Students must orally defend their dissertation to meet the requirements of the Ph.D.
- ii. All doctoral students must hold a defense of their dissertation on a date that is acceptable to the dissertation committee.
- iii. Defenses may occur on any date, but to graduate in a given term, a student must defend on or before the deadline for that term.
- iv. The defense should occur on campus, but remote defenses are allowed at the discretion of the Ph.D. Director and committee.

II. REQUIREMENTS

- a. The dissertation defense takes place after the students have passed their comprehensive exams, completed all the Ph.D. program's coursework, the language requirements (biblical and modern research), and assessments PRFT 910 and 920.
- b. The student should have no outlying incompletes.
- c. Before applying, students should already have obtained a provisional agreement from their supervisor that the dissertation is to the standard worthy of defense.
- d. Students are expected to provide the committee with a complete dissertation draft at least 3 weeks before the formal defense.
- e. The committee is expected to be satisfied that the dissertation is of a standard worthy of defending before scheduling the defense.
- f. If the committee has reservations about the dissertation's acceptability aside from minor revisions, it is recommended that the defense be postponed until the committee generally agrees the defense will be successful.

III. FORM AND STYLE

- a. The dissertation should follow the form and style guidelines in the Ph.D. manual (pp. 99-120).
- b. It should be double-spaced with level 1 headings for each section. Appropriate citations should be included.
- c. The bibliography should be formatted according to the manual. Writing should demonstrate excellence and academic quality.

- d. All parts, except for the table of contents, should be in narrative form. Do not use bulleted lists or other formats.
- e. Consult Turabian.

IV. DEFENSE PROCESS

- a. Defense Application
 - i. The student will work with their dissertation supervisor to prepare the dissertation.
 - ii. When the student and the supervisor are certain the dissertation is ready for defense, the candidate will complete a Defense Application (see appendix).
 - iii. The Defense Application should be signed by the supervisor and submitted to the Ph.D. Director for review, along with a copy of the dissertation.
- b. Organizing the Committee
 - i. The supervisor or the Ph.D. Director will work with other faculty and scholars to form a committee of three members.
 - ii. The Ph.D. Director will function as the committee chair unless a committee member with more experience in the research area agrees to chair.
 - iii. Once the committee is formed, the dissertation should be distributed among members.
- c. Defense Assessment.
 - i. The committee will confidentially discuss with one another and assess the dissertation using the Defense Rubric.
 - ii. After the committee reaches a decision, they will inform the candidate of their decision to schedule a defense.
 - iii. The committee will complete and sign the Ph.D. Defense Sign-off form (see appendix).
- d. The Defense
 - i. Adequate time should be allowed in scheduling the defense for the committee to be satisfied with the dissertation.
 - ii. The Committee Chair will open the meeting and introduce each committee member.
 - iii. After preliminary opening remarks by the chair, the student should take about 30 minutes to present their research. This presentation should describe the study's purpose, value, methods, procedures, and findings.
 - iv. Committee members will question the candidate until they are satisfied with the dissertation.
 - v. The candidate should expect to defend all elements of the dissertation.
 - vi. When all questions are exhausted, the committee will excuse the candidate for deliberations regarding the acceptance of the dissertation.
 - vii. The committee will deliberate confidentially using the Defense Rubric.

- viii. After the committee has reached a decision, they will call the student back into the meeting to hear the committee's decision (pass, fail, or pass with recommendations).
 - 1. A "Pass" signifies that the dissertation needs no further work
 - 2. A "Pass with recommendations" signifies that revisions are necessary to the dissertation.
 - 3. A "failure" indicates that the student has not met the requirements in the Defense Rubric. In this case, the committee makes recommendations, and the student must rework their dissertation and arrange another defense, addressing the committee's concerns.

V. APPENDIX

- a. Approval application (see below)

PH.D. Program Dissertation Defense Application

Please complete this form and return it to your advisor and the Ph.D. Director when you are ready to defend your dissertation.

Name _____

Student Z# _____ ORU Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____

Students applying to defend their dissertation must have met the following requirements. Do you meet these requirements?

Completed minimum 30 course credit hours?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Completed PRFT 910 Entry-Level Assessment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Completed PRFT 920 Mid-Level Assessment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Met the biblical language requirement?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Met the modern research language requirement?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Reviewed the dissertation defense policy?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Has a supervisor agreed your dissertation is ready for defending?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Name of Dissertation Supervisor _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Approved ☐

Not Approved ☐

Ph.D. Supervisor

Date

Approved ☐

Not Approved ☐

Ph.D. Director

Date

PH.D. Program Defense Approval

This document indicates that _____ (name),

Z_____ submitted a dissertation for defense. Upon evaluation by the following professors (minimum three), using the Defense Rubric, the committee made the following decision.

- ☐ Pass
- ☐ Pass with comments
- ☐ Fail

Further Comments.

Signature 1

Date

Signature 2

Date

Signature 3

Date

Ph.D. Director

Date

8.5 DISSERTATION DEFENSE AND POST-DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS

The dissertation defense is required for completion of the Ph.D. degree and evaluates the student's understanding and mastery of the area of research. Before applying for the defense, the student should obtain provisional agreement from the dissertation supervisor that the dissertation is of a standard worthy of defense. Students are expected to provide the committee with a complete dissertation draft at least three weeks before the formal defense. The dissertation committee must be satisfied that the dissertation is of a standard worthy of defending before the defense is scheduled. Please see the Dissertation Defense and Post-Defense Requirements in the Appendix for additional details.

1.1.1 Determination and Satisfaction of the PhD Dissertation Committee

- i. In the event that the Dissertation Committee deems the student must submit major revisions and/or re-defend, then the Dissertation Policy and/or Dissertation Defense Policy apply.
- ii. In the event that the Dissertation committee deems minor/ moderate corrections or minor/ moderate revisions, then the Post-Dissertation Procedures apply

Please see the Dissertation Defense Policy in the Appendix for additional details.

1.1.2 Form and Style

- i. Once the dissertation has been revised to the satisfaction of the supervisor and/or PhD Dissertation Committee (depending on defense committee's determination), the student should make sure that it conforms to ORU's Form and Style
- ii. If the supervisor and/or PhD committee is satisfied that all corrections of content have been made, and that the document conforms to Form and Style, then the committee examiner names shall be collected electronically and stored in student records. A page must be inserted in the dissertation that identifies the examination committee members, including the Supervisor(s), Internal Examiner, External Examiner.
- iii. At the discretion of the committee, the student may be expected to have the manuscript professionally copyedited, at student's expense. The copyeditor may not change content, but is tasked with copyediting typological, grammatical, syntactical, and other mechanical issues.
- iv. Once copyedited to the satisfaction of the supervisors and/or committee, the student shall then proceed to prepare the following:
 1. One (1) digital copy for the library
 2. One (1) digital copy for ProQuest
 3. Students must provide two (2) officially bound paper copies at their own expense: one for the Ph.D. Office and one for their personal copy.

1.1.3 Submission to the Library

- i. The candidate shall fill out and sign the digital showcase form to post the dissertation in Digital Showcase. <https://digitalshowcase.oru.edu/cotmdissertations/>
- ii. The candidate shall submit the approved copy of the dissertation and form to the PhD Director, who shall submit the materials to the library.
- iii. Please contact the PhD Administrative Assistant for guidance on this process.

1.1.4 Submission to ProQuest

- i. The candidate is expected to submit an electronic copy of the approved dissertation to ProQuest. This is the national repository for PhD dissertations used by students, scholars, and researchers.
- ii. After the candidate completes his or her oral defense, revisions, and final copyediting, a PDF copy of their approved dissertation is uploaded directly to ProQuest as candidate's expense.
- iii. During the process, Proquest gives the option to pay to have the student file the paperwork and submit the dissertation for copyright. Copyright is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended.
- iv. After submission of the dissertation, Proquest sends an email to the university informing a contact person with the PhD Program Office that someone has submitted a dissertation. The submission to ProQuest is confirm to ensure that all degree requirements have been met.
- v. Please contact the PhD Administrative Assistant for guidance on this process.

1.1.5 Printing Procedures

- i. Dissertations are printed in Copy Services on the 2nd floor. Use College of Theology and Ministry watermark paper.
- ii. The total cost depends on how many pages are in the dissertation and the number of copies required.
- iii. The PhD program requires 2 copies that are paid at candidate's expense: one for the PhD office, and a personal copy for the candidate.
- iv. Ph.D. dissertations also have a blank page at the front and back
- v. If the candidate wants to print additional personal copies, he or she may do so by have the copies printed at Copy Services and making an additional payment per manuscript copy.
- vi. Please contact the PhD Administrative Assistant for guidance on this process.

1.1.6 Binding Procedures

- i. HF Group will complete the binding. The PhD Administrative Assistant will assist with this process.
- ii. The current binding cost is \$41.50 per copy and is subject to change. This price includes side stamping and gold lettering on the front cover with a Navy (598) background. The price does not include the additional shipping cost from HF Group to ORU, which will depend on the weight of the package.
- iii. After the PhD Office receives the printed copies from ORU Copy Services, the PhD Administrative Assistant will prepare the package, and arrange shipment to:

**HF Group, Attn: Tim F
340 1st St.
Utica, NE 68456**

- iv. A completed binding order form must be submitted with the package. Payment may be made by money order payable to HF Group or by credit card over the phone. Credit card payments are subject to an additional 3.5% processing fee. Students are also responsible for the shipping cost to return the bound copies to the PhD Office at Oral Roberts University. HF Group will provide the final shipping cost.

The estimated cost is: \$41.50 per copy × 2 copies = \$83.00
Estimated return shipping cost = \$20.00
Estimated total = \$103.00

This amount is only an estimate and may change depending on shipping costs and any additional binding or stamping charges.

- v. Form Binding order can be downloaded through this link: <https://hfgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/bticket-0924-NE.pdf>
- vi. The bound copies need to be sent to the office of the PhD Director.

1.1.7 Graduation

- i. If the committee has award of minor or moderate corrections, or in some cases major revisions, then the student may walk for graduation but will not receive the degree certificate until the dissertation has been submitted for binding.
- ii. If the examination committee deems that revisions are substantial, or that there needs to be further examination, then graduation will be delayed until the following year.
- iii. The student should contact the bookstore to arrange graduation regalia, which can be purchased or rented.

ORU PETITION FOR DISSERTATION EXTENSION

PH.D. PROGRAM POLICY REQUIRES COMPLETION WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM INITIAL ENROLLMENT THROUGH COMPLETION. THIS FORM IS FOR SCHOLARS REQUESTING AN EXTENSION BEYOND THE SEVEN-YEAR PROGRAM LIMIT TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THEIR DISSERTATION. THIS PETITION DOES NOT GUARANTEE AN EXTENSION. AN EXTENSION MAY BE PERMITTED ONLY IN PRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES AND MUST BE SUPPORTED BY DOCUMENTATION.

I. Scholar's Extension Request

Scholar Name: _____	Program: _____
Current Enrollment Course / Term: _____	First-Year Semester Enrollment: _____
Official Leave of Absence: ☐ None ☐ Yes; Dates/Semester: _____ <i>Please attach supporting documentation for any official leave of absence.</i>	
Dissertation Title: _____	
Brief explanation of pressing circumstance: _____ _____ <i>Please attach supporting documentation for the pressing circumstance supporting this extension request.</i>	
Brief summary of dissertation progress: _____ _____ <i>A current draft of the dissertation must be submitted to the supervisor with this petition.</i>	
Remaining work to be completed: _____ _____	
Proposed final submission date for defense: _____	
I acknowledge that this petition does not guarantee approval and that no further extension will be granted unless the dissertation meets the necessary requirements for passing.	
Scholar Signature: _____	Date: _____

II. Supervisor's Progress Report

Has the scholar demonstrated substantial research and writing? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially
Does the scholar have a reasonable plan to complete the dissertation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partially
Draft submitted to supervisor: ☐ Complete draft ☐ Partial draft ☐ No draft
Supervisor Recommendation: ☐ Approve ☐ Approve with conditions ☐ Deny
Extension Type Recommended: ☐ First one-year extension ☐ Final extension
Comments / Conditions: _____ _____
Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

III. Program Decision / Approval Section

Decision: ☐ Approved ☐ Approved with conditions ☐ Denied
Required final submission date for defense: _____
Ph.D. Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

** Please return this form to the PhD Office.*

Subject to Revision

Modern Research Language Declaration

Ph.D. in Theology

THIS FORM IS FOR THE DECLARATION AND RATIONALE OF THE STUDENT'S CHOICE OF MODERN RESEARCH LANGUAGE

1. Include all relevant information.
2. Return to the Ph.D. Program Office

Name: _____ Z: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Dissertation Title/Topic: _____

Modern Research Language: _____

RATIONALE: explain how the language contributes towards your research, how you plan to attain proficiency, and the established assessment to prove proficiency.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved ☐
Not Approved ☐ _____
Ph.D. Advisor Date

Approved ☐
Not Approved ☐ _____
Ph.D. Director Date

Subject to Revision

The Jack Sharp Scholarship

The Jack Sharp Scholarship is a discretionary scholarship to assist students enrolled full-time (6 credit hours) in the Ph.D. program who demonstrates needs. The standard assistance is \$500 per course. Extra-curricular courses, e.g., biblical and modern research languages, are not covered by the scholarship. The scholarship is administered by the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry.

Name _____

Student Z# _____ ORU Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____

Program start date _____ Expected end date _____ Current GPA _____

Are you employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many hours _____

If applicable, is spouse employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List all scholarships you currently receive ☐ Academic ☐ Need-based ☐ International ☐ Military

Indicate outside funding to which you have applied (include foundation and application date)

What is your financial need? _____

Please write an essay, not to exceed two pages, indicating your academic and ministry goals and the time frame in which you intend to accomplish these goals. List the realistic and financial challenges you are facing. Goals should be stated as reasonable and measurable statements of faith (James 4:13-15). Please type the essay and include into with your application. Email applications to theologyphd@oru.edu.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____

The Younghoon Lee Scholarship for Global-Spirit Empowered Leadership

Yoido Full Gospel Church, Korea, graciously endows the Younghoon Lee Scholarship for Global-Spirit Empowered Leadership. The scholarship celebrates the close relationship between Yoido Full Gospel Church and ORU through Dr. David Yonggi Cho (the church's founder) and Oral Roberts's close friendship and the friendship of Dr. Younghoon Lee (the current Senior Pastor) and Dr. Billy Wilson. The scholarship demonstrates Yoido Full Gospel Church's permanent investment in the global Spirit-empowered movement by supporting ORU's vision of becoming the thought leader for the movement.

The Younghoon Lee Scholarship of Global-Spirit Empowered Leadership contributes \$750 toward each 3-credit hour course. The scholarship is awarded to one full-time ORU Ph.D. student for three years (for the course segment and the comprehensive exams) for "service in return" (such as a research assistantship). One recipient is selected from each cohort based on his or her promising academic potential and demonstrated financial needs. All students entering the program are encouraged to apply for the scholarship upon enrollment, with one recipient chosen from each cohort (intake) by the Ph.D. Committee.

Name: _____

Student Z# _____ ORU Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____

Program start date _____ Expected end date _____ Current GPA _____

Are you employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many hours _____

If applicable, is spouse employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List all scholarships you currently receive ☐ Academic ☐ Need-based ☐ International ☐ Military

Indicate outside funding to which you have applied (include foundation and application date)

What is your financial need? _____

Please write an essay, not to exceed two pages, indicating your academic and ministry goals and the time frame in which you intend to accomplish these goals. Goals should be stated as reasonable and measurable statements of faith (James 4:13-15). Please type the essay and include into with your application. Email applications to theologyphd@oru.edu.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

How to Apply for Prerequisite, Advanced Standing and/or Transfer Credit

Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

Students are responsible for applying for prerequisite, advanced standing, and/or transfer credit in the first semester of enrollment. Credit is not guaranteed. Courses must meet specified criteria² and are subject to approval by the GSTM Academic Committee. Evaluations and approval for advanced standing/transfer credit will be completed during the first academic year.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Complete the Application for Prerequisite/Advanced Standing/Transfer Credit (second page of this document).

- Fill out sections 1, 2, and 3.
- To fill out section 4, “Possible Course Substitutions for Prerequisite, Advanced Standing, and/or Transfer Credit”:
 - Review degree plan of the desired GSTM program at <http://degreeplansheets.oru.edu/>
 - Review transcript(s) from undergraduate/other institution(s) for courses that may apply to degree plan and list possible course(s) on the left column; include course number, name, credit hours, and grade.
 - If needed, review ORU course description(s) in the academic catalog at <http://www.oru.edu/academics/catalog/>. Graduate theology courses begin with GBIB, GTHE, and PRM.
 - List possible ORU equivalent course(s) in the appropriate column.
- The following documents must accompany the completed application :
 - Official transcript(s) from other accredited institution(s) (unofficial transcript acceptable from ORU grads).
 - Course description(s) from institutional academic catalog(s) for all courses for which credit is being requested.*
 - Syllabi for all courses for which credit is being requested.* If the syllabus for the semester/year the course was taken is not available, use a current syllabus.
- Email the application and all required documents to gradtheoacademics@oru.edu.
- Incomplete applications or those lacking required documents will be returned to the student.
- The GSTM Academic Committee will evaluate transcripts and syllabi to determine what courses, if any, qualify for prerequisite, advanced standing, and/or transfer credit.
- A copy of the application, signed by the dean, will be returned to the student indicating the Academic Committee’s decision.
- To expedite enrollment, students should enroll in courses for which prerequisite, advanced standing, or transfer credit approval is *not* pending.
- *Course catalog descriptions and syllabi are not required when requesting credit for ORU undergraduate courses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The GSTM follows the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) guidelines regarding credit for advanced standing/transfer.³
- Students may request advanced standing credit for qualifying theology courses earned in an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university,⁴ which may be applied to up to one-fourth of the following degrees:

Degree	Credit Hours
Master of Divinity (MDV)	up to 21
M.A. Biblical Literature & M.A. Theological/Historical Studies	up to 12, and possible prerequisite credit
M.A. in Inter Cultural Studies & M.A. in Practical Theology	up to 12
Doctor of Ministry	up to 6 credits
PhD	up to 9 credits

- Advanced standing for undergraduate courses may not be applied to the M.A. in Professional Counseling degree. All courses for this degree must be taken at the graduate level. Undergraduate theology courses that qualify may be applied to the three prerequisite theology courses (up to 9 credit hours for prerequisites) required for the degree.
- Prerequisite, advanced standing and transfer credit will be applied to a student’s transcript upon approval.

²a) Courses must be equivalent to GSTM graduate courses required in the student’s degree plan. b) Courses must have been taken at a fully accredited college or university (see footnote 3 below). c) A grade of “B” or above must have been earned for the course(s). d) Bible School/Institute courses are not eligible for advanced standing credit. e) Students may transfer a maximum of 6 graduate credit hours in business or 9 graduate credit hours in education

³ATS Educational and Degree Program Standard ES 7.

⁴A regionally accredited university or from a college or university fully accredited by The Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Theology courses from an undergraduate degree earned at a college or university fully accredited by The Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) may also be considered for advanced standing credit.

- If a student is asked to meet with the associate dean, the student may set up an appointment by sending a request to gradtheoacademics@oru.edu.

Application for Prerequisite, Advanced Standing, and/or Transfer Credit

Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Ministry (GSTM)

Step 1: Students must submit this completed application along with the following required documents to gradtheoacademics@oru.edu during the first semester of enrollment. **Incomplete applications or those lacking required documents will be returned to the student.**

- Official transcript(s) from previous institution(s) (unofficial transcript acceptable for ORU grads).
- Course descriptions* from institutional academic catalog for all courses for which credit is being requested.
- Syllabi* for all courses for which credit is being requested
- *Not applicable to ORU graduates

1. Student Information:

Student name:	Z#	Phone #
ORU email:	Other email:	Date:
Address:	City:	State/Zip:
☐ Residential ☐	Semester/year to begin at ORU:	
Modular		

2. GSTM Degree Program:

☐ Master of Divinity (MDV) ☐ MDV/Pastoral Care & Chaplaincy	☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, Marital & Family Therapy Track, (MAPC/MFT)	☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, MFT track, Addiction Counseling concentration (MAPC/LMFT-AC)
☐ M.A. Biblical Literature ☐ M.A. Bib. Lit/Advanced Languages	☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, Addiction Counseling track (MAPC/AC)	☐ M.A. in Practical Theology ☐ M.A. in Practical Theology/Teaching Ministries
☐ M.A. Theological/Historical Studies ☐ M.A. in Intercultural Studies	☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, Professional Cnsg track, MFT concentration (MAPC/PC-MFT)	☐ Doctor of Ministry – Church ministries track ☐ Doctor of Ministry – Moral Injury track
☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, Professional Counselor track (MAPC/PC)	☐ M.A. in Professional Counseling, Prof Cnsg track, Addiction Counseling concentration (MAPC/PC/AC)	☐ PhD – Conceptual Theology

3. Institutional Information:

Name of Previous Institution :	Years attended:
Accreditation:	Degree completed? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Degree: Major: Minor:	GPA:

Name of Previous Institution:	Years attended:
Accreditation:	Degree completed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Degree: Major: Minor:	GPA:

4. Possible Course Substitutions for Prerequisite, Advanced Standing, and/or Transfer Credit:

INSTITUTION:	OFFICE USE ONLY:
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Other Institution Course # & Name:	Ct Hrs	Grade	ORU Equivalent Course # & Name	Ct Hrs	Adv. Standing (AS) Transfer (TR) Prerequisite (PRE)	Approved
						☐
						☐
						☐
Total Approved Credits: ☐ #Prerequisites: _____ ☐ #Advanced Standing: _____ ☐ #Transfer: _____						

(Use additional sheet if needed.)

The GSTM Academic Committee approves the course(s) above for the indicated credit hours to be applied toward the student's degree program.

Associate Dean's Signature

Date:

