Supplementary Information

BIBLICAL STUDIES: LANGUAGES INFORMATION SHEET

The procedures for completing language requirements for Biblical Studies (whether by biblical studies doctoral students, by Near Eastern Religion Students while at the GTU, by MABL students, or by any other GTU student who wish to certify in Biblical languages) are as follows:

A. Doctoral Students
At the time of entrance to the doctoral program, students will take examinations in Hebrew and Greek with the hope of passing at the appropriate level (primary in Hebrew for OT students, and primary in Greek for NT students; secondary in the other testament). The examinations, composed by the Biblical languages committee, will be as follows:

The Hebrew Exam will consist of three texts from Biblia Hebraica, to be translated and commented upon (syntax, parsing, textual notes), two with the aid of a (non-analytical) lexicon. The third selection will be worked without lexical aids. Students are invited to submit by August 1 a list of fifteen chapters (including both prose and poetry) from the BH from which the third text will be chosen. In the event that no list is forwarded, the committee will select the third text.

The Greek exam is based on three texts selected by the Biblical Languages Examination Committee: one from the New Testament as given in Novum Testamentum Graece (27th edition); one from the Septuagint; and one from other Greek texts such as the Apostolic Fathers, Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, Plato's Apology of Socrates, Chariton's Chaireas and Callirrhoe. In addition to translation, students will be expected to parse some verbs and to comment analytically on approximately six grammatical constructions. Questions on the texts outside the New Testament will not presume or require previous acquaintance of the given texts. Students may make use of a standard (non-analytical) lexicon throughout the examination.

Matriculated doctoral students requiring secondary proficiency who do not pass the qualifying examination satisfactorily will enroll in Advanced Hebrew/Greek (or the courses so designated by the area in a given year). At the end of the semester, an examination will be given as part of the course, graded by the instructor and by the Biblical Language Committee. Students must earn a grade of B+ or better to satisfy secondary proficiency (certified by the course instructor and by a member of the language examination committee).

Matriculated doctoral students requiring primary proficiency who do not pass the qualifying examination satisfactorily will enroll in Advanced Hebrew/Greek (fall and spring, or the courses so designated by the area in a given year). Upon successful completion of these courses (with a grade of A- or better), the students fill out the form titled “Biblical Language Examination Registration Form.” The student submits the completed form to the chair of the Biblical Languages Exam Committee at least one month prior to the scheduled examinations. This examination will follow the format of the entrance qualifying examination. Should students not
pass the exam at primary proficiency, after consulting with both examiners, they may petition to retake the exam. Failure to pass the exam a second time, or the recommendation of the examiners, will necessitate the student taking an additional semester of Advanced Hebrew/Greek and sitting for the test again.

B. **MABL students**

MABL students are expected to make progress in at least three languages, two classical and one modern. Students are expected to enroll in at least 12 units of coursework for their Major Biblical Language (either Greek or Hebrew); and 6 units of coursework in their Minor Biblical Language (again, either Greek or Hebrew). In order to meet the language requirement for graduation, the student must maintain at least a B+ average or achieve secondary proficiency in the Area Language Exam (for students having 2 or more years of the language) or achieve proficiency in a language exam designed by area faculty (for students with one year of the language). Students entering the program without previous work in Greek are encouraged to take their first year in the Classics Department at the University of California at Berkeley.

1) Students with previous, recent language work in Biblical Hebrew or Greek may achieve advanced standing in order to move into more advanced language instruction or to enroll in additional coursework. A determination on this issue will be made by the Biblical Studies Coordinator of the M.A.B.L. program normally at the time of acceptance and communicated to the student and his or her member school dean and advisor subsequent to admission. If a student wishes to petition to be excused from taking the requisite courses in a particular language (because they already had sufficient coursework) they must take an exam as described in the paragraph above.

2) In each case, they must obtain the “Biblical Language Examination Registration Form” and submit it to the chair of the appropriate language committee one month before requesting the exam.

C. **Other students**

Other students who wish to be examined in a biblical language will be examined in accordance with the procedures described above in B1, indicating whether they wish to be certified at the primary or secondary level. They need to obtain the “Biblical Language Examination Registration Form” and submit it to the chair of the appropriate language committee one month before requesting the exam.

**In every case:**
The dates for the examinations are listed in the GTU Extended Calendar or will be communicated to entering students early in the summer. After the exam has been corrected, the Chair returns the “Biblical Language Examination Results Form” and corrected examinations to the Academic Secretary, who will inform the student of the results of the exam. The form and the exam are kept in the student’s permanent file.