

## **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### ***Degrees offered***

Ph.D./Th.D.

#### ***Objectives***

Students who complete the degree demonstrate competence in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and in New Testament: in critical study of texts, in relevant ancient languages; in classic and contemporary methodological approaches and interpretive frameworks. They show themselves prepared to engage at a critical and creative level the far-reaching interdisciplinary discourses that shape research and teaching in Biblical Studies.

#### ***Admission Requirements***

Students are expected to enter the program with MA/M.Div. level exposure to the general areas of Biblical Studies: course work in Pentateuch, Prophets, Wisdom/Writings; Gospels, Pauline corpus, and other writings of the late biblical period. Those specializing in the HB/OT will have had four semesters of Hebrew passed at B+; those specializing in Greek will have had four semesters of Greek passed at B+; all will have passed two semesters of the other language with a B+. It is strongly recommended that study of a modern language will have begun. Those seeking admission to the doctoral program but without the necessary language training might consider doing a “language year” as a special student before applying.

### **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Students must take diagnostic entrance exams in Hebrew and Greek before the semester begins. Students who successfully pass at the appropriate level have fulfilled the requirement; those who do not pass will enroll in language courses on the basis of the results of those exams.

Students must certify proficiency in their primary language (Hebrew for HB/OT, Greek for NT) at the primary level. The secondary language requirement may be certified as fulfilled either by testing out at the secondary level or by enrolling in the second semester of intermediate and a semester of advanced study and maintaining a B+ average. One semester of biblical Aramaic is required, with the possibility that another ancient language relevant to the student’s program may be substituted in consultation with the advisor. Two modern languages—ordinarily German and French—must be certified in accordance with standard GTU procedures.

### **COURSEWORK**

Students will complete a total of eight required courses with at least a B+: At least two courses in texts and methods at the 6000 level; at least two courses focused on relevant methodology at the 4000-6000 level (ideally for students enrolled in the Ph.D. with some exposure to course work available at UCB); the Aramaic course (as above); three additional courses at the 4000-6000 level of the student’s choice, ordinarily with the GTU designation BS/OT/NT.

### **COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS**

1. A standardized closed book timed exam in the testament of major concentration, based on a set of twenty questions (ten chosen from the standard area list and ten of the student's devising, approved by the student's committee); the examination will consist of five of the questions, determined by the committee.
2. A standardized closed book timed exam in the testament of secondary concentration, based on a set of fifteen questions (five chosen from the standard area list and five of the student's devising, approved by the student's committee; the student will also select three questions from the material that overlaps the two testaments and devise two questions); the examination will consist of seven of the questions, determined by the committee.
3. A research paper (30-40 pages) presenting the main text, problem, or issue to be pursued in the dissertation.
4. A research paper (30-40 pages) presenting the relevant methodology, including both classic biblical methods and, for students enrolled in the Ph.D., the university discipline as well.

### **DISSERTATION**

To be completed as stipulated in doctoral handbook. Additionally, the student is asked to speak about dissertation plans at the comprehensive exam defense.

### **ALLIED FIELD REQUIREMENTS**

Those wishing to declare an Allied Field in biblical studies must pass with a B+ one course in texts and methods and one additional BS/OT/NT course at the 4000-6000 level. In both cases, the student's level of preparation in course work and languages must be appropriate. Additionally, the student will pass one of the general comprehensive examinations.