

QUICK REFERENCE • RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDIES

PhD Program Overview

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is administered by the Research Doctoral Studies (RDS) office and can be completed in approximately four years of full-time study. The maximum program length is 14 semesters.

Three Phases at a Glance

Phase	Components	Hours / Milestone
Foundational Phase	- Graduate Research Seminar (GRS) - Foundations for Theological Studies (FTS) - Higher Education course 4 Seminars in major area 2 Colloquia 1 Research Language or Empirical Research	26 hours <i>Completed in ~12 months</i> Milestone: Faculty evaluation for supervisor assignment
Advanced Phase	- Course Development and Design 4 additional Seminars 2 additional Colloquia 1 Research Language or Empirical Research - Prospectus Development I–IV (4-course sequence)	26 hours Milestone: Pass comprehensive exams; receive prospectus approval; advance to candidacy
Candidate Phase	- Comprehensive Examinations (3 days) - Dissertation Research and Writing (81910) - Dissertation Defense	18 hours Milestone: Successful oral defense and ProQuest submission
TOTAL	70 hours 8 Seminars 4 Colloquia 2 Research Languages Comprehensive Exams Dissertation	

Writing Templates and Resources

Students writing prospectuses, theses, dissertations, should follow the style and citation guidance outlined in the Southern Seminary Manual of Style; however, some formatting elements are unique to the doctoral programs.

Therefore, templates for the prospectus (PhD) and dissertation/thesis are linked [here](https://sbtswriting.squarespace.com/doctoral-research) to assist doctoral students (<https://sbtswriting.squarespace.com/doctoral-research>). Pay close attention to the front materials and end materials and details regarding chapters.