

## QUICK REFERENCE • RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDIES

# Seminar Requirements for Professors and Students

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*Seminars are advanced doctoral-level courses focused on specialized academic subjects. Unlike colloquia, seminars require major research assignments, papers, and projects. Students must complete a total of eight seminars across their program.*

## ***Purpose and Goals***

- Equipping students in a confessional context for academic excellence and preparing them to teach and research in their fields of study.
- Engaging in specialized, in-depth academic study within primary and elective concentration areas.
- Developing high-level, original research, critical writing, and scholarly presentation skills.

## ***Faculty Responsibilities***

- Provide a rigorous syllabus featuring substantial assigned readings (approx. 3,000–5,000 pages for equivalent independent study levels) and a major research paper (not less than 5,000 words).
- Direct and grade doctoral-level coursework and research papers, maintaining a high standard of academic evaluation.
- Evaluate student performance according to strict grading standards, ensuring students achieve a minimum grade of B (3.0) to pass.
- Guide and mentor students through academic dialogue, critical discussion, and research development.

## ***Student Responsibilities***

- Complete all assigned coursework and extensive reading assignments prior to class meetings.
- Write and submit original, high-level research papers and assignments without utilizing unauthorized generative AI, third-party research consultants, or plagiarized material.
- Maintain a minimum passing grade of B (3.0); earning a lower grade results in academic probation and potential program dismissal.
- Engage actively, critically, and constructively in seminar sessions and discussion meetings.

## ***Scheduling and Format***

- **Course Load:** Students complete eight seminars total. Most concentrations require at least five seminars in the major area and up to three electives.
- **Course Limits:** Students may not register for more than two seminars in any given fall/winter or spring/summer term without supervisor and RDS director approval.
- **Double Majors:** Students pursuing an approved double major complete a minimum of nine seminars (five in the primary concentration and four in the secondary).
- **Independent Options:** Students in good academic standing may complete up to two internal or external independent study seminars with prior approval.
- **Scheduling:** Seminars are offered in residential, modular, and online formats.

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