

ADMISSIONS - PH.D. IN PREACHING PROGRAM

Admission Requirements

Applicants will be required to have a Master of Divinity degree (or 72 hours of graduate credit from an accredited program) with a 3.50 or higher cumulative grade point average. Applicants must also demonstrate proficiency in Hebrew and Greek before admission and enrollment.

The following items must be submitted/completed as part of your online application to Truett Theological Seminary and the Baylor University Graduate School:

1. Provide a statement of purpose of 7-10 pages (single-space) indicating rationale for pursuing graduate work in preaching. Students will:
 - Explain your motivation for and expectations of doctoral education in preaching
 - Include particular qualities that you bring to the seminary/university and to the profession as well as areas in which you would like to grow academically and professionally
 - Specify your areas of academic and research interests
 - Speak to your scholarly potential
 - Address the integration of doctoral studies to your ministry in the local church
2. Applicants will also be required to submit two sermon manuscripts and recordings of two preaching events—one from the Old Testament and the other from the New Testament.
3. Applicants will demonstrate their facility with the biblical languages by submitting exegetical papers for both sermons and by taking a language competency exam during the admissions process.
4. Applicants will provide a sample of scholarly writing, representing the applicant's best research and writing. One example (not exceeding 25 pages double-spaced) of a recent work of scholarly writing that provides evidence of one's capacity to think analytically and critically about homiletics. The following are examples of appropriate submissions:
 - Published article, book chapter, or excerpt from a published work.
 - Unpublished research paper.
 - A paper written in a graduate level course.
 - A 7-10 page paper on a topic (homiletics) of interest to the applicant that is written specifically as the writing sample for the application.
5. Applicants will provide a resume or Curriculum Vitae. Include a list of publications and professional presentations.
6. Applicants must have three to five years of full-time pastoral/preaching ministry.
7. Applicants will submit official transcripts of all degree work: undergraduate, masters degrees, and specifically the master of divinity degree (with a 3.50 or higher cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale) from an accredited seminary or university.
8. Applicants will provide three letters of recommendation. Two of the references should come from academic faculty who can attest to the applicant's superior ability and potential. A third reference should

come from the leadership of the congregation in which the applicant is serving, in support of Ph.D. studies. This can be from the board of deacons, elders, or other leadership body of the church. For full-time applicants, a letter from a member of the pastoral staff will be acceptable.

9. Selected students may be brought to campus for interviews in the final stage of selection.

Admission to the Ph.D. in Preaching represents a competitive process. The most qualified applicants will receive an invitation to enter the Ph.D. program. Admission to the Ph.D. in Preaching program does not rest on a single factor but on the strength of the entire application portfolio, which demonstrates readiness for research doctoral studies.

Language Requirements

Students will be required to have completed and demonstrated competence in both biblical languages, Hebrew and Greek.

Student Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to become informed of and to observe all regulations and procedures for degree completion required by Truett Seminary. This includes strict attention to all internal deadlines, such as application, degree completion, registration, and graduation as well as satisfying all requirements leading to degree completion.

First Year Review Policy

The first year of studies in the PhD in preaching at Truett Seminary/Baylor University is considered probationary. Upon conclusion of the fifth PhD seminar, students will meet with the PhD director to review the first year of work (in consultation with PhD in preaching faculty colleagues). The purpose of this review is to assess whether the student has done satisfactory work and shows promise to successfully continue in and complete the degree program.

Upon the successful completion of five seminars (September, November, January, March and May), students will meet with the PhD in preaching director during the month of May. This meeting will be conducted over Zoom for distance students or in-person for residential students. Two weeks prior to this meeting, the student will submit one writing sample (a major research paper from one of the five seminars) and a 1.5-2-page, single-spaced dissertation prospectus, including a title, subtitle, and abstract that lays out the research questions, research methods, and bibliography (minimum 2 pages, single-spaced).

If the committee approves of the student's work, he/she will be given formal permission to continue as a second-year PhD student in the degree program. If the PhD director and faculty deem the student's performance as unsatisfactory, he/she will not continue for the second year of studies. Advancement to the second year of studies will be based on five primary factors: performance in PhD seminars, critical thinking skills, clarity of thought, writing ability, and promise of the dissertation prospectus.

Admission Information

Ph.D. in Preaching Program (<https://truettseminary.baylor.edu/academics/degree-programs/phd-preaching/>)
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