

**Minnesota Graduate School of Theology  
Associate School Programs**

**BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRITING A  
DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

- A. The dissertation should contain 40,000 words minimum (about 180 pages), not including the coversheet, second sheet, table of contents, or final sheet for references/bibliography.
- B. The dissertation must be typed, double-spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 inch, white stock paper with one-inch margins on top, bottom, and both sides.
- C. The dissertation will be evaluated according to content, depth of research, adherence to specified subject, writing style, and footnotes, spelling, typing, etc.
- D. The dissertation should be factual (not critical).
- E. The coversheet should contain the following:

TO

MINNESOTA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

FROM

(Student's Name)

(Date)

(Name of Dissertation subject)

A DISSERTATION PAPER SUBMITTED IN

PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE PROGRAM

- F. The dissertation second sheet should contain a list of contents (table of contents).
- G. The dissertation last sheet should contain a list of reference materials, etc.
- H. The dissertation footnotes are required either per page or at the end of each chapter.
- I. The Doctoral dissertation work must be professionally bound prior to submitting for credit.
- J. A sturdy container should be used to mail the dissertation to prevent damage and should be mailed certified/return receipt to ensure it is not lost in the postal system. If the student attends an Associate School, the student must submit the dissertation to their instructor/teacher. It is recommended that copies be made by the Associate School for their student records, however, originals must be sent to MGST within 30 days of grading.

NOTE: The dissertation will not be returned to the student so (s)he should make a copy for his/her personal records prior to submitting the original to the Associate School or MGST.

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**DISSERTATION SUBJECTS FOR THE  
DOCTORATE DEGREE**

The following list represents possible subjects from which to choose for the writing and research work on the Doctorate Degree. Other subjects may be selected in place of one of these; however, final approval from the MGST regional office is required for subjects not listed. Students must write a letter for approval of their desired subject beforehand or call (763) 560-9610.

Suggested dissertation subjects include:

- Bibliology, The Doctrine of the Scriptures
- Christology, The Doctrine of Jesus Christ
- Pneumatology, The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology, The Doctrine of Man
- Hamartiology, The Doctrine of the Sin
- Soteriology, The Doctrine of Salvation
- Ecclesiology, The Doctrine of the Church
- Angelology, The Doctrine of Angels, Demons, Satan.
- Eschatology, The Doctrine of the Last Things
- Theology, The Doctrine of God, His Names, His Nature, etc.
- Missiology, The Doctrine of Biblical Missionary Ministry

Other topics could be:

- Examination of the Ministry as Given in Paul's Epistles
- An Investigation for the need of a Reformation in the 16th Century
- An Examination of the Early Church Prior to Constantine as the Structure of that Church
- Was There a Hierarchy Prior to Constantine?
- The Difference Between Law and Gospel – Why The Law is Necessary in the Preaching to Modern Mankind.