

Promise Christian University

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS 2025



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I. A NEW STRATEGIC LEARNING MODEL

The Doctoral programs at Promise do not tell you what to learn or how to learn. Its purpose is to help guide you to learn what you feel led to learn for the sake of the ministry God has divinely called you to. In the past, learning institutions developed programs to impact you with their expertise and knowledge. Today, however, Promise Christian University's strategic calling is to give you the tools to help you fulfill your vision as you impact your generation for Jesus Christ.

In the past it was believed that learning came from the top down. But, learning comes from involvement, **impartment**, encouragement and experience on a daily basis from all sorts of events and happenings. As a K-12 student, a systems approach is the proven and best way of imparting of knowledge. As an adult, our learning comes from interactive experiences with people and situations on a daily basis.

The Doctoral Program will give students an opportunity to bring those experiences together as a group or on a one to one basis with a mentor/advisor to focus in a learning experience that will broaden their sphere of ministry and influence by

- Experiencing a sense of significance with regards to their personal call of God
- Understanding the divine purpose and plan of God with regards to their ministry
- Gaining new insight to the many different methods of reaching the lost with the message of Jesus Christ
- Finally, modeling a renewed spirituality and leadership that empowers and encourages students to continue to learn, teach and grow with a sense of authorship and contribution within the context of a church setting, or ministry setting

II. THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Promise Christian University offers three Doctoral programs:

- A. **Doctor of Religious Studies** (a Professional Degree - 30 units and dissertation)

- B. **Doctor of Ministry** (a Pastoral/Ministry Degree - 30 units plus 180 hours of ministry practicum and dissertation)

The D. Min. degree program lifts you to a significantly higher level of competence in your selected form of ministry. You can choose the area of concentration that best fits your needs and interest.

- C. **Doctor of Theology** (an educational and teaching degree - 45 units plus dissertation) - Masters Degree in Ministry or Religious Studies

Students may choose from several areas of focus.

Ministry with an emphasis on...

- A. Biblical Preaching
- B. Christian Leadership
- C. Evangelism, Missions, Church Growth
- D. Family Ministries, Counseling
- E. Spiritual Formation
- F. Mentoring and Discipleship
- G. Administration
- H. Leadership in your field of Study
- I. Teaching
- K. Marketplace Ministry
- J. Other...

The Doctoral programs are built upon the foundation of **leadership development** which emphasizes spiritual formation and New Testament studies.

Now, students may concentrate on an individualized program of study which focuses on specific areas of ministry or interest. It is Promise Christian University's desire to help students fulfill their life and ministry purpose by assisting them in developing expertise in their chosen field of study.

The normal time for completing the degree is between 2-5 years.

Your studies will include:

1. An independent study under faculty direction,
2. Research and Thesis projects
3. Required curriculum development

4. Ministry Opportunities and special graduate level courses approved by your academic advisor for credit at other institutions
5. Doctoral students are required to meet with your advisor or Academic Dean or Dissertation Mentor (in person or online) at a minimum of 4 times during the school year. This project should be a minimum of 100 pages.
6. Non-resident Doctoral Students **may be** required to complete 18 hours of in house study prior to graduation. In lieu of this attendance at the annual Promise Governance Institute Conference which is normally held 1-2 days before graduation will suffice or in other states or nations.
7. All graduate students in the Doctoral program will be required to present their finished project, dissertation to the faculty members and honored guests as a requirement for completing their degree program online at least 3 weeks before graduation.

All graduate students in the Doctor of Theology program **MUST** present their dissertation to the faculty prior to graduation. And the Academic Department may or may not use it as a reference book for the university.

The ALL Doctoral Programs all require the following:

- 1) **Four core courses related to (15) Units)**
 - A. Basics in Theology
 - B. Advanced Leadership
 - C. Spiritual Formation
 - D. Bioethics DissertationAnd Curriculum Development
2. **Doctor of Religious Studies** requires a total of 30 units over the Master of Religious Studies. Students will complete the core courses plus (15 Units) in their chosen field of emphasis. A doctoral project will be required.
 - A. Biblical Studies
 - B. Christian Leadership
 - C. Pastoral Ministry/Leadershp
 - D. Christian Education
 - E. Evangelism/Missions

F. Christian Counseling

2) **Doctor of Ministry Degree** requires the core courses plus 30 Units and 180 hours in ministry. Doctor of Ministry is a Pastoral Ministry degree.

- A. Ministerial Ethics
- B. Adv Homiletics
- C. Leadership Principles
- D. Discipling and Mentoring
- E. Issues in Ministry - Rethinking the Church
- F. Forgiveness
- G. Strategies for Church Growth
- H. Pastoral Care and Counseling
Chaplaincy
- I. Senior Project
- J. Divine Providence - America's Contract with God
History of Christian Education in America
- K. Life and Teachings of Jesus
- L. Bible and Higher Criticism
- M. Research and Academic Writing (up to 9 units)
- N. Ministry Seminars (Up to 12 units)

Doctor of Religious Studies and Doctor of Ministry students do submit a dissertation. We encourage all doctoral students to write a dissertation that can be eventually transformed into a published work, thereby establishing themselves as an expert in their field of study.

3) **(NEW REDUCED UNITS) Doctor of Theology Degree** requires 15 units above core courses. These courses must include Theology, Christology and Pneumatology and a major **professional academic dissertation paper**.

Students will submit a 1-2 synopsis of a minimum of 25 books that they will be referencing in their dissertation highlighting the book's contribution to the research project completed. In addition, students will be asked to present their final completed approved dissertation to an audience of professors, faculty and scholars prior to graduation.

4) **FINAL DISSERTATION REQUIRED FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS.**

This project is a piece of work in which you will focus on you're the

studies in theology and place of ministry. You must apply what you have learned. This is the culmination of your Doctor of Theology degree program. You will be assigned a mentor who will guide you on your studies and dissertation. Most of your courses will be independent study unless the Academic department requests you to take certain other courses.

In other words, this dissertation should be a reflection of who you are, what you believe and what your vision is for the future. This project will require careful planning, theological reflection, purposeful implementation and appropriate assessment. The end product should be a paper worthy of publication between 100- 200 pages. (A minimum of 30,000 words).

Dissertations should be original material, research and analysis. Typical projects will include 100-200 pages of material with a bibliography of 25 or more items.

A Mentor will be assigned to you and once your dissertation is complete, PCU will require 2 hard copies and 1 copy on USB Disk.

Finally, there is more to a Doctoral program than coursework and projects. There is relationship(s). You will have the opportunity to develop relationships with faculty, experts in your field of interest, ministers from multi-denominations and traditions... sharing a learning experience that results in ministry.

III. OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

1. Integrative projects, such as case studies, case reports and notes from your on-going ministry are used in many of your assignments.
2. A participant group. You will interact, reflect, and challenge one another in the development of your specialized concentration and project.
3. A Core faculty group that will include your mentor/advisor, Academic Dean, and mentor(s)
4. A support group, that will be selected from your chosen field of ministry.
5. A project and paper that will put theory into practice, theology and ministry.

We believe that this program will...

1. Strengthen your personal life of faith.
2. Develop professional competence in ministry.
3. Encourage your growth as you expand your vision for ministry.
4. Develop your expertise in ministry.

REQUIREMENTS:

Admissions:

Requirements: Master of Religious Studies, Master of Ministry, Master of Divinity or Master of Theology. (Masters of Arts or Science in a related field is acceptable with completion of an equivalency exam) and approval of the Academic Department.

A grade point average of 3.0 or above in all of your graduate work.

Current involvement in a ministry context (pastoring, teaching, missions, evangelism, counseling, marketplace etc.)

Procedures:

1. Complete an application. You may download an application at <http://www.promisechristianuniversity.org> (Promise Christian University) or request an application from Promise Christian University, P.O. Box 3003, Covina, CA 91722.
2. Enclose a \$50 US non-refundable application fee.
3. If not a student at Promise, please send copies of your previous degrees and transcripts.
4. 2 recommendations from an ordained minister and personal friend.
5. Discuss your application and evaluation with Dr. Adelle McKinney, 626.827.6405, Dr. Jackie Hornsby, 562-644-2448. External Study students - will email info@my-pcu.com with questions and concerns.

Returning Students:

1. Complete an application with a \$50 fee.
2. If enrolling, please enclose a total of \$500 of which \$200 is a non-refundable enrollment fee which is applied to your Annual student Fee and Tuition.
3. If you have graduated less than 2 years before in a “degree program” with Promise Christian University no recommendation is required. After 3 years, an updated recommendation from your senior pastor may be required.

V. WHAT TO DO NEXT?

1. Doctoral students will meet or check in with their mentors regarding the dissertation before they 1) begin their dissertation. 2) Present the topic 3) Present the Outline and research 4) Present the current status and draft 5) Present the final formatted presentation before publishing.
2. Complete the core course requirements.
3. Self-Directed Study. You may also suggest or design a concentration of study in cooperation with your mentor/advisors which includes national seminars, special projects or other creative ways to enrich your ministry.

VI. WHAT WE VALUE

The Doctoral Program is committed to a biblical understanding of life, education and ministry.

- * We value the man or woman of God in ministry
- * We value spiritual leadership and integrity within the ministry
- * We value spiritual formation and discovery of gifts and gifting in ministry
- * We value team building, including spouses and children; and unity within the body of Christ in ministry
- * We value the God-given vision of the man or woman of God appointed for leadership in ministry
- * We value the Christian witness and mission in ministry
- * We value academic excellence tempered with practical application
- * We value relationships and friendships in ministry
- * We value a deep and growing relationship with Jesus Christ which is the foundation for all true servant leadership

THE TIME IS NOW

In the 21st Century, reaching and discipling the next generation of believers is not going to happen unless the ministry has the ability to encourage, empower and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Therefore, those who are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be fully equipped and prepared spiritually, morally and educationally, will be able to focus their full attention on strategies and visions for evangelism, missions, teaching and training, leadership development and fulfillment of God's divine plan in their lives.

We believe through this program, the Doctoral student will understand the seasons of ministry that are encountered...

Transitioning Periods
Difficult Times
Personal and Church Growth

...and not be overwhelmed, but knowledgeable and able to meet challenges one by one and overcome them, one by one.

The day of the one pastor one congregation is over. Even small church pastors are beginning to lead a multi-staff organization of professional, full and part time paid and volunteer ministry staff and volunteer workers. Therefore, it is our purpose in this program to model a new paradigm in the education of church leader which involves practical, timely and current trends and models of church structure and growth.

We believe in the servant leader model, with an emphasis on leadership.

VII. THE COST OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

\$50.00 Application Fee
\$60.00 Student Fee Annual (Due Jan. 1)
\$600.00 Per Course (3 Units)
\$500.00 Dissertation Fee
\$500.00 Graduation Fee includes Cap and Gown

With your application please submit a "type written" essay on your life experiences and how earning a doctoral degree from Promise Christian University will enhance your ministry or vocation in life.