

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (PH.D.)

Important: This degree plan is effective for those starting this degree program in fall 2024 through summer 2025. This degree plan will remain in effect for students who do not break enrollment or who do not change degree programs, concentrations, or cognates.

Code	Title	Hours
Language Competency		
German Examination		

Total Hours 0

Code	Title	Hours
Ph.D. Core Courses		
RTCH 900	Research Methods	3
RTCH 901	Teaching in Higher Education	3
THEO 900	Seminar in Theological Method	3
THEO 903	Historical Development of Christian Thought	3

Total Hours 12

Code	Title	Hours
Major Area of Focus Courses		
Choose 15 credit hours from a single area of focus. Students must also complete a directed research and comprehensive examination for their Major Area of Focus. Please refer to Comprehensive Examinations section.		

Apologetics

APOL 920	Resurrection and Miracles	
APOL 930	The Problem of Evil, Pain and Suffering	
APOL 935	Apologetics and Culture	
APOL 940	Modern Apologetic Issues	
APOL 950	Global Apologetics	
APOL 997	Seminar in Apologetics	
THEO 915	Natural Theology	

Biblical Theology

BIBL 910	Old Testament Theology	
BIBL 915	New Testament Theology	
BIBL 925	Theology of the Gospel	
BIBL 968	Current Biblical and Theological Issues	
BIBL 996	Special Topics in Biblical Theology	
BIBL 997	Seminar in Biblical Theology	

Christian Thought

THEO 901	Contemporary Issues in the Doctrine of God	
THEO 904	Bibliology	
THEO 905	Christology in Contemporary Theological Perspective	
THEO 945	Seminar in Modern Theologies and Theologians	
THEO 968	Current Issues in Theology	
THEO 997	Seminar in Theological Studies	

Public Theology

APOL 935	Apologetics and Culture	
BIBL 925	Theology of the Gospel	

Code	Title	Hours
THEO 935	Christianity and Politics	
THEO 950	Approaches to Public Theology	
THEO 960	Christian Ethics	
THEO 968	Current Issues in Theology	
THEO 997	Seminar in Theological Studies	

Total Hours 15

Code	Title	Hours
Minor Area of Focus Courses		

Choose 9 credit hours from one of the Areas of Focus listed in the Major Area of Focus section which is different from the chosen Major Area of Focus. Students must also complete a readings and comprehensive examination for their Minor Area of Focus. Please refer to Comprehensive Examinations section.

Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3

Total Hours 9

Code	Title	Hours
Comprehensive Examinations		

Students must complete a research and comprehensive examination course based on their chosen Major Area of Focus ¹

Apologetics

APOL 993	Readings in Apologetics and Comprehensive Examination	3
----------	---	---

Biblical Theology

BIBL 993	Readings in Biblical Theology and Comprehensive Examination	3
----------	---	---

Christian Thought

THEO 993	Readings in Christian Thought and Comprehensive Examination	3
----------	---	---

Public Theology

RLGN 993	Readings in Public Theology and Comprehensive Examination	3
----------	---	---

Students must complete a research and comprehensive examination course based on their chosen Minor Area of Focus ²

Total Hours 6

¹ Once the student completes 15 hours of the Major Area of Focus, they can be registered for the Major Area of Focus Directed Research and Comprehensive Examination

² Once the student completes 9 hours of the Minor Area of Focus, they can be registered for the Minor Area of Focus Directed Research and Comprehensive Examination

Code	Title	Hours
Dissertation Courses ¹		
DISS 987	Dissertation Proposal and Research I	5
DISS 988	Dissertation Proposal and Research II	5
DISS 989	Dissertation Proposal and Research III	5
DISS 990	Dissertation Defense	0

Total Hours 15

¹ Once the student enters the Dissertation phase, he/she must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall, Spring and Summer semesters) until all degree requirements are completed

All applicable prerequisites must be met

Graduation Requirements

- 57 total hours
- A maximum of 50% of a post-graduate and doctoral degree may be transferred if approved and allowable, including credit from an earned degree from Liberty University on the same academic level
- 3.0 GPA
- No grades lower than B- may be applied to the degree
- Successful completion of the Research Language Competencies
- Successful completion of Comprehensive Exams
- Degree must be completed within 7 years
- Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date

Program Offered in Resident Format

Course Sequence

Course	Title	Hours
First Semester		
RTCH 900	Research Methods	3
THEO 903	Historical Development of Christian Thought	3
Hours		6
Second Semester		
RTCH 901	Teaching in Higher Education	3
Major Area of Focus Elective ¹		3
Hours		6
Third Semester		
APOL 920	Resurrection and Miracles	3
Major Area of Focus Elective ¹		3
Hours		6
Fourth Semester		
THEO 900	Seminar in Theological Method	3
Major Area of Focus Elective ¹		3
Hours		6
Fifth Semester		
Major Area of Focus Elective ¹		3
Minor Area of Focus Elective ²		3
Hours		6
Sixth Semester		
Major Area of Focus Elective ¹		3
Minor Area of Focus Elective ²		3
Hours		6
Seventh Semester		
THEO 945	Seminar in Modern Theologies and Theologians	3
Minor Area of Focus Elective ²		3
Hours		6

Course	Title	Hours
Eighth Semester		
DISS 987	Dissertation Proposal and Research I	5
Hours		5
Ninth Semester		
DISS 988	Dissertation Proposal and Research II	5
Hours		5
Tenth Semester		
DISS 989	Dissertation Proposal and Research III	5
Hours		5
Eleventh Semester		
DISS 990	Dissertation Defense	0
Hours		0
Total Hours		57

¹ See Degree Completion Plan for Major Area of Focus courses.

² See Degree Completion Plan for Minor Area of Focus courses. Must be different from Major Area of Focus.