

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Evangel University

2015 Program Review  
For the  
Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology (Ph.D. BTH)

I. Program Mission

The Ph. D. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology (Ph.D. BTH) is an advanced program integrating New and Old Testament exegesis with the disciplines of both biblical and systematic theology. The program provides for original research and scholarship in one of three specializations: New Testament Interpretation and Biblical Theology, Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Theology, or Biblical Exegesis and Systematic Theology.

The Ph.D. BTH is intended for exegetically and theologically knowledgeable students desiring to prepare for scholarly theological leadership in the church. The program’s special emphasis on the reciprocal influence and integration of hermeneutics, exegesis, and theology reflects the central role that theology plays in the life of the church. The development of well-grounded biblical theologians in today’s church is all the more pivotal as the church interacts with a rapidly changing, vastly challenging global culture.

While the program includes examination of hermeneutics and theology within the Pentecostal tradition, it also is designed to explore biblical scholarship within a broader, evangelical framework, thus preparing individual for service to the church and academy in diverse contexts.

II. Program Learning Outcomes and Goals/Objectives

Evangel University AGTS Assessment System PhD in Biblical Interpretation & Theology (PhD BTH)					
<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Learning Outcome (What is evaluated)</i>	<i>When administered</i>	<i>Analysis of fairness, consistency and accuracy</i>	<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Schedule for Review</i>
<b>Core Seminar Research Papers</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages	In each of the five core courses in the program	Use of research rubric. Faculty trained in use of rubric. Multiple faculty members review research to maintain consistency.	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.
<b>Elective Course Research Papers</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages	In each of the five electives courses in the program	Use of research rubric. Faculty trained in use of rubric. Multiple faculty members review research to maintain consistency.	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.
<b>NT and OT Readings Courses: Exams and</b>	1. Knowledge base	In each of the two readings courses in the program	The professor of record grades these exams. Where there is a question concerning the quality of the examination, other faculty	Performance at a letter grade of B or higher	Reviewed annually. Analyzed every 4 years.

<b>Interaction with Readings</b>			members review the student's examination and provide feedback to the professor of record.		
<b>Comprehensive Examinations</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages	Upon completion of the 48 credits of seminars offered in the program	Juried by the faculty members of the Ph.D. committee	Performance at the "Pass with Stipulations" level or above	Annually as scheduled in October and February
<b>Dissertation Proposal</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages 4. Research in the literature of a modern language	Subsequent to successfully sustaining the comprehensive exams	Juried by the faculty members of the Ph.D. committee.	Performance at the "Accepted with minor revisions" level or above	As completed and scheduled by student and Ph.D. committee. Throughout academic year.
<b>Dissertation and Oral Defense</b>	1. Knowledge base 2. Original scholarly research 3. Exegesis in the original languages 4. Research in the literature of a modern language	Upon submission of dissertation to the academic team	Juried by the faculty members of the Ph.D. committee.	Approval of the Ph.D. committee	As completed and scheduled by student and Ph.D. committee. Throughout academic year.

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to demonstrate

1. A knowledge base of the scholarly issues inherent in biblical interpretation and theological studies
2. Original scholarly research
3. Exegesis in the original languages
4. Research in the literature of a modern language

### III. Program Capacity and Description

#### A. Faculty

1. Benny C. Aker, B.A., M.A.R., Ph. D.
2. Robert A. Berg, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
3. Stanley Burgess, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
4. Roger D. Cotton, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M., Th.D.
5. Deborah M. Gill, B.S., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
6. James D. Hernando, B.A., B.S., M.S., M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D.
7. Mark A. Jenkins, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
8. Donald A. Johns, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
9. Paul Lewis, B.A., M.Div., M.A., Ph.D.
10. Frank D. Macchia, B.A., M.A., M.Div., Th.D.
11. Martin W. Mittelstadt, B.Th., M.Div., Ph.D.
12. Waverly E. Nunnally, B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
13. Douglas A. Oss, B.A., M.Div., Ph.D.
14. James H. Railey, B.A., M.Div., Th.M., D.Th.
15. Charles E. Self, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.
16. Amos Yong, B.A., M.A., M.A., Ph.D.

#### B. Students

1. There are presently a total of 25 students in the program.
2. There are four students presently working on the dissertation.
3. Two other students have sustained their Comprehensive Exams and are working on their proposals for their dissertations.
4. Over the program's existence, three students have exited from the program, all for academic reasons.
5. The admissions process is presently discovering and admitting about 90% of the applicants. It should be noted that the vetting process prior to formal application reduces the number of formal applications, thus increasing the percentage of those actually accepted and matriculating into the program.
6. The average GPA of applicants is 3.75 on a 4-point scale.
7. The required GRE scores have resulted in an average of 154 in verbal reasoning, 145 in quantitative reasoning, and 4.25 in analytical writing.

#### C. Degrees Conferred

To this date there have not been any degrees conferred in this program.

#### D. Enrollment History

Course	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015
THE 903	3						
PCS 902	3						
BNT 941			2				
BNT 901			3				
BTH 905				3			
BTH 903					4		
THE 941						2	
BTH 906						6	
BOT 925							6

E. Program Maps

COURSE ROTATION PH.D. BTH				
2014		June 2-6	June 9-12	October 20-24
		(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT-- Nunnally	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical-Theological Models and Methods— Oss
		BNT 941 Interpreting the Parables of Jesus--Gill		THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I--Lewis
2015	February 23-27	June 1-5	June 8-12	October 19-23
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I—Lewis	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit--Railey	BOT 925 Texts and Contexts: Archaeology and the OT—Jenkins
2016	February 22-26	June 6-10	June 13-17	October 17-21
	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological Models and Methods-- Oss	BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptics and Acts: Luke-Acts--Mittelstadt	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT-- Nunnally	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods—Gill
2017	February 27-March 3	June 5-9	June 12-16	October 23-27
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks—Hernando	BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John--Berg	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit—Railey	BTH 943 History of Pentecostal Theology-- Lewis
2018	February 26-March 2	June 4-8	June 11-15	October
	BNT 942 Studies in the General Epistles	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological Models and Methods	BOT 941 Studies in the Prophetic Writings	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT
2019				
	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods	BOT 943 Studies in the Pentateuch and Historical Books	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	BNT 945 Studies in the Writings of Paul
2020				
	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks	(Core 2) BNT 901 NT Use of the OT	BOT 942 Studies in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature	BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts
2021				
	BTH 941 Epistemology and Christianity	BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John	(Core 3) BTH 905 Biblical Theological Models and Methods	(Core 4) BOT 902 Literary Methods
2022				
	(Core 5) BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	BOT 925 Texts and Contexts: Archaeology and the OT	BOT 921 Post-Biblical Jewish Hermeneutics and Writings	(Core 1) BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks

F. Curriculum Maps (courses where learning outcomes are met)

Courses	Student Learning Outcome
<b>Core Courses</b>	
BNT 901 NT Use of the OT	1, 2, 3
BOT 902 Literary Methods	1, 2, 3
BTH 903 Hermeneutical Frameworks	1, 2, 3
BTH 905 Biblical-Theological Models and Methods	1, 2, 3
BTH 906 Biblical Theology of the Holy Spirit	1, 2, 3
<b>Required Supervised Readings</b>	
BNT 930 Readings in NT Introduction and Theology	1

BOT 930 Readings in OT Introduction and Theology	1
<b>Elective Courses</b>	
BNT 941 Studies in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts	1, 2, 3
BNT 942 Studies in the General Epistles	1, 2, 3
BNT 943 Studies in the Writings of John	1, 2, 3
BNT 945 Studies in the Writings of Paul	1, 2, 3
BNT 949 Life and Writings of Paul (Study Tour)	1, 2, 3
BOT/BNT 925 Biblical History and Archaeology	1, 2, 3
BOT 941 Studies in the Prophetic Writings	1, 2, 3
BOT 942 Studies in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature	1, 2, 3
BOT 943 Studies in the Pentateuch and Hist. Books	1, 2, 3
BTH 921 Post-Biblical Jewish Herm. and Writings	1, 2, 3
BTH 922 Special Topics in Biblical Theology	1, 2, 3
BTH 931 Global Hermeneutical Models	1, 2, 3
BTH 941 Epistemology and Christianity	1, 2, 3
BTH 942 Biblical Worldview in the Arts and Sciences	1, 2, 3
BTH 943 History of Pentecostal Theology	1, 2, 3
BTH 945 Field Experience	1, 2, 3
THE 941 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology I	1, 2, 3
THE 942 History of Biblical Exegesis and Theology II	1, 2, 3
THE 943 Special Topics in Theology	1, 2, 3
<b>Dissertation Research and Writing</b>	
BTH 999 Biblical Interp. and Theology Dissertation	1, 2, 3, 4

G. Advising

1. Each student in the program is assigned to a faculty advisor upon admission.
  - a) The advisor-student relationship continues through the program and includes course selection, sequencing of courses, preparation for the comprehensive exams, and guidance in selecting a dissertation committee.
2. At the dissertation stage, the student and advisor select a chair of the dissertation committee and its members (usually two in addition to the chair).
  - a) The dissertation committee guides the student through the research and writing of the dissertation.
  - b) The dissertation committee prepares the student for, arranges for, and conducts the oral exams.

H. Facilities

1. Classrooms
  - a) There are two lecture-hall rooms with a seating capacity of 65 students each.
  - b) There are five classroom with an adult-learner seating arrangement around a conference table, each of which seats up to 18 students.
2. Computers
  - a) The library facility includes a computer center that provides access to productivity software, library resources and the internet. The computer center is equipped with 16 personal computers and a printer. AGTS students may use the library's copy machine to scan and save copies of documents, either using USB drives or their personal email accounts, and for color printing. A wireless network is accessible throughout the facilities and students can send their laptop or home computer print jobs to the library's printer or copy machine.
3. Library
  - a) The Cordas C. Burnett Library has a 135,000 volume capacity and its holdings currently consist of 126,051 bound volumes, 80,201 microforms, 5,557 audiovisuals, approximately 250 current periodical subscriptions, and a significant number of online databases that are collectively licensed by the Evangel University libraries. These collections include extensive biblical, theological, and missiological materials, augmented by the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center located at the Assemblies of God Leadership and Resource Center in Springfield.
4. Student Lounge (approximately 30-48 feet)
  - a) Furnishings
    - (1) Two leather couches
    - (2) Two leather love seats
    - (3) Four leather chairs
    - (4) Four dining/study tables w/our chairs per table

- (5) High top counter w/four bar stools
  - b) Kitchen
    - (1) Two refrigerators
    - (2) Two coffeemakers
    - (3) One dishwasher
    - (4) One microwave oven
    - (5) One stove w/oven
    - (6) One double basin sink
    - (7) Ten storage cabinets
  - c) Vending machines
    - (1) One for soft drinks
    - (2) One for snack foods
- I. Locations, Sites, and Modes of Program Delivery
  - 1. All seated courses (Core and Elective) in the program are offered on- site in the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary building.
    - a) They are offered in one-week intensives, 40 hours of in-class participation, in February, June, and October.
    - b) They are preceded by assignments (readings, papers, journals, etc.) to be submitted when the intensive week begins.
    - c) They are followed by assignments (reading, paper, journals, etc.) to be submitted within 60 days of the end of the week of seated participation.
  - 2. The two required supervised readings courses do not require seated participation.
    - a) The supervisor provides an extensive bibliography of readings required for the course(s).
    - b) The student completes the readings and several writing assignments to affirm and solidify the value of the assigned readings.
  - 3. The comprehensive exams are taken either on-site at AGTS or in a carefully supervised and proctored situation convenient to the student.
  - 4. The dissertation is accomplished by the student off-site.
    - a) The AGTS library resources are available to the student either in-house or delivered by mail or electronic means.
    - b) The research and writing of the dissertation is carefully monitored and advised by the student's dissertation committee primarily through its chair.
- IV. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis
  - A. Strengths
    - 1. A well-qualified faculty
    - 2. A well-designed program
    - 3. Program utilizes a modular delivery mode, so re-location for participation is not required
    - 4. One of the very few Ph.D. programs within Pentecostalism
  - B. Weaknesses

1. Lack of a full-time program director
  2. Limited support staff for the program
  3. Lack of dedicated marketing strategy for program recruitment and placement within the larger academic community
- C. Opportunities
1. The Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology can play an important role in the Assemblies of God, the larger Pentecostal world, and the Evangelical community.
  2. The program can strengthen the faculty by providing the opportunity to do high-level research while teaching courses and advising doctoral dissertation.
  3. The program can serve to continue the elevation of the status and stature of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Evangel University.
- D. Threats
1. The need for a full-time program director and support staff, juxtaposed with budgetary restraints, is a major threat to the program.
  2. The sustainability of the program, given the lack of a clear and effective marketing/recruiting strategy, is a threat to which a response must be made.
- V. Peer Institutions/Benchmarking
- A. The AGTS Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology
1. Sixty credits are required for the degree (four credits per course)
    - a) Twenty credits of Core Courses (five courses)
    - b) Eight credits of Supervised Readings Courses (two courses)
    - c) Twenty credits of Elective Courses (five courses).
    - d) Twelve credits of Dissertation Research and Writing
  2. Language expectations
    - a) At least one year each of biblical Greek and Hebrew.
    - b) At least two years of either biblical Greek or Hebrew, dependent on the student's concentration.
    - c) Reading proficiency in a modern research language.
  3. Comprehensive Exams
    - a) Taken after the 48-credits of Core, Elective, and Supervised Reading courses are completed.
    - b) Graded Pass-Fail
    - c) Successful completion of the comprehensive exams allows the student to prepare and submit a proposal for the dissertation and begin work on the final phase of the program.
  4. Dissertation Research and Writing
    - a) The first stage is the Dissertation Proposal which will be prepared by the student under the guidance of the Dissertation Committee (primarily through the chair).
    - b) The research and writing of the dissertation is also under the guidance of the Dissertation Committee (primarily through the chair).
    - c) When completed, the dissertation must be approved by all members of the Dissertation Committee.



5. Oral Defense
  - a) The oral defense of the dissertation is a public even at which the student will present the dissertation and defend its conclusions.
  - b) The Dissertation Committee will prepare the student and host the Oral Defense.
  - c) Upon the approval of the dissertation and the successful oral defense, the student may be awarded the Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation and Theology.
- B. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
  1. Sixty credit hours for the program
    - a) Twenty-eight credits in seminar courses
    - b) Sixteen credits in advanced electives
    - c) Four credits in education and research methods
    - d) Six credits in dissertation proposal and comprehensive exam preparation
    - e) Six credits of dissertation research and writing
  2. Language requirements
    - a) Proficiency in the biblical languages and in German or French
- C. Talbot School of Theology
  1. Forty-eight credits for the program
    - a) Twenty-four credits of core classes
    - b) Twenty-four credits of electives
    - c) The dissertation
  2. Sustain a Candidacy Exam Capstone course
  3. Present acceptable dissertation and sustain an oral defense of the dissertation
- D. Westminster Theological Seminary
  1. Fifteen graduate-level courses are required.
    - a) Four core seminars are required
    - b) Three directed readings courses
    - c) Eight elective courses
  2. Competency and preliminary exams are required early in the program over biblical languages, Old and New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology, and Apologetics.
  3. Language exams must be sustained over two modern research languages (usually German and French).
  4. Comprehensive exams (after all coursework, languages, and preliminary exams).
  5. Dissertation proposal, research and writing, and oral defense.
- E. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
  1. Seminar requirements
    - a) Two semesters of Focused Field Study
    - b) Graduate Research Seminar
    - c) Six readings seminars (four in major field and two in minor field)

- d) Four research seminars in the major field
    - e) Teaching in Higher Education Seminar (at the conclusion of the seminar stage)
  - 2. Research language study (required but not credited toward Ph.D.)
  - 3. Comprehensive Exams
  - 4. Dissertation
- VI. Assessment Procedures
  - A. Student surveys
  - B. Exit interview/surveys
  - C. Comprehensive Exams
  - D. Dissertation/oral defense of dissertation
  - E. External curriculum/program committee
    - 1. Committee members
      - a) Dr. Joe Castleberry, President, Northwest University of the Assemblies of God.
      - b) Dr. Don Meyer, Recently retired President, Valley Forge University
      - c) Rev. Joe Girdler, Superintendent, Kentucky District Council of the Assemblies of God
      - d) Rev. Dan Morrison, Ph.D. Candidate, McMaster University.
    - 2. Documents provided to each
      - a) Ph.D. BTH Program Overview
      - b) Ph.D. BTH Learning Objectives
      - c) Ph. D. Course Descriptions and Curriculum
      - d) Ph.D. Comps and Objectives
  - F. Grading Rubric for Research Papers
    - 1. Rubric based on a scale, 0-4, with 4 being excellent.
    - 2. Items included in the rubric
      - a) Topic selection and rationale for research
      - b) Research and organization
      - c) Critical thinking skills
      - d) Writing, verbal expression, academic form
      - e) Biblical knowledge and interpretative skills
- VII. Findings
  - A. The Ph.D. BTH is a well-designed program that can be delivered with academic integrity in the modular delivery modality.
  - B. The Ph.D. BTH is designed to meet a very important need in the world of academe, that of preparing a generation of scholars from the Pentecostal perspective, to influence and shape the future of scholarship in the Pentecostal tradition.
  - C. The Ph.D. BTH is served by a well-qualified faculty on the AGTS, Evangel University campus. The program also has access to well-qualified faculty serving at other Assemblies of God institutions of higher education as well as others serving in non-Assemblies of God but compatible institutions.
  - D. The Ph.D. BTH has attracted a small, but well-prepared and capable, cadre of students.

E. While the understanding when the program was begun (July 2011) was that the program was not intended to be a large one numerically, it has underperformed in the marketing/recruiting area.

VIII. Recommendations

A. Increased attention be given to course offerings, faculty selection, and student advising.

B. Increased contact with present students in the program to provide direction through the program and guidance in course offerings, comprehensive exam preparation, and dissertation process.

C. Select a Program Director and negotiate with the University for course release or full time status.

D. Replace the current Program Coordinator who is transitioning to a position in the University Adult and Graduate Studies Department.

E. Consult with the University Marketing Department about a rigorous campaign to market the Ph.D. BTH.

F. Consult with the University Enrollment Management team about intentional recruiting efforts for the Ph.D. BTH.

IX. Actions Items

A. Fill the vacant position of Program Coordinator by October 1, 2016.

B. Have a process in place for selecting a new Program Director by March 1, 2017.

C. Consult with the University Marketing and Enrollment teams about placing the needs of the Ph.D. BTH toward the top of their plans for marketing and recruiting by December 1, 2016.

D. Have the course schedule for 2017 in place by January 31, 2016.