

# Doctor of Theology

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Doctor of Theology program is already an existing program being offered by the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology (SEAGST), which is a consortium of various graduate-level seminaries all over South East Asia. Qualified faculty members of the Divinity School are co-opted as accredited faculty of the School teaching in their respective areas of specialization. A good number of the Divinity School faculty members who are holders of the Doctor of Theology degree are graduates of the SEAGST. Two of our faculty members are presently under the doctoral program of the SEAGST in the areas of Christian Education and Systematic Theology.

## II. PROGRAM RATIONALE

1. The Divinity School has received several inquiries from abroad, mostly from church partners, on the possibility of offering its Doctor of Theology program. There were applicants who have sought to enroll in a Silliman Doctor of Theology program. They were disappointed however upon learning that the Divinity School does not have its doctoral-level program apart from the SEAGST program. They expressed a strong preference for a Doctor of Theology diploma from Silliman University, which is recognized by their respective governments like in Indonesia and Korea rather than a SEAGST diploma. Several potential applicants have given notice that they have decided to enroll in Hong Kong's Lutheran Theological Seminary because it has its ongoing Doctoral program in various disciplines.

2. Silliman University Divinity School has been losing out in the potential market for doctoral students who were being sent and supported by their respective church bodies and church-related institutions. These are church bodies and organizations like the United Evangelical Mission with whom the Divinity School had established partnership relations already and who would have preferred sending and sponsoring graduate theological students to our school if only we have been offering the doctoral program.

3. The Divinity School is very much able to offer the Doctor of Theology program in at least four of the major areas being covered in the SEAGST doctoral program, Biblical Studies and Interpretation, Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, and Pastoral Ministry. It has faculty members who are qualified and highly competent to teach in such areas. It has library resources, which are also now in the process of being upgraded, that can support the academic requirements of such a program. Thus, it can also help in the faculty development program of various seminaries in Asia and even beyond.

The proposed International Mission Studies Center in Asia that has been approved for support by the United Evangelical Mission has been envisioned by UEM as a center for graduate studies in Mission. Such Center is also envisaged to support the faculty development needs of Asian, as well as African seminaries that are also partners of the UEM. Since the program is only at the Master of Theology level, the challenge is for the Divinity School to put up its Doctor of Theology program.

### **III. MAIN PROPOSAL:**

Considering the abovementioned growing need, the Divinity School would like to formally offer its Doctor of Theology program which is equivalent to the existing Doctor of Theology Program of SEAGST. This offering will be based mainly on the existing academic program requirements and descriptions laid out in the SEAGST Handbook, 2007-2008.

**a. Program Objective:** To train and equip both clergy and laypeople of the church from Asia and other parts of the world with the necessary expertise needed in academic leadership in various theological and ecclesiastical issues obtained in their respective institutional and social contexts.

**b. Main target clientele:** The program is designed primarily for partner institutions, seminaries, and church bodies in Asia and other regions. However, individuals who wish to earn a doctoral degree from the Silliman University Divinity School may come with ready scholarships to support their studies.

**c. Major Areas of Specialization:** The Divinity School proposes to offer the Doctor of Theology program in four areas of specialization: Biblical Studies and Interpretation, Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics and Pastoral Care.

#### **d. Requirements:**

**d.1. Transcript of Records.** An applicant is required to submit an official transcript of his or her previous academic records since high school. An applicant for the doctoral program must be a holder of Master of Theology (M. Theol. or M. Th.) degree from a theological seminary of recognized standing.

**d.2. Language Requirement:** A working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek sufficient for translation and exegesis. Students must pass the two-hour language examination in Hebrew and Greek (for those specializing in biblical studies) and Aramaic (for those specializing in Old Testament) at the beginning of the first semester. This examination will focus on translation. For those specializing in the other three areas, a basic knowledge of both biblical languages is required as well as any other language that may be necessary within the specific area of concentration chosen by the candidate. When necessary, they may be asked to take a validating examination in Hebrew and Greek.

**English Language Requirement:** Applicants from countries that are not English speaking will be required to pass or present a TOEFL certification of at least a score of 600. Prospective students may take special English proficiency classes at the university before they start the doctoral program.

**d.3. Letters of Recommendation.** These letters of recommendations should say something about the applicant's past academic performance and potential for the future of theological education or of the church's ministry.

**d.4. A Sample Scholarly paper.** An applicant is required to submit a sample of his or her work in the form of a scholarly paper of at least 20-25 pages on the chosen field/area of study. This will be submitted to the Office of the Dean together with other documents required for admission.

#### **d.5. Non-refundable application fee.**

For applicants from the Philippines-USD 50.00 or its equivalent in local currency

For foreign students -USD 100.00 or its equivalent in local currency

## Major in Biblical Studies

<b>First Year- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester (24 units)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>BS 501-</b> Seminar on Methodologies in Biblical Interpretation	3 units	<b>BS 501-</b> Seminar on Methodologies in Biblical Interpretation	3 units
<b>ST 501-</b> Methodologies in Doing Systematic Theology	3 units	<b>ST 501-</b> Methodologies in Doing Systematic Theology	3 units
<b>OT 511-</b> Seminar on Wisdom in the Bible	3 units	<b>NS 511-</b> Seminar on the Synoptic Gospels	3 units
<b>OT 512-</b> Seminar on the Major Prophets	3 units	<b>NT 512-</b> Seminar: Social Sciences in New Testament Studies	3 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>
<b>First Year- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (24 units)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>SGT 501-</b> Gender, Feminist Theory and Methodology	3 units	<b>SGT 501-</b> Gender, Feminist Theory and Methodology	3 units
<b>RS 501-</b> Methodology of the Study of Religion	3 units	<b>RS 501-</b> Methodology of the Study of Religion	3 units
<b>OT 513-</b> Advance Reading in Hebrew	3 units	<b>NT 513-</b> Seminar on Paul	3 units
<b>OT 514-</b> Seminar on Genesis and the Pentateuch	3 units	<b>BS 511-</b> Seminar in Biblical Ethics	3 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>

<b>Second Year- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester (24 units)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>OT 604-</b> Seminar on Apocalyptic and Inter Testamental Literature	3 units	<b>NT 601-</b> Biblical Seminar on Early Christian Literature	3 units
<b>OT 605-</b> Seminar on the Minor Prophets	3 units	<b>NT 605-</b> Seminar on Revelation	3 units
<b>So. Sci. 302-</b> Seminar in Historiography and Ethnography	3 units	<b>So. Sci. 304-</b> Seminar in Classical Social Theories	3 units
<b>EP 240-</b> Resource Management: Policies and Practices	3 units	<b>CRM 104-</b> Socio-Cultural Impacts on the Environment	3 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>
<b>Second Year- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (24 units)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>OT 606-</b> Seminar on Biblical Themes	3 units	<b>NT 606-</b> Advance Reading in Greek	3 units
<b>OT 608-</b> Seminar on the Book of Psalms	3 units	<b>NT 608-</b> John and Johannine Texts	3 units
<b>Socio 144-</b> Introduction to Demographic Analysis	3 units	<b>Socio 151-</b> Social Psychology	3 units
<b>CRM 112-</b> Capability Building	3 units	<b>CRM 113-</b> Environmental Economic and Sustainable Development	3 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>

<b>Third Year- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester (6 units plus Matriculated Residency)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
<b>DP 600</b> – Comprehensive Exams (matriculated)	6 units	<b>DP 600</b> – Comprehensive Exams (matriculated)	6 units
<b>DP 601</b> - Dissertation Proposal Writing and Defense (matriculated)	6 units	<b>DP 601</b> - Dissertation Proposal Writing and Defense (matriculated)	6 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>
<b>Second Year- 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester (24 units)</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
Residency:	3 units	Residency:	3 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>3 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>3 units</b>

<b>Fourth Year</b>			
<b>Biblical Studies A (Old Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Biblical Studies B (New Testament)</b>	<b>Units</b>
Residency: <b>DP 603</b> - Dissertation Writing and Defense	12 units	Residency: <b>DP 603</b> - Dissertation Writing and Defense	12 units
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>	<b>Total Units</b>	<b>12 units</b>

