

Doctor of Ministry Program at Puritan Reformed Theological  
Seminary

Handbook

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## DISCLAIMERS

This Doctor of Ministry Handbook includes policies and procedures pertinent to the doctoral program at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary. Prospective and registered students should consult the handbook throughout the admission process and their study. Please visit website for the most recent edition of the handbook.

This handbook is not an agreement or an offer of admission to the program, and Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary reserves the right to change or correct any material in this handbook

## Doctor of Ministry Program at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

A seminary is a center where called students are trained for faithful ministry in Christ's church (2 Tim. 2:2). It is to be an arm of the church of Jesus Christ, outfitting its students for ministry throughout the world (Matt. 28:18-20). The gospel alone is the hope of our perishing world. We believe that God, by His Spirit, will use the theological education of qualified spiritual leaders to enliven His people, save the lost, and glorify His name with faith that overcomes the world.

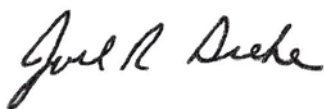
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary strives to be a catalyst for defining, inspiring, promoting, and defending the Christian faith around the globe through its graduates and faculty. The world needs faith that is based on Scripture, self-denying and serving, and openly dependent on God's sovereign grace and His Spirit. By such faith, Jesus Christ is imaged, and God's glory is transcribed in the world.

The need for faithful ministry in the academy and church is great, as are the opportunities. Moreover, no vocation on this side of heaven is as privileged or rewarding as Christian ministry. God has granted PRTS many blessings, including God-fearing instructors and students who have much love for God and each other. We are grateful for a student body of diverse backgrounds and denominations, seeking to glorify God by promoting His kingdom. The biblical, doctrinal, experiential, and relevant Reformed faith we strive to promote in every classroom builds a solid foundation for ministry today.

We are delighted that you have chosen to undertake the Doctor of Ministry degree program with us and hope that your time of study is intellectually challenging and stimulating, as well as spiritually enriching.

If you feel called by God to pursue a Doctor of Ministry program and are looking for training that combines solid Reformed and classical theology with robust, biblical piety, our program may be exactly what you are looking for! We hope you will seriously consider Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary as the place to prepare you, with the Spirit's blessing, for a life of Christ-centered service. May God guide you and us in His way and, if it is His will, cause our paths to cross in several years of fruitful fellowship.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel R. Beeke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Joel R. Beeke, President

## Program Purpose and Goals

Foundational for the Doctor of Ministry program is the rationale of academic, spiritual and practical formation of the student. First, within the world of Reformed theological seminaries, PRTS is recognized by its emphasis on biblical, Reformed, experiential, and practical ministry. This recognition has led to a worldwide demand for a comprehensive Doctor of Ministry. Secondly, PRTS is recognized for its attention to preaching (homiletics). This recognition is underscored, moreover, by the numerous inquiries received from PRTS alumni, PRTS constituents, and others since the commencement of the PRTS Doctoral (PhD) program in 2016. This program in homiletics combines academic rigor and integrity, and joins this with biblical piety (*pietate cum scientia conjungenda*)—in other words, it is a DMin program designed to serve the ministry of preaching for both the academy and church.

## Program Concentration: Homiletics

The specific focus of the Doctor of Ministry program of PRTS is on biblical, Reformed, experiential and practical preaching. PRTS seeks to adhere to the Reformed and Puritan tradition of homiletics, exemplified by John Calvin, William Perkins (*Art of Prophesying*), Petrus van Mastricht (*Best Method of Preaching*), Jonathan Edwards, and many others. We aim to do so by offering a Doctor of Ministry program that is distinctive in its academics and biblical piety; this will be evident in the admissions requirements, as well as the program's academic rigor, and spiritual and practical formation components.

The Doctor of Ministry program will be academically rigorous as we seek to offer a comprehensive program with high, measurable, and peer-reviewed academic standards. The program will be further enhanced by 1) PRTS-approved and qualified adjunct faculty serving as subject experts and co-advisors for the DMin student; 2) external courses taken by the DMin student outside PRTS; and 3) publication of the DMin dissertation project. Spiritual components of the DMin program may consist of assigned readings and preaching (in theory and practice). Resonating with the Reformed and Puritan tradition of international learning, PRTS in summary seeks to establish a Doctor of Ministry program with a strong attention to homiletics that couples academic excellence and spiritual richness.

Last but not least, the Doctor of Ministry program in Homiletics aims to contribute to the long-term aspiration of the seminary to establish a Global Center of Reformed Preaching. This center will capture the heart of the vision and mission of the seminary, articulate its homiletic

vision, and solidify its academic and practical contribution to preaching. This center will be a place where seminary faculty, students, and stakeholders work in a collaborative environment to create rich learning and teaching experiences for the preparation and delivery of sermons; the center aims to increase student preaching ability, to build meaningful partnerships, and to invite stakeholders to become members of an active learning community for biblical, Reformed, and experiential preaching.

### Admission Requirements

The requirements for admission and study are subject to the educational and degree program standards set forth by ATS; admission requirements may vary, but will general include the following:

1. **Because** of the biblical convictions of the sponsoring denominations of the seminary regarding the qualifications of those serving as ordained pastors, the DMin concentration in Homiletics is restricted to male applicants.
2. **The deadline:** It is recommended that applications for admission to the doctoral program be submitted no later than April 30 (for a fall-semester start) or October 30 (for a spring-semester start). The applicant will be informed about the decision of the Admissions Committee by the Director of Admissions shortly after a decision has been made. The Admissions Committee meets on a rolling basis approximately every two months. Applications are considered at the next available meeting only when all application components have been received.
3. **Admission of applicant:** A prospective student must apply for the Doctor of Ministry program via the seminary website; the application must include personal and academic essays, a sermon sample, and academic and ecclesiastical references. The Doctor of Ministry applicant will most likely be approached by the program director for an interview. The interview with the applicant concerns academics, spiritual life, study requirements (on-campus courses/residency requirements, questions of tuition, etc.), passion for preaching, as well as employment and family circumstances. The program director will submit a report to the Admissions Committee, either recommending or not recommending the applicant for admission. The report will include an evaluation of the academic and homiletic contribution of the proposed study, and an evaluation of the applicant's contributive ability for preaching. NB: The president or his designee(s) is (are) free at all times to attend the interview and admission process.

## Application Requirements

1. **To apply** for the Doctor of Ministry program of the seminary, the applicant must ordinarily present the following application components:
  - a. A completed online application form.
  - b. Two letters of recommendation: an ecclesiastical letter of recommendation from the pastor or consistory (i.e., session or council) of the church of which the applicant is a member, and an academic letter of recommendation from a professor under whose guidance the applicant has pursued studies.
  - c. Official transcripts of all academic work beyond high school. If more than one college was attended, transcripts from each institution must be sent.
  - d. Application essay(s). All applicants must submit a short essay (250–500 words) explaining why they are applying to PRTS.
  - e. Academic writing sample. All applicants must submit an academic writing sample. This sample may be a previously written paper, article, or essay that demonstrates proper citation methods and ability to construct, in English, a graduate-level paper.
  - f. Preached sermon samples (preferably a video recording)
  - g. TOEFL or IELTS results. All ESL (English as a Second Language) students are required to submit their TOEFL or IELTS score. PRTS requires a minimum of 85 on the internet based TOEFL. The IELTS equivalent required is 6.5. The PRTS reporting code is 0368.
  - h. Application fee of \$50. The application fee is non-refundable.
  
2. **To be eligible** for admission to the doctoral program, the applicant must:
  - i. be called to the ministry of preaching.
  - j. demonstrate high potential for local and regional influence through (future) ministry of teaching and preaching after completion of studies.
  - k. possess a MDiv degree in theology preferably from an accredited institute of higher learning.
  - l. have a minimum of three (3) years pastoral and preaching experience.
  - m. adhere to the Three Forms of Unity and/or Westminster Standards (apart from a position on paedo- or credobaptism).

- n. demonstrate biblical piety and character.

## Coursework

1. **Length of Study:** The Doctor of Ministry program is designed for pastors and preachers who are engaged in full-time ministry. The four core courses are modular, one-week courses to be taken on campus. Students should complete the Doctor of Ministry study within six years of matriculation (exceptions should be approved Academic Dean); this timeframe includes, completion of all coursework, and the research (proposal), writing, and defense of the dissertation project. It is recommended that the dissertation project should be published with a publisher within two years after the defense or published articles derived from the dissertation project.
2. **Residence Requirement:** The delivery of educational material via technology allows students to complete the required coursework (both residential and non-residential) within a period of four years. The resident or on-campus requirements of four (4) modular courses (week-long courses) must be completed within a period of four years. To foster involvement all students are encouraged to be on campus in August while taking the core courses.
3. **Course Requirements:** a total of twenty-four (24) credits + a DMin project are required for the Doctor of Ministry degree. The four (4) required modular (week-long) residential courses are offered on a rotating basis in August, with each August two of the required courses being offered, and then the next August the other two required courses offered.

### Four Required Core Courses

12 credits

1. HOM901 – Introduction to Homiletical Studies
2. HOM902 – Speak the Word: A Study in Oral Communication
3. HOM903 – Reformed Experiential Preaching I
4. HOM904 – Reformed Experiential Preaching II

*Introduction to Homiletical Studies.* This course is an introduction to homiletical studies, including the history of homiletics and will be primarily based on primary source readings, secondary literature overview, developments in homiletics, and research method. The classical Roman and Greek rhetoric and oratory will be studied, including foundational works of Cicero and Quintilian, the canons of rhetoric (*inventio, dispositio, elocutio, memoria, and pronuntiatio*), as well as transitional moments from Augustine to the mid-1800s, and includes studies of Augustine, *De Doctrina Christina*, book IV, medieval *artes*

*praedicandi*, such as *Summa de arte praedicatoriâ* of Alain of Lille (ca. 1128-1201), Erasmus, *Ecclesiastes: sive de ratione concionandi* (1535), Melanchthon, *De officiis concionatoris* (1529), and *Elementa rhetorices* (1532), and his appropriation in the works of Lutheran orthodoxy. In addition, attention will be given to the trajectories of homiletics in the Reformed tradition, and include readings of homiletic manuals of Andreas Hyperius (1511-1564), William Perkins (1558-1602), Johannes Hoornbeeck (1617-1666), David Knibbe (1639-1701), Conrad Bröske (1660-1713), William Chappell (1582- 1649), John Wilkins (1614-1672), Oliver Bowles (c.1577–1644), Lucas Trelcatius Jr. (1573-1607), Willem Teelinck (1579-1629), Antonius Walaeus (1573-1639). Johannes Martius (1603-1665), Maastricht's *De Optima Concionandi*, Guiljelmus Saldenus (1627-1694), John Edwards' *The Preacher* (1706), Friedrich A. Lampe (1683-1729), Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), among others. These primary sources will be set in historical context, and trajectories of continuity and discontinuity will be discussed. Attention will be given to the classical structure of the sermon, including *Exordium*, *Narratio*, *Propositio*, *Confirmatio*, *Confutatio*, and *Conclusio*, as well as a discussion on the grand and plain style of preaching, the move from *explicatio* to *applicatio*, and the intersection of preacher, audience, psychology, affections, and communication. In summary, this course aims to contribute to the classical foundations of a homily. Furthermore, this course is a study of research skills and methodology, authoritative sources, and library use designed to prepare the student to do (archival) research, including the critical and informed evaluation of "primary" and "secondary" sources, to review the development of a thesis statement, delimitation of topics, and to engage in effective study, writing, and preaching in ministry. Attention is given to Turabian format, bibliographies, and matters of form and style in academic writing.

*Reformed Experiential Preaching I.* This course contains two parts: *Part One*: Reformed Experiential Preaching Defined and Described, addressing What Is Reformed Experiential Preaching? Preaching from Head to Heart; Major Elements of Reformed Experiential Preaching; The Experiential Preacher. *Part Two*: Reformed Experiential Preaching Illustrated addressing, Reformation Preachers: Zwingli, Bullinger, and Oecolampadius; Reformation Preachers: Calvin; Reformation Preachers: Beza; Introduction to Puritan Preaching; Puritan Preachers: Perkins; Puritan Preachers: Rogers, Sibbes, and Preston; The Westminster Directory and Preaching; Puritan Preachers: Goodwin and Shepard; Puritan Preachers: Bunyan; Introduction to the Dutch Further Reformation; Dutch Preachers: Teellinck, van Lodenstein, and à Brakel; Dutch Reformed Preaching in America: Frelinghuysen; Eighteenth-Century Preachers: Halyburton, Edwards, and Davies; Nineteenth-Century Preachers: Alexander, M`Cheyne, and Ryle, and Twentieth-Century Preachers: Wisse and Lloyd-Jones.

*Reformed Experiential Preaching II.* Preaching Experientially Today addressing, Preaching with Balance; Application Starts with the Preacher; Effective Preaching about God and Man; Preaching the Gospel to the Heart, and Preaching for Holiness.

*Speak the Word: a Study in Oral Communication.* This course addresses to be an effective communicator of the Word; learn how to articulate ideas clearly, argue logically, listen carefully, and unify groups of people under a common goal. Authentic and effective communication skills are a must for effective speakers, and communicators of the Word



Three elective courses from ThM/PhD course offerings in which major research papers are related to homiletical issues 9 credits

Students may take courses at WTS, The Master's Academy, and The Institute of Expository Preaching, among others. **However, tuition and administration expenses of external course are not covered by PRTS nor included in the tuition as outlined below.**

One directed study arranged between student and advisor 3 credits

DMin Dissertation project

The Doctor of Ministry dissertation project is a written doctoral-level study that address both the nature and practice of preaching ministry. The study is completed with an oral defense, evaluation, and preached sermon. The study shows evidence of being informed by research method, course work, and project research enhancing knowledge and practice of one's preaching capacity.

### DMin project

1. **DMin project Proposal:** A proposal of the DMin project must be approved by the doctoral program director, advisor, co-advisor (and if necessary, one subject-expert scholar outside PRTS). The proposal is to be written following a proposal template and is normally to be submitted to the registrar two years before completion of the DMin project.
2. **Advisors:** Upon entrance of the student in the DMin project phase, the student will be assigned an advisor and at least one co-advisor. The advisor or co-advisor should be a member of faculty or an adjunct faculty
3. **DMin project:** The DMin project should demonstrate the student's mastery of relevant sources and methods and should make an original contribution to the field of homiletics. It should include a concluding summary written in English that demonstrates the relevance of the research for the ministry of preaching. The DMin project will be submitted to the office of the registrar for examination by at least two external subject experts and at least two members of faculty. The acceptance of the DMin project must be affirmed by a two-thirds majority of the examiners. Upon acceptance, a formal defense will be held on campus in the presence of a panel of scholars, members of the board of trustees and faculty. This defense should take place before graduation.

4. **DMin project defense and Graduation:** The dissertation should be submitted no later than January 1 in order to graduate in May of the same year.

#### Tuition and Fees

Application for admission (non-refundable)	\$ 50.00
Enrollment deposit	\$ 100.00
Tuition for the Doctor of Ministry program is	\$ 325.00 per month for four (4) years
Late registration fee	\$ 50.00
Continuation fee (after 4 years)	\$ 975.00 (not prorated)
Distance Education fee	\$75.00 per course taken from a distance
Graduation fee	\$ 250.00