

ADMISSIONS TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Admission application request forms for all programs are available online at www.brite.edu/admissions.

Brite offers the Doctor of Philosophy in two areas: Biblical Interpretation and Pastoral Theology: Transforming Persons, Communities, and Practices.

General Application Information

In addition to area specific requirements, all Ph.D. applications include the following:

1. Application for Admission and Financial Award. Each application must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$75 application fee made payable to Brite Divinity School.
2. Statement of Purpose. This is a very important part of your application. Prepare it carefully, indicating the reasons for your application to Brite Divinity School.
3. Three Letters of Recommendation. These should come from persons able to evaluate your academic and professional qualifications, such as undergraduate or graduate faculty familiar with your work. You are responsible for seeing that the letters of recommendation are sent. If letters are faxed, they must be followed by mailed hard-copies to the Office of Admissions.
4. Financial Certificate for International Students. In order to meet requirements for entry into the United States, international applicants must demonstrate that they have the financial resources to cover the cost of their education. Visa documents are issued only when all admission procedures have been satisfied. Applications for financial awards to international students are considered in competition with all other applications received.
5. Transcripts. Official transcripts (bearing the signature of the registrar and the seal of the institution) of all post-secondary work are required. Transcripts are to be sent directly to Brite Divinity School from each institution. To prevent delays, you should arrange with registrars to provide transcripts before mid-year grades are posted.
6. Test Scores:
 - a. Graduate Record Examinations Scores (GRE) are required.
 - b. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Applicants whose primary language is other than English and who have not received their education at an English-speaking college or university will also submit TOEFL scores of normally not less than 600 (computer-based 250 or internet-based 100).

You may select either the computer-based or paper-based test format. Online information about the GRE and TOEFL is available at <http://www.ets.org> or you may contact Educational Testing Service (ETS), P.O. Box 6000, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6000. Please use Institutional Code 6803 when requesting that test scores be sent to Brite Divinity School. We realize that the GRE scores of international students, particularly those whose native language is not English, may be affected by language and cultural differences. These scores are taken into consideration only as part of a student's total profile when such students' applications are evaluated. The scores are nevertheless required and must come directly from the Educational Testing Service.

Completed Ph.D. applications must be received no later than January 15. The Advanced Programs Committee, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Dean make the decision for admission into the Program. Admission is competitive and students are selected on the basis of a total profile of their scholastic preparation and intellectual ability. Applicants are notified by March 31 of admission into the Ph.D. Program for the following fall semester.

Ph.D. Admissions Timeline

November 1

Last date for applicants to take the paper-based GRE in order for Brite to receive the scores by January 15.

November 15

Last date for international applicants to take the paper-based TOEFL in order for Brite to receive the scores by January 15.

December 1

Last date for applicants to take the computer-based GRE or TOEFL in order for Brite to receive the scores by January 15.

January 15

Completed applications must be on file at Brite Divinity School.

March 31

Admission decisions will be mailed by this date to all applicants whose files are complete by January 15.

April 15

Deadline for response to offers of admission and financial award. If your reply is not received by April 15, Brite may rescind the offer of admission and financial award. An offer of admission is made for a specific fall entrance date. In some cases, admission may be deferred until the spring semester.

Area Specific Admission Requirements

Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation

For admission to the Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation, a student must possess a Master of Divinity degree, Master of Theological Studies degree, Master of Arts degree, or Master of Theology degree (or equivalent) with a concentration in biblical studies from an accredited theological school.

A writing sample (thesis, research paper, article, or essay) demonstrating the applicant's area of interest in biblical studies, scholastic preparation, and intellectual ability.

BIIN applicants are encouraged, if possible, to arrange an interview with the Biblical faculty and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Applications to the Ph.D. in Biblical Interpretation program are evaluated with a view to determining the applicant's academic and scholarly potential for independent research and vocations of teaching biblical interpretation and related historical and theological areas in theological schools, colleges, and universities, or for the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice.

Ph.D. in Pastoral Theology: Transforming Persons, Communities, and Practices

For admission to the Ph.D. in Pastoral Theology: Transforming Persons, Communities, and Practices, a student must possess a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent from an accredited theological school.

Pastoral Theology applications must contain the following area specific requirements:

1. M.Div. degree or its equivalent.

“Equivalent” means that the PT department may consider an applicant who has a theological degree other than the M.Div. from an accredited seminary or divinity

school. The PT department will assess the applicant's transcript and recommend course work necessary to achieve equivalency. At minimum, the applicant will be expected to have completed within the existing theological degree:

9 hours of pastoral care, pastoral theology, or pastoral counseling
3 hours of ethics
6 hours of theology
6 hours of Bible
6 hours of church history

The department may also require courses in other disciplines expected from an M.Div. program to prepare a student for ministry. Normally, and by ATS standards, equivalent work, plus the previous degree, would equal the number of hours required for an M.Div. degree.

Equivalency requirements are usually completed before an application for the Ph.D. degree is considered. The PT department may recommend that some of these requirements be met by 70000-level courses taken as part of a Th.M. program. Such decisions will be made by the Advanced Programs Committee in consultation with the PT faculty department on a case-by-case basis and communicated to the applicant in the letter of acceptance.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, in the letter of acceptance to the Program, will state any deficiencies. Students, who do not have a theological degree but a Masters degree in another field, will be expected to gain a theological degree with the above minimum number of classes before they can apply to the Program.

2. Provide a document (thesis, research paper, article, lecture, writing project) in the applicant's area of specialty that demonstrates abilities to conceptualize and communicate through the written word.
3. Applicants are required to submit a supervisory report from an experience in which they engaged intentionally in offering care to others and where attention was given to critical self-reflection over an extended period of time. Such experiences might include a unit of CPE, CPSP, AAPC, or work with a Licensed Clinical Supervisor (LCSW, LPC, AAMFT, etc.). The supervisory report ought to include a critical assessment of the applicant's capacity for engaging others in helping conversations as well as the ability to learn through an intentional program of supervision and reflection.
4. Demonstrated competence in a modern language that supports the student's work in the field, usually one of the following: French, German, or Spanish. Competency can be achieved by passing a one-semester/three-hour graduate course or two one-semester/three-hour undergraduate courses with a grade of B or better. This requirement may be met before matriculation or by taking a course at Brite during the first year of Ph.D. studies, and no later than beginning the second year of coursework.

Pastoral Theology applicants may be required to arrange an interview with at least two of the Pastoral Theology faculty and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. A telephone interview may be substituted at the department's discretion.

Applications to the Ph.D. in Pastoral Theology program are evaluated with a view to determining the applicant's potential for the academic disciplines of pastoral theology and pastoral care, and for service to the church through ministry with individuals, families, congregations and social systems.