

# BRIDGING THE WORD AND THE WORLD

**Science and Theology** is designed to involve the student's ministerial setting in all phases of the program. These include:

- **SEMINAR PHASE**, consisting of six seminars in which various areas of science and theology are reviewed.
- **COLLOQUIUM PHASE**, in which the nature of the doctoral project is developed and a Biblical Seminar is taken.
- **PROJECT PHASE**, involving one elective course, the implementation of the project, and the writing of the doctoral paper.

The Doctor of Ministry Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary also offers:

- Reformed Focus
- Eastern Christian Focus
- Reformed Christian Spirituality Focus
- Parish Focus

## ADMISSION

A Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited seminary or divinity school is required for admission. Applicants are also expected to have completed a minimum of three years in ministry following receipt of the M.Div and to have an endorsement from their church board or agency, of an appropriate ecclesiastical official.

For an application and additional information, send an email to [doctorofministry@pts.edu](mailto:doctorofministry@pts.edu).

Financial aid is available for qualified applicants.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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SCIENCE & THEOLOGY  
CONTINUING THE NARRATIVE BETWEEN  
THE PASTOR AND THE SCIENTIST

# COURSE OUTLINE

## PHASE I

### Introduction to the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program and Pastoral Leadership

This course is designed to review the purpose and the distinctiveness of the degree, the writing and research guidelines, and how to plan and prepare to set aside the time necessary to do adequate research and writing. Included in the course will be methodologies, critical thinking, action-reflection modalities, understanding and incorporating case studies, theological improvisation, theological imagination, auto-ethnography, qualitative research, narrative inquiry, narrative writing and pastoral portfolio as part of the repertoire of what serves to strengthen the degree and entire seminar structure.

### Science/Theology and Ministry

This core seminar focuses on the theology of the Church, with special emphasis on implications for the practice of ministry. The seminar will take into account the particularities of the science and theology narrative including the history of the church's engagement with developments in the natural sciences. Focus will be on theological method and include a contextual analysis of the present discourse. The intent of this seminar is to frame the work of pastor/theologian through developing and encouraging questions. It is hoped that pastors will begin to frame their own thinking in an interdisciplinary manner.

### Biblical Texts in the World of Contemporary Science

Emphasis is placed on the pastoral task of interpreting the biblical text in preparation for teaching, preaching, and theological reflection. Guest lecturer on preaching to coincide with the themes of the seminar.

## PHASE II

### Cosmology

The content of this seminar is on the evolving cosmos, new ideas of creation, questions of divine action, eschatology and theodicy.

### Theology and Biological Evolution

This seminar is an invitation to enlarge one's sense of the divine. How do we talk about divine reality in the context of our faith traditions? How do we view nature—is it a promise rather than simply a design or order? A religiously adequate understanding of God not only tolerates but requires the adventurous extension of cosmic frontiers implied in evolutionary science.

### Theology and the Technologies of Human Transformation

The routine use of technology to restore human capabilities and health is mostly unquestioned. The ethical decision of providing life-saving medical procedures as well as to enhance human capacities is often made in the midst of the most critical pastoral care contexts. This seminar will address these prospects from the perspective of Christian theology, ethics, and ministry practice.

### Theology, Technology and Society

Emphasis is on social/cultural impact of applied science and its significance for ministry. What difference does the church make? How do we assist in decision making with regard to pastoral care, even the kinds and types of liturgical narratives in the midst of the blurred boundaries that technology produces? Are their ethical norms that serve us in these changing moments? Finally, is there an adequate voice at the table to address the larger issues within society that includes the ethical boundaries for those on the margin? What impact does technological advances and decisions have in a global environment?

### Neuroscience in Theological and Pastoral Perspective

The aim of this seminar is to establish a strategic presence in the dialogue of life, death, experience, emotion and the brain. Poised on the cusp of wholly new discoveries and thinking with regard to neuroscience, to be cognizant of new research and thinking in science about the brain is paramount. What are we discovering and how does it change ministry? Are we now at the true end of a dualistic framework?

## PHASE III

### Proposal Lab and Elective

This final phase assists students in designing a doctoral project in a particular area of ministry and an elective in a "practical discipline" related to the candidate's project. The final phase requires satisfactory completion of a doctoral project and paper. One elective is to be taken in this phase. The doctoral project/paper must reflect depth of theological insight and its positive integration with the practice of ministry. While the project normally concludes in the third year of study, the demands of professional work and study sometimes make it more practical to take two years to complete this project. The program is flexible and can accommodate each candidate's situation.

doctor of  
ministry