7. Ph.D. Dissertation

1. Definition

A Ph.D. dissertation is the final research work required to obtain a doctoral degree, and it must offer an original and meaningful contribution to the academic field.

It critically reviews existing studies and seeks theoretical or practical development by raising new questions and providing solutions.

2. Purpose

Korean	English
To demonstrate academic originality and research competence	To demonstrate academic originality and research competence
To contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a specific area	To contribute to the advancement of knowledge in a specific area
To qualify the candidate as an independent researcher	To qualify the candidate as an independent researcher

3. Main Components

Section	Description
Title	Clearly states the central research topic
Abstract	Summarizes the purpose, methods, results, and conclusions
Table of Contents	Organized listing of chapters, sections, and appendices
Introduction	Presents the background, research problem, and objectives
Literature Review	Reviews and critiques existing literature
Methodology	Explains data collection, analysis methods, and procedures
Findings / Analysis	Presents and analyzes research results
Conclusion and Recommendations	Summarizes findings, discusses implications, limitations, and suggests future research
Bibliography	Complete citation of all referenced sources
Appendices	Supplementary materials such as data, questionnaires, interviews, etc.

4. Writing Process

1) Topic Selection

Choose a topic of academic value, feasibility, and personal interest.

2) Literature Review

Analyze existing research to define the research problem and gap.

3) Research Design

Formulate research questions/hypotheses and outline data collection plans.

4) Data Collection & Analysis

Systematically collect and analyze empirical or theoretical data.

5) Writing the Dissertation

Develop each chapter in a structured and logical manner.

6) Advisor Feedback & Revisions

Incorporate feedback from the academic advisor and committee through multiple revisions.

7) Final Submission & Oral Defense

Present and defend the dissertation before the academic committee.

---

5. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Description
Originality	Is the work novel and innovative?
Logical Coherence	Are arguments well-structured and persuasive?
Academic Contribution	Does it significantly advance the field of study?
Methodological Soundness	Are the methods valid, reliable, and appropriate?
Writing Quality	Is the document well-written, clear, and coherent?
Oral Defense	Is the candidate able to effectively defend their work?

---

6. Sample Topics

1) Theology

The Pauline Understanding of the Law and Its Relation to the Gospel

2) History

A Diplomatic History Study on South Korea's Participation in the Vietnam War and the Brown Memorandum

3) Education

Theological Education in the AI Era: Proposing an Online Seminary Model