PDWS8201 Program Overview and Research Writing
Professional Doctoral Workshop
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Summer Semester: August 14-15, 2025

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Mission Statement
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description
This workshop is an overview of the professional doctoral programs and an introduction to research writing. It is designed to guide students into intentionally planning their entire program and to orient them to research/writing skills in preparation for their remaining seminar work and the project in ministry. This workshop must be taken during a student's first semester in the program.

Course Methodology:
1. Presentation. The professor and guest lecturers will guide the students to an understanding of the components of both the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Programs (DMin/DEdMin) and basic research writing skills.

2. Group Discussion. Students will dialogue about the Professional Doctoral Programs and their relationship to their respective ministries.

3. Individual Assignments. The students will complete assignments related to the philosophy of the Professional Doctoral Programs, research writing, and the study of Turabian as a stylistic guide.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Clearly explain the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Programs.
2. Discuss goals for his/her DMin or DEdMin Program and explain how those goals fit into his/her present ministry and future ministry plans.
3. Describe in detail a plan to complete his/her DMin or DEdMin Program.

4. Effectively utilize Turabian (9th ed.) as a stylistic guide for research writing.
5. Demonstrate basic writing skills.

Required Textbooks
Books may be ordered from your choice of bookstores or online sources. The Handbooks are available for download on the Professional Doctoral Program Website.
http://www.nobts.edu/cme/current-students/resources.html

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation, 9*th
    ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0226430577

Wilson, Jim and Earl Waggoner. *A Guide to Theological Reflection.* Grand Rapids: MI:
    Zondervan Academic. 2020 ISBN: 978-0310093930

Doctor of Ministry Handbook or *Doctor of Educational Ministry Handbook* available in the
    Current Students section of the ProDoc website

Recommended Textbook
Booth Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research.*
    4th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0226239736

Course Requirements:
1. **Program Handbook Reading:** Each student will read thoroughly the *Doctor of Ministry Handbook* or the *Doctor of Educational Ministry Handbook* (whichever is applicable) and be prepared to discuss it during all workshop sessions. The handbooks may be downloaded from the ProDoc website (www.nobts.edu/cme). Indicate completion of this assignment in Canvas.

2. **QQTP (Questions, Quotes or Talking Points)**. Students will read *A Guide to Theological Reflection* and submit 10 annotated Questions, Quotes or Talking Points from the book. An "annotation" is a brief paragraph (3-5 sentences) describing the significance or application of the QQTP. Parenthetical citations from the text are permitted for this assignment. You will post the paper in Assignments (in Canvas). A header with name, seminar, assignment, and date is acceptable (rather than a title page.)

3. **Writing Textbook and Style Guide:** Review and be prepared to discuss *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Give particular attention to chapters 20-25), the *NOBTS Writing Style Guide,* and resources on the website. Students should be familiar with the fundamentals of academic writing by the first workshop session.
https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

4. **Intentional Plan for Completing the Degree:** Each student will submit a 4-6 page (typed, double-spaced) paper describing an intentional plan for the completion of the Professional Doctoral Program. Components of the paper should include: (1) the relationship of the program and your specialization to current and future ministry; (2) two or three personal growth goals; (3) several seminars you might like to take and a rationale for each; (4) two to three possible project in ministry ideas; and (5) a tentative time schedule for anticipated completion of the program.

First person may be used, but otherwise the **NOBTS Style Guide** should be followed. Do not use chapter headings but instead use subheadings (Turabian A.2.2.4). The Intentional Plan is due by the day of the workshop and can be submitted through Canvas. A confirmation the student has read the entire handbook is in Canvas as well.

5. **Post-Seminar Assignments:** The professor will make two post-seminar assignments at the workshop. One will include video instructional segments to enhance academic writing. The modules will be available in Canvas at the completion of the workshop. You are expected to complete all the modules before a grade will be assigned. The second pertains to your degree completion plan.

Course Evaluation:
An evaluation of PASS or FAIL is granted for all Professional Doctoral workshops and will be determined jointly by the professors using the following criteria:

1. The student completes all course assignments according to schedule and in a manner reflective of doctoral-level work.

2. The student attends and actively participates in all workshop sessions with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

3. The student demonstrates a grasp of the make-up of the Professional Doctoral programs and a working knowledge of basic research writing skills.

4. NOTE: Some students who demonstrate inadequate research writing skills may be required to get additional help prior to the project in ministry stage of their program.

Learning Management System (Canvas)
Note to All Students: Canvas instructions will be reviewed during the workshop presentations. You will be enrolled in the Canvas class before the program overview workshop. Pre-assignments should be submitted on or before the first day of class. Post-assignments should be submitted through Canvas on or before the assignment due date.

Student Canvas Resources:
Student Guide to Canvas:
https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student
Canvas Tutorial Videos: https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/tkb-p/videos#student-videos

Class Presentations
PDF documents of all presentations during the workshop will be posted in the Learning Management System course at the end of each day and remain available until two months after the end of the Semester. **Students should download presentations and handouts for future use.** Research and reference materials should be saved in your personal files.

Course Schedule
The seminar will meet from **1:00 pm until 7:00 pm (Central time) on Thursday, August 14, 2025.** The workshop will work straight through with a supper break occurring AFTER the session.

The workshop will also meet from **8:00 am until 3:00 pm (Central Time) on Friday, August 15, 2025,** including a Lunch Break.

A more precise schedule will be available on or before the first day of the workshop.

Technical Assistance
For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:
1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com   Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments
NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.