



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Professional Doctoral Workshop
PDWS8203 Project in Ministry Design
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring Semester
January 26-29, 2026

Workshop Coordinator

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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 offers the student guidance in designing a defensible preliminary proposal for a worthy professional doctoral project. This workshop is offered each semester and is concerned principally with conceptualizing and designing the project, discovering resources, and determining methods and evaluative procedures.

Course Methodology

1. Presentation. The professor and guest lecturers will guide the students to an understanding of the basic principles of both the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Programs and basic research writing skills.
2. Group Discussion. Students will discuss 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

During the workshop, students will:

1. Identify strengths and limitations of their Preliminary Project Proposals.

2. Revise and reformat their Preliminary Project Proposals.
3. Compose a concise, clear, complete, and correct one-sentence project statement.
4. Develop clear Project and Professional Goals.
5. Understand the content and format of the Final Project Proposal, to be written following the workshop and to be submitted for approval to their Project Mentor for initial approval and to the ProDoc Committee for final approval.

Textbooks

Required:

Project in Ministry Handbook.

Available Online- <https://www.nobts.edu/cme/current-students/resources.html>

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

Recommended:

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

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

Course Schedule:

The workshop meets according to the tentative schedule listed in the syllabus. Additional meetings during the workshop will be announced as needed. Students MUST plan to be on campus (or online) throughout the days of the workshop for all class sessions, library work, and interaction with professors, their Project Mentors, and fellow workshop participants.

Pre-Workshop Assignments:

1. If you have not already done so, please dialogue with and enlist an available project mentor using the **Project Mentor/Student Contract** form found on the ProDoc website “Current Student Students” page. The list of the approved Project Mentors listed in the Project Mentors page of the ProDoc website. Note: You are responsible for enlisting a mentor! Only call the ProDoc office if you have difficulty in enlisting a mentor.
 - a. Be prepared to discuss with the mentor items 1-8 in the "Identifying a Project in Ministry" section (Chapter I., Section E., pages 3-4) of the Project in Ministry Handbook. Also, utilize the Project Examples at the end of this syllabus.
 - b. Secure the project mentor's oral/written approval of the project idea. Note: do this before writing the Preliminary Proposal.
2. Write a **Preliminary Project Proposal**. A Preliminary Project Proposal (PPP) is a brief, formal document summarizing the proposed ministry project. Include the following components in the PPP: (Refer to the Project in Ministry Handbook for specific instructions)
 - Title Page and Table of Contents

- Ministry Setting (Context) and Professional Concerns (2 paragraphs): Dedicate one paragraph each to the ministry setting (context) and the professional concern(s) to be addressed in the project.
- Ministry Proposal (1 page): Provide a one-sentence statement of the project (Make sure that your one-sentence statement of the project clearly matches one of the Project Models). Then, in several paragraphs, briefly describe the project proposal in such a way that an objective reader clearly understands the direction. Include in the description the kind of relevant experiences and components that will be involved in the project (such as specialized research, surveys, sermons, teaching/training sessions, retreats, mentoring, practice of ministry, etc).
- Project Goals (2 paragraphs): Identify 2-3 project goals and 1-3 professional goals. Project goals relate to the overall project and professional goals relate to the student's personal growth as a professional minister.
- Biblical Rationale (1 or 2 paragraphs): Identify two to four biblical themes addressed by this project proposal. Discuss these themes, providing scriptural support. Utilize the original biblical languages as appropriate in your discussion.
- Proposed Time Schedule (1 paragraph): Give a time schedule that includes the following: dates for enrollment in the Project in Ministry Design workshop, date of submission of the Final Project Proposal to the Project Mentor, dates of project implementation/research, and anticipated graduation date.
- Initial Bibliography (2-3 pages): Include relevant works and key resources in the field that have been examined (books, journal articles, websites, DMin/DEdMin projects and/or dissertations, etc. probably 20-30 sources).

NOTE #1: No student will be allowed to participate in the workshop without a Preliminary Project Proposal and a signed project mentor contract with the proposal title included. The proposal must be submitted in a timely manner to ensure that it has been reviewed by the workshop professor(s).

NOTE #2: The Project in Ministry Design Workshop will utilize Canvas for this course. Upload your PPP into the Assignments section no later than **8:00 am, January 26, 2026**, to allow the workshop faculty to review prior to the start of the workshop. Workshop documents will be available in the Contents Section of Canvas prior to the start each workshop day.

3. Read carefully the entire *Project in Ministry Handbook* and be prepared to discuss the contents in class.
4. Review Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th edition. Pay particular attention to chapters related to footnotes, reference citations, and chapter headings as you write the Preliminary Project Proposal. You will need to become familiar with more details as you write your Final Project Proposal and Project Report.

5. Read extensively in the area of your ministry project.
 - a. Be able to discuss the Initial Bibliography and why these sources are key sources for the project.
 - b. Be able to discuss the Biblical Rationale, giving clear biblical support for those themes identified in the Preliminary Project Proposal.
 - c. Be able to explain and defend your one-sentence statement.

Post-workshop Assignment:

Submit a Project Planning Grid (Project Map) in Canvas and via email to the Project Coordinator (Phyllis Garrett, pgarrett@nobts.edu) no later than one month following the completion of the workshop. Please cc your Project Mentor and the Workshop Coordinator on the grid email. **VERY IMPORTANT: YOU CANNOT RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE FOR THE COURSE UNLESS YOU COMPLETE THIS POST- WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENT.**

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.

Tentative (content listed subject to change) Workshop Schedule:

Session One: Monday, 1:00 -7:00 P.M.

1. Devotional and Prayer
2. Introduction to the Workshop: Syllabus discussion, Overview of Workshop
3. Overview of Project Models
4. What Constitutes a Well-Written Project?
5. Writing a Good One-Sentence Statement
6. Small Groups

Assignment for Tuesday: Write a revised one-sentence statement

Session Two: Tuesday, (8:15A.M.—4:00P.M.)

1. Devotional and Prayer
2. Developing Project and Professional Goals
3. Small Groups
4. Library Research Orientation
5. Evaluations and Assessments of Project and Professional Goals (Part 1)

Assignment for Wednesday: Write Project and Professional goals

Session Three: Wednesday, (8:15A.M—4:00P.M.)

1. Evaluations and Assessments of Project and Professional Goals (Part 2)
2. Small Groups
3. Mapping your Project Proposal

Assignment for Thursday: Evaluation and Assessment Options for Project and Professional Goals.

Session Four: Thursday, (8:15A.M—12:00P.M.)

1. Doctrinal Foundations for the Final Project Proposal
2. Common Turabian Form and Style Errors
3. Critical Issues in Finishing Well
4. Reflections/Post Workshop Assignments

NOTE: The workshop is very time intensive. Students must be prepared to be present through the entire workshop and attend all workshop sessions.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

The Equipping Program Model

Context: A small group of believers need to be equipped in some phase of direct ministry. Many models are available in the field for this type of training, but the project director will utilize research in the field and the existing models to synthesize a creatively new approach.

Scope: This project begins with the project director's research and ends with the select group of believers being equipped. The future work of the group is out of the scope of the project.

Emphasis: Training believers in some phase of direct ministry

Product: A group of believers equipped in some phase of direct ministry

One-Sentence Statement:

The purpose of this project is to equip selected men of First Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi, with servant leadership competencies.

Project Goals:

1. To research the field of servant leadership in order to identify essential servant leadership competencies.
2. To develop a workshop to equip the selected men of First Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi, with servant leadership competencies.
3. To equip the selected men of First Baptist Church, Union, Mississippi, with servant leadership competencies.

Professional Goals:

1. To increase the project director's knowledge of servant leadership.
2. To increase the project director's skill in instructional theory and practice (or curriculum design).

The Preaching Skill Enhancement Model

Context: The project director is in need of personal enhancement or improvement in a specific component of preaching skill. The preaching skill has a direct relationship to the ministerial concern.

Scope: This project begins with the project director's process of identifying the preaching skill that needs enhancement or improvement, and ends with implementation of the skill enhancement. The future results of the enhancement are out of the scope of the project.

Emphasis: A preaching skill area

Product: The implementation of skill improvement

One-Sentence Statement:

The purpose of this project is to enhance the project director's doctrinal preaching skills to increase congregational awareness of selected Baptist doctrines at First Baptist Church, Eunice, Louisiana.

Project Goals:

1. To research the field of doctrinal preaching to identify best practices.
2. To develop a series of doctrinal sermons to increase congregational awareness of selected Baptist doctrines at First Baptist Church, Eunice, Louisiana, incorporating the best practices identified in project goal one.
3. To preach the series of doctrinal sermons at First Baptist Church, Eunice, Louisiana.

Professional Goals:

1. To increase the project director's knowledge of Baptist doctrines.
2. To increase the project director's skill in the delivery of doctrinal sermons.

The Strategy Planning Model

Context: A targeted population exists to which some form of ministry is to be accomplished. The strategy will have a single purpose, but it will utilize multiple means to accomplish its objective.

Scope: This project begins with the project director's exploration of demographics and existing methods and ends with the early stages of implementation. The carrying out of the strategy and its results are out of the scope of the project.

Emphasis: A multifaceted strategy

Product: A strategy with early stages of implementation such as: presentation of the strategy, approval of the strategy, or the first steps of the strategy (pilot projects, demographics, etc.)

One-Sentence Statement:

The purpose of this project is to design a volunteer leadership strategy for Northshore Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in order to enhance ministry effectiveness.

Project Goals:

- 1 To explore the internal demographics of Northshore Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in order to discover current leadership development effectiveness...
2. To research existing strategy models of leadership development in order to determine the best practices.
3. To design a leadership development strategy for Northshore Church, Slidell, Louisiana, in order to enhance ministry effectiveness.
4. To present the strategy to the Leadership Team of Northshore Church, Slidell, Louisiana for approval.

Professional Goals:

1. To increase the project director's knowledge in the field of leadership development.
2. To increase the project director's skill in strategy planning.

The Community Assessment Model

Context: A social need exists in the community that needs to be met. This is not a generic need, but it is an expressed need in the project director's community.

Scope: This project begins with the project director's identification of demographic data and existing needs and ends with specific recommendations. The carrying out of those recommendations and their results are out of the scope of the project.

Emphasis: Social need

Product: Specific recommendations

One-Sentence Statement:

The purpose of this project is to assess the social needs of single-mother families in Corpus Christi, Texas, for South Texas Children's Ministries.

Project Goals:

1. To assess the demographic data and community needs related to single-mother families in crisis in Corpus Christi, Texas.
2. To discover the resources available to single-mother families in crisis in Corpus Christi, Texas.
3. To make specific recommendations to the ministry committee of South Texas Children's Home Ministries for development of to single-mother families in Corpus Christi.

Professional Goals:

1. To increase the project director's knowledge of the needs of single-mother families.
2. To increase the project director's skill in demographic and community needs analysis.

The Ministry Research Model

Context: The need exists for a new approach in a cutting edge ministry for which few models exist and which will require further research and development.

Scope: This project begins with the project director's research and ends with the development of a workshop, conference, module, etc. The offerings of the product or its results are out of the scope of the project.

Emphasis: Research in a field of study.

Product: The development of new materials for ministry.

One-Sentence Statement:

The purpose of this project is to research the field of multiethnic church leadership in order to develop a workshop for African-American pastoral interns at Pursuit Church Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee.

Project Goals:

1. To research the field of multiethnic church leadership and define best practices.
2. To produce a workshop for African-American pastoral interns to equip in multiethnic church leadership skills.

Professional Goals:

1. To increase the project director's knowledge of multiethnic church leadership.
2. To increase the project director's skill in designing a workshop.