

**Doctoral Entrance Exam  
Reading List and Study Guide**

The following resources are foundational texts and articles used in our master's program. The Entrance Exam reflects information from these resources. Applicants are expected to have a basic knowledge and understanding of the people, concepts and theories identified in them. Texts in **bold** are paramount and provide an elementary preparation for the test. Familiarity with the entire bibliography is recommended.

***Educational Foundations****Historical/Philosophical Foundations*

**Anthony, Michael and Warren Benson. *Exploring the History and Philosophy of Christian Education: Principles for the 21st Century*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2011**

Estep, James R., Michael R. Anthony, and Greg R. Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2008.

Estep, James R. et. al. *Christian Education: The Heritage of Christian Education*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 2003.

Gangel, Kenneth O. and Warren S. Benson. *Christian Education: Its History and Philosophy* Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002.

Knight, George R. *Philosophy & Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective, 4th ed.* Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2006.

*Lifespan Development*

Kail, Robert, and John Cavanaugh. *Essentials of Human Development: A Life-Span View*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014.

**Balswick, Joack, Pamela King, and Kevin Reimer. *The Reciprocating Self: Human Development in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2016.**

***Discipleship****Discipleship Strategies*

Absalom, Alex and Bobby Harrington. *Discipleship that Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006.

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart, eds. *Together We Equip*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

**Putnam, Jim and Bobby Harrington. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps to Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.**

## *Lifespan Discipleship*

Electronic documents available from professor (Dr David Odom, DOdom@nobts.edu):

“A Vision for Child & Youth Discipleship” by Sally and David Michael.

“Narrative Discipleship: Guiding Emerging Adults to “Connect the Dots” of Life and Faith”  
by Nathan Byrd.

Read Transcript from *Five Views on Infants & Children in the Church* (conference at NOBTS, April 27, 2015).

Read, Chapter 4, Galindo, Israel, “Implications for an Adult Religious Education for Spiritual Development,” in *The Spiritual Development of Adults in Mid-Life and Spiritual Direction: Implications for Adult Religious Education* (EdD Dissertation, NOBTS).

## *Organizational Leadership & Administration*

**Hartwig, Ryan T. and Warren Bird. *Teams That Thrive: Five Disciplines of Collaborative Church Leadership*. Downers Grove. InterVarsity Press, 2015.**

Gladden, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2011.

Parr, Steve, ed. *Sunday School That Really Excels: Real Life Examples of Churches with Healthy Sunday Schools*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013.

## *Leadership*

### *Church Leadership & Administration*

**Hughes, Adam and Jody Dean. *Together We Lead: Integrating Church Leadership and Administration for Ministry Success*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishing, 2021.**

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership*. Grand Rapids, MI: Book House, 2003.

Welch, Robert. *Church Administration: Creating Efficiency for Effective Ministry*, 2nd ed. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2011.

## *Teaching and Learning*

### *Teaching the Bible*

Hunt, Josh. *Teaching Like Jesus*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.

Linhart, Terry, ed. *Teaching the Next Generation: A Comprehensive Guide for Teaching Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

**Yount, William. *Created to Learn: A Christian Teacher’s Introduction to Educational Psychology*, 2d ed. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2010. (ISBN: 978-0805447279)**

Electronic documents available from professor (Dr. Donna B. Peavey, DPeavey@nobts.edu):

Richards, Lawrence O, and Gray J. Bredfeldt. *Creative Bible Teaching*, Chapter 8

Yount, William. *The Disciplers’ Handbook*. Revised 2014.

Yount, William. *Created to Learn*, Chapter 12.

## **Preparation Suggestions and Guidelines**

1. Be familiar with foundational educational philosophies and theories. Be able to identify historical and contemporary influencers in the discipline of Christian Education.
2. Study human growth and development considering physiological, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual maturity processes.
3. Be familiar with basic church administration textbooks and administration processes and procedures.
4. Prepare to define terms found in the fields of Christian Education, discipleship and spiritual formation.
5. Be prepared to explain your personal philosophy of Education ministry in the church, school or other organization.