

University of the West

Addendum: 2020-21 Academic Catalog

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#### Doctor of Theology in Applied Buddhist Studies (ThD)

This program was retired in 2016. The Religious Studies department continues to offer coursework and dissertation supervision to all students enrolled at the time of retirement. Students who maintain continuous enrollment in the program may continue to graduation within the defined maximum time to degree. Students may be granted an authorized leave of absence for cause. This must be approved in advance by the Chair of the Religious Studies department and the university's Chief Academic Officer. If granted, students may resume their studies under their original catalog. Unless authorized in advance, students returning from a break in enrollment are not eligible to enroll in the ThD program.

The attached catalog excerpt, extracted from the 2015/16 Academic Catalog, describes the ThD program and requirements in full.

# Doctor of Theology in Applied Buddhist Studies

The Doctor of Theology (ThD) in Applied Buddhist Studies is an advanced research degree leading to a dissertation project and is intended for students specializing in the study of Buddhism and its application to issues and problems in the modern world. The ThD is a selective research program that prepares students to work in leadership and administrative positions in Buddhist organizations or other religiously-based and social services-oriented institutions. Research, writing, and communication skills are developed to the level necessary to participate in professional academic discourse and practice-oriented domains of faith and service. A doctoral degree is awarded on the basis of evidence that the recipient possesses knowledge of a broad field of applied learning and expert mastery of a particular area of concentration within it.

Progress through the ThD program is determined by coursework and the successful completion of both the candidacy portfolio and the dissertation project. As a means of tailoring the program to the needs and interests of individual students, the makeup of the candidacy portfolio will be individualized by the doctoral committee. Rejection of the candidacy portfolio twice in a row may result in termination of the student's enrollment in the program.

Important note: Prior to the beginning of the semester in which students expect to defend their dissertation project, they must consult with their graduate advisor to verify that all degree requirements excepting the defense have been fulfilled and with their doctoral advisor to confirm that their dissertation project is ready for defense.

## Program Learning Outcomes

### Wisdom & Skillful Means

Students are thoroughly prepared for academic and professional success.

<b>Knowledge</b>	Students summarize and explain different facets of Buddhism and Buddhist life from academic and practical perspectives.
<b>Praxis</b>	Students apply the tools and theories used in the academic study of religion, theology, ministry, and other relevant disciplines to concrete issues.
<b>Ethics</b>	Students identify ethical issues raised by contemporary Buddhist practice and explain their significance.
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Students think critically about the normative assumptions and claims of the Buddhist tradition.  Students critically assess Buddhist thought and practice within the context of modern society.  Students develop their own critical perspective and engage in sustained analysis of the Buddhist tradition.
<b>Communication</b>	Students clearly articulate their study and practice of Buddhism in writing, speech, and other forms of communication.

### Self-Awareness

Students are prepared to engage in an ongoing process of self-understanding that enables them to lead happy, purposeful lives characterized by healthy relationships to self and others.

<b>Balance</b>	Students recognize and articulate the multi-faceted dimensions of Buddhist practice, including meditation, ritual, and service.
<b>Character</b>	Students critically relate Buddhist teachings to their own self-exploration and character development.

## Liberation

Students recognize the diversity and dignity of all human beings and understand their own role in the pursuit of social justice.

<b>Pluralism</b>	Students acknowledge the value of religious diversity to Buddhist thought and practice.
<b>Liberation from Suffering</b>	Students critically relate Buddhist teachings and values to issues of suffering and develop constructive pathways to liberation.

## Interdependence

Students possess a holistic understanding of global interdependence in order to cultivate compassionate thought, speech, and action in service to themselves, others, and the environment.

<b>Culture</b>	Students critically evaluate the role of the Buddhist tradition in human culture and society.
<b>Service</b>	Students situate their work within a model of Buddhist service and stewardship.

## Program Requirements

Area	Required Units
Core Courses	6
Practica	6
Electives	39
Candidacy Portfolio	0
Research Training	12
Dissertation Project	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>

**Core Courses (6 units):** All students complete two core courses during the first two semesters. Students must earn a minimum grade of B in all core courses. Students who do not earn a B may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Courses	Units
BTHE 600 Seminar: Buddhist Theology	3
REL 607 Research Methods	3

**Practica (6 units):** Students complete two of the following courses, chosen in consultation with their advisor.

Courses	Units
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	3
MDIV 530 Interfaith Ritual	3
MDIV 590 Service Practicum	3

**Electives (39 units):** An additional 39 units are to be chosen by the ThD student in consultation with his or her advisor. Students select 9 units from the area of Comparative Religious Studies. To fulfill the remaining 30 units, students select a combination of courses in the areas of Interdisciplinary and Applied Approaches and in Buddhist Studies.

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in each elective course applied to graduation. Students who do not earn a C may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

**Coursework Area:** Interdisciplinary and Applied Approaches

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Units</b>
MBA/REL 582 Humanistic Buddhism & Management	3
MDIV 511 Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	4
MDIV 515 Groups, Systems, & Chaplaincy	3
MDIV 540 Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	3
MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics & Giving Dharma Talks	3
MDIV 646 Spiritual Care & Counseling	4
MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	3
MDIV 661 Organizational & Legal Issues in Ministry & Spiritual Care	3
MDIV 670 Spiritual Leadership	3
PSYCH 502 Professional Seminar in Multicultural/Buddhist Marriage Family Therapy	3
PSYCH 614 Religion & Psychology Seminar	3
PSYCH 617 Application of Mindfulness in Western Therapy	3

**Coursework Area:** Buddhist Studies

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Units</b>
REL 505 Women in Buddhism	3
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	3
REL 530 Topics in Buddhist Meditation	3
REL 540 Buddhist Hermeneutics	3
MBA/REL 582 Humanistic Buddhism & Management	3
REL 627 Buddhism & Ritual	3
REL 630 Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Canonical Languages*	3
REL 636 Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Translation*	3
REL 639 Topics in the Study of Religion*	3
REL 640 Topics in Buddhist Studies*	3
REL 645 Seminar: Regional Buddhist Traditions*	3
REL 653 Vajrayana Buddhism	3
REL 655 Perspectives in the Study of Chan/Zen Buddhism	3
REL 657 Humanistic Buddhism & Current Issues	3
REL 659 Buddhism in the US	3
REL 670 Spread of Buddhism to Central Asia/China	3

**Coursework Area:** Comparative Religious Studies

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Units</b>
REL 515 Religions of China	3
REL 520 Religions of India	3
REL 545 Sacred Time & Sacred Space in the History of Religions	3
REL 590 Comparative Study of Religion	3
REL 592 Myth & Mythology	3
REL 603 Seminar: Philosophy of Religion	3
REL 610 Seminar: Religion & Ethics	3
REL 640 Topics in Comparative Religion	3
REL 660 Seminar: Buddhist-Christian Dialogue*	3

\*Topics are announced each semester. A student may take these courses for credit more than one time with the approval of the instructor and the department chair.

**Research Training (12 units):** After successful advancement to candidacy, students complete a total of 12 units in advanced graduate-level research and writing.

REL 698A Dissertation Proposal Seminar	3 units
REL 698B Dissertation Writing Seminar	3 units
REL 710 Dissertation Research	3 units

**Languages (optional):** Students may pursue up to 12 units of language study (Pali, Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, or Tibetan) as part of their overall coursework. Language study is recommended during the first year of coursework or as soon as the relevant courses are offered.

**Candidacy Portfolio:** After students have completed a minimum of 51 units of doctoral coursework, they must petition to submit the candidacy portfolio. Students are encouraged to enroll in BTHE 705 Candidacy Portfolio Preparation during the semester they are working on their portfolio. The candidacy portfolio includes three 10-15 page essays, one in each of the following areas: (1) Issues (2) Methods (3) Practice. Each essay must include a bibliography of sources. The candidacy portfolio must be submitted within one semester after the candidate has completed 51 units of coursework.

Students are expected to consult with their committee members to determine the focus and direction of each of the three essays that constitute the candidacy portfolio, as well as the reading lists serving as the foundation for the papers. The candidacy portfolio is graded pass, fail, or pass with distinction. If the candidacy portfolio is deemed not passing, the committee decides if and when it may be resubmitted. Additional work may be required before the student is eligible to resubmit the portfolio.

Additional guidelines and details regarding the candidacy portfolio can be found in the Religious Studies Graduate Student Handbook.

**Advancement to Candidacy (Dissertation Project):** A student advances to candidacy status upon successful completion of the candidacy portfolio requirement and payment of the candidacy fee. Candidacy status will lapse automatically if the student loses graduate standing by academic disqualification or failure to comply with university policy on continuous registration. A readmitted student who was a candidate must again advance to candidacy and thereafter enroll as a candidate for at least one academic semester before the degree may be conferred. Readmission after a break in enrollment is not guaranteed. Continuous enrollment is required through all stages of the dissertation process, beginning with advancement to candidacy and ending at the close of the term during which the dissertation project is accepted by the library.

| **Stage 1:** Preparing the Project Proposal and Research Training

Candidates undertake advanced graduate-level research and writing, completing a total of 12 units in REL 698A, 698B, 710, or a combination of these courses.

During this stage, candidates begin work on the dissertation project proposal under the supervision of their doctoral committee, outlining their intended dissertation project. The dissertation project must be an original piece of research based on primary sources that makes a relevant contribution in the area of Buddhist practice, translation, or philosophical/theological thought.

Candidates may propose an alternative form of presentation other than the conventional written dissertation: multimedia projects, digital resources and software, translations, research tools, critically annotated commentaries, resource guides, documentaries, and creative projects (music, dance, art, poetry). However, the project must include a substantial amount of written analysis and be deemed equivalent to the standard dissertation model in terms of critical apparatus and engagement with scholarly sources. The mode of presentation must be clearly outlined in the dissertation project proposal.

The proposal is reviewed by the doctoral committee, after which students attend the proposal defense to present their proposal and respond to the questions of the committee. During the proposal defense, the committee decides whether the proposal is accepted, accepted with revisions, or rejected. Candidates are expected to submit the dissertation proposal during the semester immediately following their advancement to candidacy.

| **Stage 2:** Dissertation Project Preparation and Defense

Candidates prepare the dissertation project after passing the proposal defense. The doctoral committee provides feedback throughout the writing stage, approves the dissertation project, and conducts the dissertation project defense, a final oral examination. Ordinarily, students defend the dissertation project just prior to its completion. Students must be in residence when defending. The defense must be scheduled during a regular academic session (fall or spring semester) and is open to all members of the academic community.

| **Stage 3:** Dissertation Project Submission

After passing the dissertation project defense, the candidate makes all necessary revisions and submits at least two (2) copies to the University of the West Library for binding according to UWest Library and Binding Guidelines. The revised dissertation project must be submitted to the library no later than one semester after passing the defense. During this semester, the candidate must maintain continuous enrollment by enrolling in REL 715.

**Graduate Portfolio:** In addition to these requirements, students must submit a portfolio of their work to the department for assessment and review. (Portfolio guidelines are found in the Religious Studies Graduate Student Handbook.)

Important guidelines and procedures regarding the composition of the doctoral committee, dissertation project proposal, dissertation project defense, and final submission of the dissertation project can be found in the Religious Studies Graduate Student Handbook.

## Graduation Requirements

A minimum of 63 post-baccalaureate semester units in graduate courses as specified for each candidate by the doctoral committee appointed by the department chair or graduate advisor;

A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0;

A Pass in the candidacy portfolio requirement, submitted when the student has completed a minimum of 51 units of doctoral course work;

A dissertation project demonstrating critical judgment, intellectual synthesis, creativity, and skill in written communication or alternative modes of communication (with approval of the dissertation project committee).

**Minimum Grade Requirement:** Students must earn a minimum grade of B in all core courses and a minimum grade of C or P in elective courses. Students who do not earn a passing grade as specified may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Students may apply no more than 6 units (two courses) of Directed Reading & Research and 6 units (two courses) of independent study towards graduation. Students are allowed no more than 12 units of unfinished coursework (i.e. incompletes and withdrawals) over the duration of the program.

**Transfer of Credit from Other Institutions:** Students may be granted a maximum of 30 units of transfer credit for applicable graduate-level coursework towards the 51-unit course requirement. Courses with a B (3.0) or higher are eligible for consideration. Applicability is determined by the department chair or advisor.

**Application of Credit from Prior UWest Enrollments:** Students may apply toward the 51-unit course requirement a maximum of 36 units of graduate coursework completed at UWest in a master's level program or under open enrollment. Courses with a B (3.0) or higher are eligible for consideration. Applicability is determined by the department chair or advisor.

All coursework must be at the graduate level; graduate courses previously applied to a bachelor's degree cannot be applied to graduation.

**Continuous Enrollment:** After finishing all coursework students must maintain continuous enrollment through the term during which the dissertation project is accepted by the library. Continuous enrollment is maintained by enrolling in research courses REL 698A, REL 698B, or REL 710 and upon completion of the 12-unit research requirement, REL 715. Failure to register and pay the associated tuition and fees may interfere with residence requirements and lead to lapse of candidacy status.

Degrees are awarded at the close of the semester in which all requirements have been fulfilled, the dissertation project has successfully been submitted to and approved by the Library (if applicable), the Intent to Graduate form has been filed with the Registrar's office, and the graduation fee has been paid.