

DBTS Senior Doctrinal Seminar

Previously, as one of the requirements for graduation, all seniors were required to write and defend a statement of their doctrinal beliefs before the faculty. This year's seniors (2009) will be having their doctrinal examinations at the end of April. The Seminary has decided on a new procedure to examine the doctrinal beliefs of graduating seniors. In the future, in place of the doctrinal exam before the faculty, graduating seniors will be required to take a 2-hour credit course, Senior Doctrinal Seminar, in the spring semester. This will allow students to review the major doctrines they have previously studied in Systematic Theology. Students will be required to formulate a statement of their beliefs about the various doctrines on a weekly basis. These statements will be reviewed in class in order for the student to sharpen his understanding of the doctrine and to modify his statement where there is weakness or error. We believe this will help the student strengthen his own convictions and thus be better able to defend his beliefs (e.g., ordination).

This change will be phased in over the next few years. All students who have completed less than 32 hours at the end of the current semester will be required to take the Senior Doctrinal Seminar in the spring semester of their graduating year. Those who have completed 32 hours or more may choose whether to opt for defending their doctrinal statements before the faculty in their senior year, as in the past, or they may take the Senior Doctrinal Seminar for 2-hours credit as part of the overall 96 hours required for graduation. The Senior Doctrinal Seminar will be taught for the first time in the spring of 2010.

In order to be eligible to enroll in the Senior Doctrinal Seminar, a student must have completed 76 semester hours. In addition a student must have previously completed all three Systematic Theology courses or have completed Systematic Theology I and II and currently be enrolled in Systematic Theology III.