

# Northern Seminary Admissions Essay Requirements

## Doctoral Programs

- A typed, 3-4 page, single-spaced, self evaluation of your ministry:
  - a. What arrangements will you make with the congregation/institution to schedule the time for advanced study?
  - b. Describe your relationship with other staff members, the pastoral relations committee, board members and other responsible persons in the congregation or organization.
  - c. What formal or informal learning experiences have contributed significantly to your personal and professional growth in the last five years? In the last ten years?
  - d. What are your long-range goals for ministry?
  - e. Identify the main strengths and weaknesses you bring to ministry.
  - f. Discuss the field in which you might make an innovative contribution to the profession of ministry and your readiness to make that contribution.
  - g. How effective are you in the management of time? Explain why you believe you have the discipline to complete this doctoral program.
  
- An Academic Essay (see Evaluation Rubric below)
  - a. Must be five pages, typed, double spaced. Develop an academic paper through which you identify and defend how you would form a biblical, theological, and ecclesial approach to **one** of the following topics. Identify, utilize, and properly cite a minimum of three **scholarly** academic references.
  - b. Topic Options
    - 1. The Church and the Problem of Secularism
    - 2. Women in Ministry.
    - 3. The Mission of the Church in a Post-Christian Culture.
  - c. Your work will be evaluated for quality of writing, the demonstration of academic writing style, a presentation of a clear thesis statement, competency in regard to theological and biblical method, quality and appropriate use of academic references, and proper punctuation and grammar.

## Evaluation Rubric for Academic Essay (Doctoral)

Essays are evaluated according to the following rubric. A minimum score of 16 is required for consideration for admittance to the doctoral program. The purpose of the Admission Academic Essay is not to evaluate whether the thesis and/or opinion of the writer is “right” or “wrong.” As stated, the goal of the exercise is to determine academic and theological competence.

Essay will be evaluated for:	Points Awarded					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Presentation of a clear thesis statement	No evidence of a thesis statement	Thesis statement is unclear	Thesis statement exists but is not connected to the following arguments	Thesis statement exists and sometimes is connected to the following arguments	Thesis statement exists and is well integrated with the essay	
Theological and biblical method	No evidence of theological and biblical method	Biblical method is primarily proof-texting with little theological coherence	Biblical texts are appropriate but not theologically evaluated	Biblical texts are appropriate with some evidence of theological evaluation	Biblical texts are appropriate with sound theological analysis throughout the essay	
The quality and use of three academic references	No evidence of any academic references	Only one academic references	Only two academic references	At least three academic references but not always connected to the following arguments	At least three academic references all of which are strongly integrated with the argument of the essay	
Proper punctuation and grammar	Poor grammar and punctuation throughout	A significant number of punctuation and grammar errors	Some punctuation and grammar errors	Writing is mostly error free but with some mistakes	Writing is error free	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>						