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.
   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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay will be evaluated for:</th>
<th>Points Awarded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of a clear thesis statement</td>
<td>No evidence of a thesis statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theological and biblical method</td>
<td>No evidence of theological and biblical method</td>
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<tr>
<td>The quality and use of three academic references</td>
<td>No evidence of any academic references</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper punctuation and grammar</td>
<td>Poor grammar and punctuation throughout</td>
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GRAND TOTAL