

Doctor of Education Graduate Field Essay Guide

Purpose

The purpose of the entrance exam is to provide a sample of the prospective student's research and writing skill. It also allows the faculty to ascertain the critical thinking skills of the prospective student.

Format

The essay will include one writing period, a two hour essay on one of the questions provided below.

The applicant should prepare for each question and read the resources listed that will be a helpful start in the research efforts. Do not limit yourself to these resources. Applicants may not use any resources during the exams.

Questions

1. **Practitioner scholar:** Utilize the three epistemological priorities in David Powlison's article to analyze the integrationist perspective found in the first two chapters of *Christian Formation*. What are the primary differences and similarities between the perspectives of Estep and Powlison? How might the differences between these perspective result in different instructional priorities in a Christian institution of higher education?
2. **Servant leader:** Working from the biblical theology of Goldsworthy, as well as Carson's *Christ and Culture Revisited*, respond to this question: How could an emphasis on an overarching theological and/or covenantal metanarrative provide Christian leaders with a framework for better stewardship of conflict?
3. **Problem solver:** Select a pressing social problem or a perennial organizational challenge that affects Christian leaders. Demonstrate how this challenge might be solved from each of Niebuhr's five perspectives, as presented in *Christ and Culture Revisited*. Then, carefully critique these solutions. Determine which (if any) of Niebuhr's categories are most adequate. If Niebuhr's categories are deemed inadequate, describe an alternative category as well as the solution that would result from that alternative category.

Resources

1. D.A. Carson, *Christ and Culture Revisited* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).

2. Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan*, (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002).
3. David Powlison, *Cure of Souls and the Modern Psychotherapies*. *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, Spring 2007 (5-36) <http://www.ccef.org/cure-souls-and-modern-psychotherapies>
4. James Estep and Jonathan Kim, eds., *Christian Formation* (Nashville: B&H, 2010).