



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## **PDS Research Thesis Option**

### **Office of Professional Doctoral Studies**

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The PDS Research Thesis is an option for Professional Doctoral students with exceptional writing and research skills. Students must apply for permission to present a PDS Research Thesis in place of the Ministry Research Project during the first semester of 80710 Contextualized Writing Seminar.

The *PDS Research Thesis Request* should include:

- 1) Completed PDS Research Thesis Request Form (see below).
- 2) A 10-15 page sample research paper including footnotes and a bibliography. This should be an exemplary paper that displays evidence of the following: (1) a clear thesis statement supported throughout the paper; (2) exceptional writing; and (3) superb research skills.  
(Note: This research paper is for the purpose of demonstrating strong research and writing skills. It is not part of your thesis writing and can therefore be a paper written during your master's level work.)
- 3) A 3-4 page PDS Research Thesis Proposal Outline (download outline at [www.sbts.edu/doctoral/dmin/pds-student-resources/writing-resources/](http://www.sbts.edu/doctoral/dmin/pds-student-resources/writing-resources/)). The proposal outline includes the following material: 1) working title, 2) reason for study, 3) observations from primary and secondary sources, 4) statement of the problem, 5) thesis statement, 6) methodology, 7) working bibliography, and 8) chapter outline.  
(Note: this is *not* your thesis proposal, rather an outline. You will submit a complete proposal after your Project/Thesis Methodology course.)

The Office of Professional Doctoral Studies and an SBTS faculty member from the student's area of study will review the submitted Thesis Request. Following their review, the Professional Doctoral Studies Office will inform the student whether the thesis request has been approved or denied.

The submission and approval of these documents does not constitute approval of a Research Thesis Proposal. Approval of the Thesis Request permits the student to write and submit a Research Thesis Proposal in coordination with participation in the appropriate 80600: Project/Thesis Methodology course.



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**PDS Research Thesis Request Form**  
**Office of Professional Doctoral Studies**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree & Concentration: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Thesis Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

*Your signature indicates that the work you have submitted is your own.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*For office use only*

Approved:

Denied:

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Professor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Professional Doctoral Studies