



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Applied Theology/Missiology (NA Missiology Track) Entrance Exam Study Guide

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Applied Theology will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

Part 1 (the morning session) will assess readiness for work in Applied Theology generally. You will have some choice concerning which questions to answer, but it is understood that you will answer all questions in your anticipated area of specialization: Missions, Evangelism, or Preaching.

Part 2 (the afternoon session) will assess readiness for advanced work in your area of concentration. You may have some choice concerning which questions to answer.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Relevance and Argumentation

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

Writing Mechanics

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

Awareness of Relevant Scholarship

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

Part 1 (Area): Applied Theology

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Zondervan, 2001.

Carson, Donald and John Woodbridge, eds. *Scripture and Truth*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Greidanus, Sidney. *The Modern Preacher and the Ancient Text*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1988.

Hesselgrave, David and Edward Rommen. *Contextualization: Meaning, Methods, and Models*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1989.

McGrath, Alister. *Christian Theology*, 4th edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1975 paper.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1991.

Stetzer, Ed. *Planting Missional Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2006.

Part 2 (Concentration): Missiology: North American Missiology Track

Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis 1991.

Hammett, John. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches*. 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2019.

Hiebert, Paul G. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985.

Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. 2d. ed. Vol. 6 of *The Penguin History of the Church*. New York: Penguin, 1986.

Nussbaum, Stan. *A Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2005.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J., Charles A. Anderson and Michael J. Sleasman. *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Questions:

1. In theological, philosophical and historical terms, evaluate the impact that contrasting views of the authority of Scripture might have on faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, on moral conviction and practice, and on missionary enterprise and evangelism.
2. Discuss the relation between theology and culture. Show awareness of different models and provide a critical analysis of the alternatives you identify. Then assess the importance of personal experience and cultural pluralism for theological scholarship.
3. Explain and give a defense of the guiding principles for biblical interpretation.
4. Trace and explain the path from biblical text to sermon.
5. Compare and contrast two views of the church, Roman Catholic and Baptist. Show how these two understandings of the church not only conflict with one another, but also lead to divergent understandings of evangelism and missions.
6. Trace the origin, spread and major features of the modern Church Growth Movement. Analyze the fundamental strengths and weaknesses of this movement.
7. Discuss the biblical teaching on church government, including the qualifications for church leaders. Support your answer with specific passages in Scripture and discuss a strategy for appointing local church leadership in a church planting context.
8. Is there a basis for mission and church planting activity in the Old and New Testaments? Support your answer with specific Scripture references, tracing biblical themes, patterns, and strategies.
9. How would you plant a church? Outline what steps or stages you think should be involved. Demonstrate awareness of the research, strategic decision-making, and communication skills one would need to complete such a task. Where applicable, provide illustrations from your own experience or from the experience of others you know.
10. Describe the rise of the modern missions movement, beginning with William Carey. Along the way, highlight and provide a critical analysis of major themes, trends, and personalities.
11. Outline and briefly describe the key paradigm shifts in David Bosch's *Transforming Mission*, including the biblical and historical paradigms. Then briefly outline and critique his postmodern and ecumenical paradigms.
12. According to Paul Hiebert, describe the relationship between the gospel and human cultures. Then, how do cultural differences impact the missionary, the message and the bicultural bridge?

