



TNARS ACADEMIC STANDARDS

© The North American Reformed Seminary
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Admissions

Students are admitted into our programs if they meet the specified prerequisites and there are open slots for a student in the program that they have applied for. In the event that the student meets the requirements to be admitted, but there are no openings available in their program, the applications are kept on file and admitted at the discretion of the administration.

Admitted on Probation

Students admitted on probation due to a low GPA or the lack of approved credits to transfer into the program will not be evaluated for change of status until the student has successfully completed two classes. If the student successfully completes two classes, the probation will be automatically lifted. The Administration may recommend termination if probation is not lifted.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Writing papers involves more than parroting the ideas of other people. We require our students to interact with the information and ideas in such a way that shows they are not simply learning what to think, but also how to think in a theological field. All sources used must be cited. Cheating and plagiarism in any form is prohibited. You must not use other people's ideas or words without acknowledgment, copying other people's work as one's own, or falsifying the results of study. Cheating and plagiarism are viewed as a serious offense, and may result in removal from the student rolls.

Continuation in Program

Graduation implies the school's affirmation of a student's continuing growth in spiritual maturity as well as growth in theological knowledge and competence. Items which might be cause for termination or which could prevent graduation include:

1. Failure to maintain a 2.5 GPA.
2. Demonstrating social, emotional, or spiritual problems which are not being dealt with constructively.
3. Demonstrating moral or ethical behavior which raises concerns about readiness for ministry.
4. Failure to contact mentor on monthly basis.
5. Failure to finish the program within the specified time limits.

Educational Outcomes

Our Mission

Our mission is to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthen His Church through seminary level Reformed education. We seek to bring glory to God and expand His kingdom by training up Christians to minister in His name.

Our Theological Views

We are committed to the Westminster Standards (Confession and Catechisms) as being a proper interpretation of Scripture. As such, these documents define our theological views and reflect how we teach.

Our Expectations

Every student will:

1. Show a commitment to live for Christ and serve His Church
 - 1.1. Practice spiritual disciplines of grace
 - 1.2. Develop self-awareness of being an active member in the Body of Christ
 - 1.3. Accept correction and guidance through mentoring
 - 1.4. Understand the importance of and practice biblical evangelism
 - 1.5. Grow in servant-leadership as modeled in Scripture
 - 1.6. Lead others into spiritual growth

2. Have a deep understanding of Reformed theology
 - 2.1 Properly exegete biblical texts within the analogy of faith context
 - 2.2 Present Reformed theological positions as well as any personal differences to them, using the Word of God in defending such positions
 - 2.3 Analyze, synthesize, and engage the culture (both secular and ecclesiastical) from a Reformed theological perspective

3. Be able to rightly divide the Word of God
 - 3.1 Study the Word of God within the proper context (history, authorship, etc)
 - 3.2 Rightly preach the Word of God using grammatical-historical exegesis
 - 3.3 Read the original languages of Scripture to develop a fuller understanding of them (M.Div. and above)

Learning Practicum:

1. Clear expression of complicated topics
2. Close and critical reading of texts
3. Theological reflection
4. Integrity
5. Originality
6. Practical application of materials studied
7. Information research competency

Grading Standards

When a paper is completed a letter grade will be issued by the student's mentor.

A paper's grade is weighted as follows:

Content – 85%

- Both outline and paper have been submitted
- Clear statement of purpose
- Appropriate methodology
- Good use of sources, including but not limited to the assigned text
- Good presentation of data
- Sound analysis of and interaction with the assigned text
- Appropriate conclusions

Format – 5%

- Text (Appropriate typeface and size, margins, spacing, etc.)
- Documentation (footnotes or endnotes, bibliography)
- Format (title page, table of contents, tables, figures, etc.)

Paper Defense – 10%

- Ability to defend paper based on the mentor's interaction with it
- Answering questions that the mentor has put forth after reading the paper
- Interacting on more specific terms in any area that the mentor considers necessary

Grading

The general guidelines for paper content:

- Thoroughness – 35%
- Clarity – 25%
- Literary style – 25%
- Originality – 10%
- Grammar – 5%

All student work will be evaluated by two standards:

- Compared to program-level work
- Compared to other assignments the student has completed

Course grades measure the student's competence in relation to three areas:

- Comprehension of theological material appropriate to the course.
- Ability to critically evaluate the course material
- Ability to synthesize information into theological premises

Grades are assigned the following numerical values for the purpose of computing Grade Point Average.

- 4.00: A (90-100%)
- 3.00: B (80-89%)
- 2.00: C (70-79%)
- 1.00: D (60-69%)
- 0.00: F (0-59%)

The lowest passing grade that will receive credit for a course is a C. While an individual course may receive credit for a "C" grade, the student must maintain a 2.5 GPA overall. If a student falls under the 2.5 GPA their mentor may request removing them from the rolls.

Graduation Requirements

Candidates for graduation must show evidence of a true Christian life and character and receive the recommendation of the faculty. All prescribed classes within the student's program must be completed satisfactorily within the specified time limits.

Student Records

The student's mentor maintains records of a student's progress toward the completion of his/her degree. The student's transcript is provided by the TNARS administration, and is kept on file in the school records. This transcript constitutes the official record of the student's seminary education.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments should be in either Word document or PDF format. The file must be named in the following format:

[classnumber_assignmentnumber.doc]

As an example, when handing in assignment 1 from the TH330 class the document would be named:

th330_assignment1.doc

If the student submits the outline separate from the paper this must also be noted in the name of the file. For instance:

th330_assignment1Outline.doc

th330_assignment1Paper.doc

All work that is handed in must have the following in the upper right hand corner of the paper:

- Student's Full Name
- Student ID (this is assigned at enrollment)
- Class Number
- Assignment Number
- Date

Students are required to keep a copy of all work that they submit. If an assignment that has been submitted is lost, the student will be required to provide a replacement. If the student does not have a copy of their work, it will be presumed that the work was not completed.

Transfer Credit

Students can transfer credits from other institutions at the discretion of TNARS Administration. Credits are generally accepted when ONE of the following is true:

1. Institution is regionally accredited
2. Institution is accredited by one of the following: ARTS, TRACS, ATS, ABHE
3. Unaccredited institution whose credits are transferrable to an accredited institution
4. Unaccredited institution whose graduates are permitted to test for ordination in an established denomination

Specified Time Requirements

The following is a list of the time requirements for each program at TNARS:

- Associate Program – Three Years
- Bachelor Program – Three Years
- Master Program (except M.Div.) – Four Years
- Master of Divinity Program – Five Years
- Doctor Program – Four Years excluding the dissertation. Time requirements for the dissertation will be on a case-by-case basis

After these time limits the TNARS administration can either choose to remove the student from our rolls or grant an extension to the student.