

May 14, 2007

**DISSERTATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES  
NEW TESTAMENT AREA  
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN RELIGION  
DUKE UNIVERSITY**

The dissertation proposal should be between twelve and fifteen pages (doublespaced), plus bibliography. After it has been approved by the dissertation committee, the first draft of the dissertation will normally be written by the student in consultation with the supervisor. But at the initiative of either the supervisor or the student, in consultation with each other, other members of the committee may be asked to read and comment on individual parts in which they have special expertise.

After the supervisor has gone through the first draft of all the chapters, the student will make the revisions suggested by the supervisor and any other committee members to whom the student has shown it for feedback. In the normal course of things this revised form will be the penultimate draft. The student will give the supervisor at least six weeks to review this penultimate draft and provide additional feedback. At this point the supervisor will also decide whether or not he/she thinks the dissertation is ready for defense, perhaps with some minor revisions, or whether it needs more substantial revision and/or should be looked at in part or in full by one or more of the other readers. Barring such circumstances, the student will make any additional changes in light of the supervisor's feedback from the penultimate draft and then submit the defense copy. During this period after the supervisor's go-ahead the student may also set the defense date, but there should be at least three weeks between the submission of the defense copy and the defense date.

The completed dissertation will normally be a maximum of 100,000 words in length, including footnotes and appendices, but excluding bibliography. Normally, the oral defense will last between one-and-a-half and two hours, and all members of the committee will be present.