



McMaster Divinity
College

Curriculum for Septuagint Studies as an Area in Biblical Studies for the PhD (Christian Theology)

Faculty

Core (MDC): Stanley E. Porter, Mark J. Boda, August H. Konkel, Cynthia Long Westfall,
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Description

The Septuagint Studies program offers a track in the Biblical Studies division of the PhD in Christian Theology (besides Old Testament or New Testament). The Septuagint Studies option allows for specialization in a distinct area of biblical studies that combines elements of the other two tracks, and provides a program without parallel at the doctoral level in North American institutions. The size of the doctoral faculty in Septuagint would be larger than at any other institution in North America, so far as can be determined. The program will include reference to both the major approaches to the Septuagint, the Greek-text oriented/literary approach and the interlinear approach; there are representatives of each position on the faculty. Six of the faculty are involved in writing Septuagint commentaries reflecting the two positions, as well as authoring other works in Septuagint studies. The Septuagint Studies program may be approached from either Greek or Hebrew, and the student will have a primary supervisor in the dominant language and a secondary supervisor in the other. The student's supervisory committee will consist of a minimum of one faculty member from each of the language areas (Greek and Hebrew). The broad contours of the program are given below.

The program of study is four years (with a maximum of six years).

Admissions Requirements

The admission requirements are the same for Biblical Studies (Old or New Testament) with one change in the language requirements. Two years of study in each of the biblical languages, regardless of whether specializing in Greek or Hebrew, are required.

Curriculum

The student takes the following selection of courses, with modifications as necessary on the basis of course offerings and specialist needs.

Research Methods

- Interdisciplinary Studies: Biblical Theology
- Interdisciplinary Studies (one course outside one's area of emphasis)
- Septuagint Studies Seminar (available also to students in Old Testament or New Testament tracks, as a part of their program)



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- Advanced Grammar and Linguistics *or* Linguistic Modeling (working with both languages; the other course may be taken as well, as one of the electives)
- Textual Traditions *or* suitable alternative providing for study of both Hebrew and Greek
- Two Suitable Electives (these may be chosen from regularly offered courses, such as History of Biblical Interpretation or Papyrology and Textual Criticism, where course requirements address the Septuagint, or from other courses offered, or may be taken as directed studies)

Comprehensive Examinations

Three comprehensive examinations are to be taken:

- Septuagint Studies
- Major Biblical Corpus for Dissertation (involving both Hebrew and Greek scholarship in reading list)
- One other examination area to be determined

Dissertation in a suitable area of Septuagint Studies (including examination by external examiner)