The Northwestern Theological Seminary Accelerated Academic Degree Program
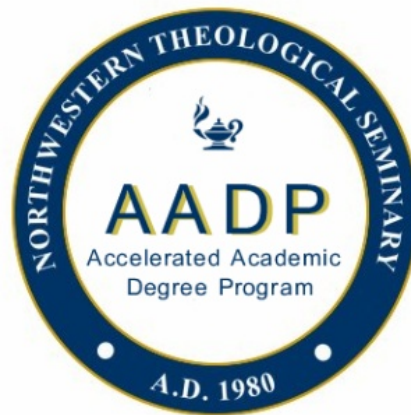
(AADP)

The NTS-AADP Program

The Northwestern Theological Seminary Accelerated Academic Degree Program (AADP)

The Northwestern Theological Seminary Accelerated Academic Degree Program is for those who have acquired a prior degree in a Christian major, or for those who hold degrees in other majors yet can exhibit competency in the AADP degree major, by submission of transcripts that reflect a minimum of 30 earned credit hours of prior studies in courses related to the sought after AADP major.

AADP applicants are seeking an advanced graduate level degree by thesis or dissertation submission only. The AADP program can qualify you to obtain a Master of Theology (Th.M.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in a qualified major through AADP and save time by eliminating the need for redundancies regarding coursework already accomplished in prior education.

AADP is a degree by research program requiring no added academic courses. It is designed to be accomplished in as little as (8) eight weeks to (1) one year from enrollment, if qualified through prior studies and credit transfers. Upon completion the student will receive, based on their program, a Master of Theology by thesis-only in the established major, or a Doctorate of Philosophy by dissertation-only in the established major. The AADP student transcripts will reflect a pass or fail grade on their submission

The NTS-AADP degree program is ideal for applicants and students that are seeking to attain graduate level academic degrees in a qualified, yet favorably reduced, short period of time.

The NTS-AADP Program

Key AADP Program Points – Requirements

- **AADP Master Degree Programs (ThM)**: Prior bachelor or master degree required for enrollment in the master degree program: The earned master or doctorate major must be compatible to the AADP master program major* (see chart)

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  * Exceptions for enrollment to the AADP Master Degree Programs are considered for those who hold degrees in other non-related majors when competency in the AADP degree major can be verified through transcripts that reflect a minimum of 45 earned credit hours of prior studies in courses related to the selected AADP major.

  Note: The transfer into the NTS Accelerated Academic Degree Program of 30 earned credit hours of prior studies in courses related to the selected AADP major is compatible to approximately 3 semesters of study, up to a year and a half of school program attendance.

- **AADP Doctoral Degree Programs (PhD)**: Prior master or doctorate degree required for enrollment in the doctorate program: The earned master or doctorate major must be compatible to the AADP doctorate program major* (see chart)

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  * Exceptions for enrollment to the AADP Doctoral Degree Programs are considered for those who hold degrees in other non-related majors when competency in the AADP degree major can be verified through transcripts that reflect a minimum of 30 earned credit hours of prior studies in courses related to the selected AADP major.

  Note: The transfer into the NTS Accelerated Academic Degree Program of 30 earned credit hours of prior studies in courses related to the selected AADP major is compatible to approximately 3 semesters of study, up to a year and a half of school program attendance.

- Approved thesis proposal (2,000 words – approximately 5-6 pages) and submission of thesis required for any AADP master degree program: Thesis requirements 15,000 to 30,000 words minimum (approximately 60-120 pages)

- Approved dissertation proposal (2,000 words – approximately 5-6 pages) and submission of dissertation required for any AADP doctorate degree program: Dissertation requirements 20,000 to 40,000 words minimum (approximately 80-160 pages)

- AADP student transcripts will reflect pass / fail grading only for the thesis or dissertation and will show no transferrable earned credits, which is common practice since no courses would have been completed in the AADP program.

- NTS accepted Love Offer in lieu of tuition is required for enrollment in AADP program.

    (1) NTS accepted Love Offer in lieu of tuition is required for enrollment in AADP program. Master Degree Program minimum love offer amount is $1,800.00.
    (2) NTS accepted Love Offer in lieu of tuition is required for enrollment in AADP program. Master Degree Program minimum love offer amount is $1,900.00.

- **Payment Option:** Initial payment of 50% of love offer, with the remaining 50% to be paid prior to award of degree upon completion of academic requirements.

    If enrolling in an AADP Combined Research Degree Program:
    [Master - Doctorate] [Master - Master] [Doctorate / Doctorate]
    In AADP research based combined (dual) degree programs the payments structure is as follows:
    (1) Initial payment of 50% of love offer at enrollment, with
    (2) 25% of the remaining balance at the end of the first program, with
    (3) the remaining 25% at the end of the second program.

AADP Compatible Degree Chart*	
Prior Bachelor or Master Earned Degree Major	**AADP ThM Master Degree Compatible**
If (*qualification a*) you currently hold a compatible bachelor or master degree in a major in one of the following groups; or (*qualification b*) you currently hold a bachelor or master degree in a non-related major, yet can provide transcripts that reflect competency by having acquired a minimum of 30 credits related to a major in one of the following groups:	You qualify for AADP enrollment in your choice of one of the following majors based on your qualified group. Example: if you currently hold a bachelor's degree (*qualification a*), or qualified by credits (*qualification b*) in Biblical Studies (Group 1a:1) you can choose AADP enrollment into ANY of the majors found in Group 1b below:
GROUP 1a: 1. Biblical Studies 2. Theology 3. Ministry 4. Divinity	**GROUP 1b:** 1. Master of Theology in Biblical Studies 2. Master of Theology in Theology 3. Master of Theology in Ministry 4. Master of Theology in Divinity
GROUP 2a: 5. Christian Administration 6. Christian Education	**GROUP 2b:** 5. Master of Theology in Christian Administration 6. Master of Theology in Christian Education
GROUP 3a: 7. Christian Counseling 8. Christian Social Work	**GROUP 3b:** 7. Master of Theology in Christian Counseling 8. Master of Theology in Christian Social Work
Prior Master or Doctorate Earned Degree Major	**AADP PhD Doctorate Degree Compatible**
If (*qualification a*) you currently hold a compatible master or doctor degree in a major in one of the following groups; or (*qualification b*) you currently hold a master or doctor degree in a non-related major, yet can provide transcripts that reflect competency by having acquired a minimum of 30 credits related to a major in one of the following groups:	You qualify for AADP enrollment in your choice of one of the following majors based on your qualified group. Example: if you currently hold a master's degree (*qualification a*), or qualified by credits (*qualification b*) in Biblical Studies (Group 4a:1) you can choose AADP enrollment into ANY of the majors found in Group 4b below:
GROUP 4a: 1. Biblical Studies 2. Theology 3. Ministry 4. Divinity	**GROUP 4b:** 1. Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies 2. Doctor of Philosophy in Theology 3. Doctor of Philosophy in Ministry 4. Doctor of Philosophy in Divinity
GROUP 5a: 5. Christian Administration 6. Christian Education	**GROUP 5b:** 5. Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Administration 6. Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Education
GROUP 6a: 7. Christian Counseling 8. Christian Social Work	**GROUP 6b:** 7. Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling 8. Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Social Work

AADP Frequently Asked Questions

How do I qualify for the NTS Accelerated Academic Degree Program (AADP)?

To qualify, you **must** have a prior degree in a compatible major (see above table). For example:

A. If you are interested in completing a Master of Theology in Biblical Studies through the AADP degree program, you must have an earned bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies or a bachelor degree in another major with supporting documentation through competency college / university transcripts showing a minimum 30 credit hours which prove competent knowledge in a subject major which is compatible with your major in the AADP degree program.

B. If you are interested in completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies through the AADP degree program, you must have a master's degree in Biblical Studies or a masters degree in another major with supporting documentation through competency college/ university transcripts showing a minimum 30 credit hours which prove competent knowledge in a subject major which is compatible with your major in the AADP degree program.

Is the NTS AADP Degree different from the NTS Regular Academic Degree?

No. The degrees themselves are the same. The difference is reflected in the student transcripts that will be available after completion of your degree program. The AADP student transcript will reflect a thesis-only for a master degree or dissertation-only for a doctorate degree only, since no courses would have been completed in the AADP program.

Is the love offer amount different for a regular academic degree program and an AADP degree program?

No. The love offer amounts are the same for both programs. The option of the student to enroll in the AADP program does not change the amount of the love offer required. For the AADP master degree program, the love offer is any amount between the $1,800.00 and $2,800.00 range. For the AADP doctoral degree program, the love offer is any amount between the $1,900.00 and $2,900.00 range. The Love Offer in lieu of tuition is an arbitrary amount chosen freely by the student/ applicant.

Can I enroll in a bachelor degree program under the AADP degree program?

No. However, you may enroll in the combined Bachelor / Master Degree Program with NTS and automatically qualify, after completion of the normal academic bachelor program, for enrollment in the AADP master's degree program.

Can I enroll in a combined Master / Doctorate Degree Program under the AADP degree program with NTS if I already have a bachelor degree in the major I am seeking?

Yes, you can. You will be earning your master and doctorate degrees by thesis and dissertation only. Keep in mind that both a thesis and dissertation will be required. This is not an uncommon practice. Degrees by thesis or dissertation are offered by numerous Colleges and Universities both in the USA and worldwide, including prestigious world renowned institutions of higher learning. This is a fully acceptable and respected process for earning graduate level credentials which is recognized worldwide.

Can I enroll in the AADP degree program if my prior degree is in a major not related to Christian studies?

Yes, you can. However, you must provide transcripts that reflect a minimum of 30 earned credits hours of prior studies in courses related to the AADP major that you wish to enroll in. These 30 credits could have been earned by a combination of having attended more than one institution. The assessment will be accomplish by a review of all transcripts received and the total amount of credits earned in the related AADP major you are seeking to enroll in. Also keep in mind that you will still be required to submit a copy of your prior degree together with the transcripts that you are submitting for assessment.

What are the requirements for the thesis or dissertation in the AADP degree program?

The thesis or dissertation must be on a related topic to the major of the degree program. If you will be working towards a master degree, your thesis must be 15,000 to 30,000 words minimum in length (approximately 60-120 pages). If your will be working towards a doctoral degree, your dissertation must be 20,000 to 40,000 words minimum in length (approximately 80-160 pages). You should do a word count on your thesis or dissertation to make sure that you have met the minimum word count requirements. Keep in mind that you must first submit a thesis or dissertation proposal of approximately 2,000 words (4 to 6) pages in length on the topic and method of your research. The proposal must be approved by your advisor before you begin working on your thesis or dissertation. All thesis or dissertations submitted without an approved proposal will receive a failing grade, no exceptions.

How soon can I earn my degree through the AADP degree program option?

Completion of your program totally depends on your performance in meeting the required steps. Your degree will be awarded within 3-4 weeks after the following 3 steps have been fulfilled:

1. You must provide, prior to graduation and award of your AADP degree, either: A) a copy of your prior earned bachelor or master degree reflecting a consistent subject major. Or, B) a copy of your prior non related bachelor or master degree in addition to transcripts that reflect competency by having acquired a minimum of 30 credits related to the AADP major.
2. Your approved thesis or dissertation proposal on file and your submitted thesis or dissertation must be graded by NTS, as PASS.
3. Your student financial account must be paid in full at completion of the AADP program and prior to award of your graduate degree.

How are degrees earned through the NTS-AADP program's method of thesis-only or dissertation-only perceived by others in the educational community?

The NTS-AADP degree program is a well known and accepted method in which many students are obtaining advance graduate level degrees in a variety of different majors in educational institutions around the world. The thesis-only and dissertation-only degree programs are also known by the term 'degree by research'. There are a number of well known universities in the USA and internationally that offer this type of degree program. The University of Birmingham, Lancaster University, the University of Canterbury, and even the University of Oxford all offer degree by research, including Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.

Acquiring your degree by the use of the AADP type programs has already been tested and proven as an accepted method of recognizing academic achievement in a specific major. In France, the doctorate is always a research-only degree. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctorate) In the USA, you have probably observed many advertisements by prestigious Colleges and Universities offering time accelerated master and doctorate programs by weekend study or by short term evening classes, summer workshops etc.

How can I enroll in the AADP degree program?

To enroll in the AADP degree program option, you are not required to submit a second NTS Online Student Application. If you have already sent your application or have been approved for enrollment, or are now an active student and you meet the qualifications and wish to choose the AADP degree program option, just send an email to the Administration Office indicating your decision to request a transfer to the AADP program. The Administration Office will confirm your qualification to enter the program. Be sure to include your Applicant/Student Number, and the AADP degree program to which you would like to be transferred.

All approved requests for enrollment into the AADP program will receive an email confirming approval and pending transfer to the program from the seminary administration office.

IMPORTANT: To complete the transfer to the AADP program you are required to submit your initial payment as chosen by you in your original application. Once your initial payment has been credited to your student account, your transfer will be completed. If you have already submitted your initial payment at the time of the transfer request, and have met the qualifications, you will automatically be transferred without delay.

Once your transfer is complete, you will be required to submit a short thesis or dissertation proposal for approval prior to commencing your research paper to your assigned advisor. Your thesis or dissertation proposal **must** be approved prior to beginning your program. Thesis or dissertations submitted without a prior approved proposal in your student file will not be accepted.

You will also be required, at some time prior to the award of your degree, to fax or mail a copy of your earned qualifying degree or other degree with supporting documentation proving competency in your AADP graduate degree program subject major, to the Administration Office.

NOTE: All current NTS Students should keep in mind that the AADP graduate level degree program must be compatible with your existing degree program (see chart), and you must meet the qualifications of the AADP program for your transfer to be approved.

To submit your documentation:

The seminary administration office fax number is: 1-727-494-1513.

The mailing address is:

Northwestern Theological Seminary
Administration Office
9438 US Hwy 19N #117
Port Richey, FL 34668

Contact the Administration Office: If you have already submitted an application for enrollment to Northwestern or you are a current NTS student and wish to request a transfer to the AADP program, email us at: Admin@NorthwesternMail.com

Contact the Registrar's Office: If you have not yet applied for, or been accepted for enrollment to Northwestern, simply submit your electronic application from the website and send an e-mail requesting consideration for the AADP program to: Registrar@NorthwesternMail.com