

Biblical Studies

Practicum and Bachelor's Thesis Handbook



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CONTACT INFORMATION

For general college/contact information:

Boise Bible College..... 8695 W. Marigold Street
Boise, Idaho 83714
Phone Number (208) 376-7731
Fax Number (208) 376-7743
Web address www.boisebible.edu

For specific information about your Bachelor's Thesis/Practicum:

Faculty supervisor..... Vance Russell
Office Phone Number (208) 376-7731 ex 7412
Email address vrussell@boisebible.edu

For general internship information, or if you cannot contact your Faculty Supervisor:

Internship coordinator Nadene Mack
Office Phone Number (208) 376-7731
Email address nmack@boisebible.edu

Why A Bachelor's Thesis & Practicum?

Since you are a Biblical Studies major, you do not have a second major in a specific area of ministry, therefore, BBC cannot require you, as we do most four-year students, to take four hours of “internship” in your chosen areas of ministry training. Instead, we require you to begin to put your developing Bible knowledge and Bible-research skills to use in practical ways outside the BBC classrooms.

Your Bible knowledge and skills are not meant just for your own benefit, but are meant to be shared with others. You are expected to become a Bible teacher. To encourage you to do this, we require you to tackle a difficult or controversial passage or doctrine of scripture, and write a 25-30 page research paper (a “bachelor’s thesis”) on the topic. Under the guidance of supervisors, you will hone your skills of Bible research, and you will become an “expert” on this passage/topic, and will be ready to share your expertise with churches or Christian groups. This paper will also be presented in the form of an Oral Defense before a panel of faculty graders.

You will also be required to complete two hours of Bible “practicum.” A practicum is broadly defined as any project outside the BBC classroom which will deepen your own understanding of Scripture or will force you to find practical and creative ways to share Bible truths with others.

The following pages will describe in detail the expectations and requirements for each of these.

Bachelor's Thesis

(2 credits)

The course may be taken during:

Fall Semester
Spring Semester
Summer

Course Pre-requisite:
Sophomore Seminar

Competencies Emphasized in the Bachelor's Thesis

Bible Knowledge

Has broad knowledge of the details and themes of both the Old and New Testaments

Exegesis

Able to accurately interpret a passage of scripture using a broad knowledge of the Bible and accepted principles of interpretation

Theology

Good grasp of major theological concepts and terminology; Able to discuss and respond to theological issues; Can think theologically about 'real life' situations and current events

Communication

Writes and speaks effectively

Critical Thinking

Able to effectively process the world of ideas through reading, listening, researching and critical thinking

Familiarity with & Current in Chosen Field of Study

Knowledgeable in a particular field of study, conversant with the terminology, key figures, and standard works; Widely read; Aware of the field's history; Breast of current trends and developments

Greek Language

Capable of clarifying the meaning of Scripture through the knowledge of the Greek language

Devotion to God

Lives a God-ward life; focused on God; set apart, consecrated to God and treats God and His things with sacred respect.

Integrity (Honesty)

Above reproach; just, upright, and above board in all dealings, consistently does what is right; respects authority and rules; honest, person of his/her word

Submission to Authority

Operates with a spirit of submission to the authority of scripture and to those in authority in the church, at work, in family relationships, and in society

Guided by a New Testament Mode of the Church

Embraces the Restoration Movement ideal of trying to shape the contemporary church around the New Testament model

Course Description

You will write a **25 to 30 page research paper**.

- A. You will choose a Bible doctrine or a Bible passage (Old or New Testament) about which there is some degree of current controversy, or question, or difficulty, and do high-level research to establish the best interpretation concerning that subject or passage.
- B. You should find and read the standard and definitive works on the subject, duly weigh the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches, and defend what you consider to be the best interpretation.
- C. You should also show why your doctrine/passage is significant, and why it matters that we find the correct interpretation. What important issues are at stake?
- D. You must show that you can organize the material in a logical fashion, and you must work to express your positions in the most accurate, fair, precise, and convincing ways possible.
- E. It is advised that you choose a topic about which you are very interested, even passionate, so that you might enjoy your research and writing. You should be an “expert” on this subject as a result of your extensive studies.

Procedures

- A. You must meet with a Biblical Studies professor and agree on a “Learning Covenant” (the choice of topic and the necessary steps toward the paper’s completion) before you pre-register for this class. You cannot enroll for the Bachelor’s Thesis till this is done and a copy of this Learning Covenant is submitted to the Internship Coordinator. (See the standard “Bachelor’s Thesis: Learning Covenant” form.)
- B. You will submit, on schedule throughout the semester (or else be penalized), the initial bibliography, the three outlines, the rough draft and the final draft as agreed upon in the Learning Covenant.
- C. Your Bachelor’s Thesis professor will provide feedback in writing at each phase of your work, and will normally meet with you personally—or, during the summer, via emails and phone calls—several times to provide suggestions orally.

Oral Defense

- A. Once the final draft of your paper has been turned in, it will be given to a panel of (2-4) professors and/or staff who will serve as “Readers.” You and your Bachelor’s Thesis advisor will choose who your “Readers” will be; they are generally chosen based on their level of knowledge and experience with the subject matter and their investment in you.
- B. On an agreed upon date, you will present your paper before the panel, consisting of your “Readers” and your Bachelor’s Thesis advisor. Other Biblical Studies majors and any guests you would like to invite for support are also welcome to attend. You will creatively and effectively present your paper to the panel. Following your presentation, the panel may ask questions regarding your conclusions, your methodology, your personal growth through the writing process, and/or applications of your paper. You will be given 30 minutes to make your presentation; the panel will be given 15-20 minutes to ask questions.
- C. In tone, this Oral Defense is much more of a time to celebrate the work of the student, and it is not intended to be a trial by fire.

Grading

- A. In most cases, your Bachelor’s Thesis advisor will be assessing the quality of your work, and the punctuality with which you meet the deadlines, to give you the final grade. Sometimes, however, he might consult other faculty members, especially those with more expertise in your topic, for their assessments.
- B. Lower grades will be given not only for weak content, but also for poor grammar and style. Your grade will normally be lowered for failure to follow your professor’s recommendations, as well.
- C. A letter grade will be given for the Bachelor’s Thesis. The grading advisor will be expected to provide detailed explanations of any elements for which you are graded down. (See “Bachelor’s Thesis Evaluation.”)

**Boise Bible College
Biblical Studies
Learning Covenant**

Intern Name: _____
Personal phone #: _____
Email address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

For Practicum:

Organization: _____
Field Mentor: _____
Office Phone #: _____
Personal Phone #: _____
Email address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Today's Date: _____
Class Code: _____
of expected credits: 1 2
Circle one:
Fall Spring Summer
Faculty Supervisor: _____
Academic Advisor: _____

**Primary/Overall Purpose for Practicum or
Significance of Study (Bachelor's Thesis):**

(What is the primary purpose/outcome/significance
for doing this practicum/bachelor's thesis?)

Complete the Appropriate Schedule for your Practicum or Bachelor's Thesis

(Attach a copy to this Learning Covenant)

Personal Goals for Ministry:

(List goals based on those competencies you intend to learn or
how you hope to grow through your practicum/bachelor's thesis)

Intern Signature: _____ Date: _____

Field Mentor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Original to Internship Coordinator, Copies to Faculty Supervisor, Field Mentor, Intern for portfolio/notebook

Bachelor's Thesis Schedule for Completion

Student: _____

Course Description: A comprehensive research project into a selected biblical/theological topic culminating in the writing of a quality paper of 25-30 pages summarizing the student's research and conclusions. 2 hours

Before Week One: Selection of Topic with Proposed Outline of Main Points

Topic Selected: _____
Notes:

Week Two: Submit Initial Bibliography Due Date: _____
Notes:

Week Four: Submit Working Outline Due Date: _____
Notes:

Week Seven: Submit Rough-Draft Outline Due Date: _____
Notes:

Week Ten: Submit ROUGH DRAFT Due Date: _____
Notes:

Week Twelve: Submit Final (Sentence) Outline Due Date: _____
Notes:

Week Fourteen: Submit FINAL DRAFT Due Date: _____
Notes:

Final Grade: _____

Faculty Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bachelor's Thesis Evaluation

Student Name: _____



Timeliness (Meeting the Due Dates)

Organization

Technical: Grammar, Spelling, and Format

Wording

Extent of Research

Documentation

Content

Implementation of Prof's Suggestions

Grade: _____ **Signed:** _____ **Date:** _____

Bible Practicum

(1 credit) x2

The course may be taken during:

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

Summer

Course Pre-requisite

Sophomore Seminar

Competencies Emphasized in the Bible Practicum

Bible Knowledge

Has broad knowledge of the details and themes of both the Old and New Testaments

Exegesis

Able to accurately interpret a passage of scripture using a broad knowledge of the Bible and accepted principles of interpretation

Theology

Good grasp of major theological concepts and terminology; Able to discuss and respond to theological issues; Can think theologically about 'real life' situations and current events

Communication

Writes and speaks effectively

Critical Thinking

Able to effectively process the world of ideas through reading, listening, researching and critical thinking

Devotion to God

Lives a God-ward life; focused on God; set apart, consecrated to God and treats God and His things with sacred respect.

Integrity (Honesty)

Above reproach; just, upright, and above board in all dealings, consistently does what is right; respects authority and rules; honest, person of his/her word

Submission to Authority

Operates with a spirit of submission to the authority of scripture and to those in authority in the church, at work, in family relationships, and in society

Self-Discipline

Can do what needs to be done when it needs to be done; moral self-control; overall life of discipline

Servant Leadership

Demonstrates sacrificial leadership that is focused on building up others while driving forward toward achieving the organization's mission, vision, and values

Mentoring/Discipling

Has a philosophy that drives the mentoring (or discipling) process; Is effective and intentional in the use of one-on-one time

Organization and Administration

Capable of planning and managing the details involved in successfully running teams, programs, and events

Teaching

Competent to prepare and plan lessons, evaluate, utilize and write various forms of curriculum

Course Description

A Bible Practicum can be built around any activity that encourages learning outside of the classroom. The program is tailored to your ministry goals; it might require work to strengthen areas in which you are deficient, or it may drive you to apply, for the benefit of others, particular areas of your strength. It might include travel, teaching, writing curriculum, organizing, or in general working out a Bible-based solution to a current need in the local church.

Some Examples of Projects

Projects might be such things as the composition of a skit or musical on a certain theme; the writing of a series of Bible studies for home groups or Sunday school, or the evaluation of existing materials; a youth-group study evaluating and correcting a dangerous philosophy of some popular book or movie; production of a tract or booklet for publication; developing a series of lessons for a local prison ministry; planning a series of special worship services for the elderly in a retirement home; producing a power point or video presentation to be used in a class; or preparing and leading a workshop at BBC's Spring Conference. You have wide latitude in the selection of your practicum project, but you should choose a project that meets a definite need.

Procedures

- A. You must meet with a Biblical Studies faculty supervisor and agree on a "Learning Covenant" (the choice of project and the major steps toward its completion) before you pre-register for the "class."
 1. You will also agree on what learning competencies will be stressed in your project.
 2. You will not be allowed to pre-register for a Bible Practicum unless you and your faculty supervisor have agreed on a Learning Covenant, and it has been submitted to the Internship Coordinator.
- B. As a part of the Learning Covenant you (with your faculty supervisor and any Field Mentors) will set goals for each month of the practicum period. You must regularly communicate (in person or via email or phone) with your faculty supervisor and Field Mentors regarding your monthly progress on the goals, as per the Learning Covenant.
- C. Your faculty supervisor and Field Mentors, in turn, will give regular input and suggestions throughout the project.
- D. You may or may not be asked to provide a portfolio of the pertinent materials produced during the execution of your project, depending on the nature of the project.

Grading:

- A. In most cases your faculty supervisor will take the lead in evaluating and giving a final grade to your project. Usually, though, he will also call in others to help evaluate: any Field Mentors under whom you are working, those to whom you have ministered, those who have been able to observe your project, etc.
- B. Any other participants in your project will normally be given evaluation forms to complete in order to get their opinions on, not only your final product, but other phases of the work as well: your planning and organization, your working with others, your adaptability, your timeliness and punctuality, your communication or publicity for the project, etc. (whatever elements your project calls for). [See a sample form, “Boise Bible College Practicum Evaluation.”]
- C. A letter grade will be given, with written explanations for the low or high grades. [See the sample form, “Bible Practicum Final Grade.”]

**Boise Bible College
Biblical Studies
Learning Covenant**

Intern Name: _____
Personal phone #: _____
Email address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

For Practicum:

Organization: _____
Field Mentor: _____
Office Phone #: _____
Personal Phone #: _____
Email address: _____
Mailing Address: _____

Today's Date: _____
Class Code: _____
of expected credits: 1 2
Circle one:
Fall Spring Summer
Faculty Supervisor: _____
Academic Advisor: _____

**Primary/Overall Purpose for Practicum or
Significance of Study (Bachelor's Thesis):**

(What is the primary purpose/outcome/significance for
doing this Practicum/Bachelor's Thesis?)

Complete the Appropriate Schedule for your Practicum or Bachelor's Thesis

(Attach a copy to this Learning Covenant)

Personal Goals for Ministry:

(List goals based on those competencies you intend to achieve or
how you hope to grow through your Practicum/Bachelor's Thesis)

Intern Signature: _____ Date: _____

Field Mentor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Original to Internship Coordinator, Copies to Faculty Supervisor, Field Mentor, Intern for portfolio/notebook

**Bible Practicum
Schedule for Completion**

Student Name: _____

Goals for first month: _____

Goals Met? _____

Goals for second month: _____

Goals Met? _____

Goals for third month: _____

Goals Met? _____

Final completion date: Deadline: _____ Actual completion: _____

Practicum work evaluated by:	Grade (Circle one)
	A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F
	A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F
	A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F

Final Grade: _____
 Faculty Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Boise Bible College
Practicum Evaluation**



Student Name: _____

Nature of Practicum project: _____

Evaluator's Name: _____

How did you participate in and/or observe this project? _____

Please grade the student's performance as best you can in these areas (circle the grade you'd give):

Planning/Organization (Sufficient preparation made before each meeting)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Executing the Plan (The quality of the lesson/discussion itself; keeping the meeting on subject)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Adaptability/Flexibility (Able to adjust meeting times or alter lesson plans according to scheduling complications or participants' needs)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Timeliness/Punctuality (Started and ended on time)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Working with Others (Sensitive to participants' wishes, good listener, encourager, safe to share true feelings/opinions/fears with)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Communication/Publicity (Meeting times and expectations clearly explained)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Accountability (Held participants accountable for carrying out assigned readings and projects)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Impact (Caused changes in my thinking and in my conduct; contributed to my growth)

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	---	----	---

Specific comments or explanations or observations? _____

The overall grade you'd give: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

**Boise Bible College
Practicum Final Grade**



Student Name: _____

Nature of Practicum project: _____

Well focused project?

Well planned?

Well executed? Goals met?

Suitably adaptable/flexible?

Well reported?

Well evaluated by co-workers/overseers?

Good folder of significant material?

Other?

Final Grade: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

