



# Westminster Seminary California

## GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL WRITING REQUIREMENT

### **Guidelines for Paper Submission to Satisfy the Graduate Theological Writing Requirement**

PT400 Graduate Theological Writing is designed to assist students in developing competencies in such areas as organization and composition of essays and papers, correct use of source materials in writing, clarity and style in sentence syntax and paragraph construction, diction, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Admitted students have the opportunity to obtain a waiver of PT400 Graduate Theological Writing. To do so they must submit an academic paper to the Registrar's office by August 15 (December 1 for winter term, January 15 for spring semester). If the paper is judged to reflect adequate skill in research, composition, grammar, and the use of sources, skills necessary for success at WSC, the student may be exempted from the course.

The following requirements and submission procedure must be followed for all students who would like to submit a paper to meet the Graduate Theological Writing requirement.

#### Paper Requirements:

- The paper must be typed and written in standard English and must be a minimum of 5 pages in length or about 1,500 words excluding the works cited page and title page.
- The paper must be research-oriented, evidencing proper use and citation of sources (including monographs and journal articles) to support the conclusions of the paper. It is recommended that the paper be formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, (15<sup>th</sup> Edition).
- The paper must include at least ten footnotes, a bibliography, and a signed statement reading: "I certify that this writing sample reflects my own efforts and activity in research, reasoning, composition, and editing, unassisted by any other person."
- Students may submit a paper that has been previously submitted for an undergraduate course (as long as it meets the requirement above) or a new paper with a research-oriented topic of their choosing.

#### Submission Procedure:

- The paper must be submitted to the Registrar by mail or electronically, preferably as a Word document (.doc or .docx).
- The deadline for paper submission is August 15. Students who do not meet this deadline are required to register for PT400 Graduate Theological Writing.

Please email papers to: [hgideon@wscal.edu](mailto:hgideon@wscal.edu)

Or mail a hard copy to:

Westminster Seminary California  
Registrar's Office  
1725 Bear Valley Parkway  
Escondido, CA 92027