



Ebed-Melech University: Doctoral Project Guidelines During IRB Registration

Ebed-Melech University, a religious institution dedicated to integrating faith and scholarship, is currently undergoing the process of registering with the Institutional Review Board (IRB). This committee will be responsible for safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in research. Until the IRB registration is complete, doctoral projects must not involve research requiring IRB approval.

Doctoral Project Options and IRB Considerations:

To ensure a smooth transition during this period, Ebed-Melech University offers a variety of doctoral project options that do not necessitate IRB review. Additionally, each doctoral student will be assigned a dissertation chair with expertise in navigating IRB requirements.

- **Dissertation Chair Expertise:** Your assigned chair will have experience with IRB research and has undergone the necessary training to identify whether your chosen doctoral project qualifies for exemption or necessitates IRB approval once the board is operational.

Types of Doctoral Projects (No IRB Approval Needed):

Here are some alternative doctoral project options that fulfill both academic and professional goals, and do not necessitate IRB review:

1. **Comprehensive Project Intervention Serving the Community:**
 - **Focus:** Address a real-world issue within a community setting, applying your faith-based perspective.
 - **Examples:** Develop and implement a community education program on healthy living informed by religious principles, evaluate the effectiveness of a faith-based social service initiative focused on reducing recidivism rates, conduct a needs assessment for a specific population served by a religious organization.
 - **Outline:**
 - Introduction: Define the community issue and its significance, highlighting its connection to your faith tradition (1-2 pages).
 - Literature Review: Analyze existing research on the issue and relevant theological or religious scholarship (10-15 pages).
 - Project Intervention: Describe the planned intervention in detail, including its goals, methods, timeline, and evaluation plan, emphasizing its alignment with your faith's values (15-20 pages).

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- **Community Engagement:** Explain how the community will be involved in the project design, implementation, and evaluation, considering faith-based partnerships (5-10 pages).
 - **Outcomes and Impact:** Discuss anticipated project outcomes and their impact on the community, addressing both practical and spiritual dimensions (5-10 pages).
 - **Conclusion:** Summarize key findings and recommendations, highlighting the project's contribution to your faith tradition (2-3 pages).
 - **Deliverables:** A comprehensive report detailing the project design, implementation, evaluation, and outcomes (typically 50-70 pages).
- 2. **Publication (Book or Solution):**
 - **Focus:** Create a scholarly book or propose a solution to a specific problem in your field, integrating your faith perspective.
 - **Examples:** Write a book on the intersection of faith and technology, design a new educational technology tool for teaching religious studies, develop a new theological framework for understanding social justice issues.
 - **Outline:**
 - **Introduction:** Define the problem or topic addressed by the book/solution, highlighting its significance to your faith tradition (1-2 pages).
 - **Literature Review:** Analyze existing research on the subject and relevant theological or religious scholarship (10-15 pages).
 - **Book/Solution Description:** Provide a detailed description of the book's content or proposed solution's functionalities, demonstrating its connection to your faith (15-20 pages).
 - **Methodology (if applicable):** Explain the research methods used to develop the book/solution (e.g., literature review, case studies) (5-10 pages).
 - **Analysis and Discussion:** Discuss the significance of the book/solution and its contribution to your field and faith tradition (10-15 pages).
 - **Conclusion:** Summarize key points and potential implications, reflecting on the book/solution's impact on faith and scholarship (2-3 pages).
 - **Deliverables:** A complete manuscript of the book or a detailed proposal outlining the proposed solution (typically 40-60 pages). For self-publishing options, consider platforms like Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP): <https://kdp.amazon.com/>.
- 3. **Business Launch with Evidence of Success:**
 - **Focus:** Develop and launch a for-profit or non-profit business venture that aligns with your faith values and meets a demonstrable need.
 - **Examples:** Create a faith-based clothing line that promotes social justice values, establish a job training program to equip underprivileged youth for careers, open a sustainable coffee shop that donates proceeds to charity.
 - **Outline:**
 - **Business Plan:** Develop a comprehensive business plan that outlines your venture's concept, target market, financial projections, and marketing strategy. Include a clear mission statement that reflects your faith values.
 - **Launch and Operations:** Document the process of launching your business, including securing funding, overcoming challenges, and achieving key milestones.

- **Evidence of Success:** Provide quantifiable evidence of your business's success, such as revenue figures, client testimonials, or social impact metrics.
 - **Deliverables:** A polished business plan and a comprehensive report detailing the launch process, operational challenges, and evidence of success (length will vary depending on the complexity)
4. **Short Film:**
- **Focus:** Create a short film (under 60 minutes) that explores a theme or issue relevant to your faith tradition.
 - **Examples:** Produce a documentary on the role of faith in social justice movements, create a narrative short film exploring themes of forgiveness and redemption, develop an animated short film for children that teaches religious values.
 - **Outline:**
 - **Script and Storyboard:** Develop a well-written script and storyboard that visually depicts your film's narrative.
 - **Production Process:** Document the filmmaking process, including pre-production planning, filming, and post-production editing.
 - **Distribution and Impact:** Describe your film's distribution strategy (e.g., film festivals, online platforms) and any evidence of its impact on viewers (e.g., reviews, audience awards, faith-based discussions it sparked).
 - **Deliverables:** A high-quality copy of your completed short film, along with the script, storyboard, and a report detailing the production process, distribution strategy, and impact (length will vary depending on the complexity of the film).
5. **Church Launch with Evidence of Growth:**
- **Focus:** Establish a new faith community (church) and demonstrate its growth and impact.
 - **Examples:** Launch a multi-ethnic church that welcomes diverse populations, develop a church specifically catering to young adults, establish a church plant in an underserved community.
 - **Outline:**
 - **Church Planting Strategy:** Describe your strategy for launching the church, including identifying a target demographic, establishing a worship style, and building a launch team.
 - **Ministry Development:** Explain the core ministries and programs offered by your church, highlighting how they integrate your faith values.
 - **Evidence of Growth:** Provide quantifiable evidence of the church's growth, such as membership numbers, volunteer participation, or community outreach initiatives.
 - **Deliverables:** A detailed report outlining the church planting strategy, ministry development plan, and evidence of growth over a specified period.
6. **Substantive Scholarly Contribution or 3 Peer-Reviewed Articles:**
- Ebed-Melech University recognizes the importance of scholarly contribution to the field, but also acknowledges the diverse ways knowledge can be produced and disseminated. In lieu of publishing three articles in external peer-reviewed journals, doctoral students can fulfill this requirement by demonstrating a substantial scholarly contribution that integrates their faith perspective. This contribution can take one of the following forms:

- **Book Chapter in a Edited Volume:** Author a book chapter in a reputable edited volume published by a recognized academic press. The chapter should address a significant topic in your field and demonstrate a clear integration of your faith perspective.
- **White Paper or Policy Brief:** Develop a comprehensive white paper or policy brief on a relevant issue within your field, informed by your faith-based values. This document should be targeted towards a specific audience (e.g., policymakers, religious leaders) and offer practical recommendations.
- **Curated Online Resource Collection:** Compile a well-annotated online resource collection on a specific topic relevant to your field and faith tradition. This collection should be publicly accessible and demonstrate critical analysis of the included resources.
- **Publicly Presented Conference Paper or Scholarly Presentation:** Present a research paper or scholarly presentation at a recognized academic conference relevant to your field. The presentation should be well-received by the audience and demonstrate a clear integration of your faith perspective.

Requirements:

- Regardless of the chosen format, the scholarly contribution must be of publishable quality and demonstrate a high level of research, analysis, and writing.
- The contribution must be demonstrably integrated with your faith perspective, highlighting its significance to your field and faith tradition.
- You will need to provide evidence of the contribution, such as a published book chapter, a white paper or policy brief with a cover letter, a link to your curated online resource collection, or a conference program acceptance letter and presentation materials.

Ministry Integration:

Ebed-Melech University encourages doctoral students to integrate their faith throughout their projects. Consider these questions:

- How does your project address a real-world need or problem, informed by your religious values?
- How can your project contribute to the advancement of knowledge within your field and your faith tradition?
- How can your project serve the mission of Ebed-Melech University and its commitment to integrating faith and scholarship?

Additional Considerations:

- **Business Launch and Church Launch:** While these options offer opportunities for innovation and ministry, they require significant time, resources, and planning. Carefully consider the feasibility of these projects within the doctoral program timeframe.

- **Human Subject Research:** If your business launch or church launch involves collecting data from human subjects (e.g., surveys, interviews), IRB approval may be required once established.

Important Note:

These guidelines provide a general framework. For specific questions or clarifications regarding your chosen doctoral project type, please consult with your dissertation chair, the Office of Graduate Studies, and the IRB office (once established) for human subject research inquiries.

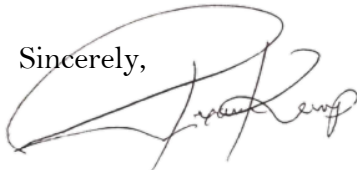
Final Publications:

Ebed-Melech University is committed to fostering scholarly dissemination and the integration of faith and knowledge. In addition to meeting the requirements of the chosen peer-reviewed journals (for publications) or film festivals (for short films), a final copy of all doctoral projects will be housed in our university's digital repository. Church launch projects may also be included in a designated section highlighting the university's commitment to fostering new faith communities.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roxanne Kemp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Roxanne Kemp, PhD
President and Founder
Ebed-Melech University