

A man and a woman are sitting at a wooden table in a bright, modern office or study area. The man, wearing glasses and a light blue button-down shirt, is looking at an open book. The woman, with long brown hair, is looking at him. There are two laptops on the table, one in front of each person. Large windows in the background show greenery outside.

EQUIPPING THEOLOGICALLY- ORIENTED EDUCATIONAL LEADERS THROUGH ADVANCED TRAINING *and* RESEARCH

TALBOT SCHOOL *of* THEOLOGY
BIOLA UNIVERSITY

PH.D. AND ED.D. PROGRAMS IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Residential and Hybrid formats

FACULTY

Our richest resource is our faculty. Representing a diversity of experience, research and teaching interests, our well-respected faculty offer a breadth of benefits to our students: scholarly wisdom, practical ministry guidance and personal mentoring. Our faculty care for students both inside and outside of class and are committed to cultivating a community of both academic excellence and spiritual growth.



KLAUS D. ISSLER

*Director, Ph.D. & Ed.D.
in Educational Studies,
Professor of Educational
Studies and Theology*

Dr. Issler holds degrees in education, theology and philosophy, and specializes in the areas of Christian formation and discipleship, Christian spirituality and relationship with God, the life and teachings of Jesus, the theology of work and stewardship, the teaching-learning processes, and philosophy and theology of education. He has taught at Talbot since 1991.



ORBELINA EGUIZABAL

*Hybrid Distance
Coordinator, Ph.D. & Ed.D.
Programs in Educational
Studies, Professor of
Christian Higher Education*

Dr. Eguizabal is active in training leaders and promoting the development of educational ministries in growing churches in the Latin American context. She brings experience both in teaching process and educational leadership to the classroom. She is involved in theological education training efforts in Latin America and around the world.



KEVIN E. LAWSON

*Professor of Educational
Studies*

Dr. Lawson teaches on the historical foundations of Christian education, leadership issues and educational research methods. He holds degrees in Christian education, biblical studies and educational administration, and carries out research on local church educational ministry, historical foundations of Christian education and other related topics.



OCTAVIO J. ESQUEDA

*Professor of Christian
Higher Education*

Dr. Esqueda has several publications on theological education, Christian higher education and literature. Teaching is his passion and he has had the opportunity to teach in several countries on different academic levels. He teaches in the areas of adult education, foundations of Christian higher education, the professoriate and educational research.



SHELLY CUNNINGHAM

*Associate Provost for Faculty
Advancement, Associate
Professor of Christian
Education*

Dr. Cunningham is an instructional consultant for the Center for Faculty Development at Biola University. She is a Christian educator whose ministry experience includes staff positions in youth ministry and Christian education in the local church. She continues to be involved in the local church and serves as a training consultant and retreat speaker.



JONATHAN H. KIM

*Associate Professor of
Christian Education*

Dr. Kim specializes in the critical integration of theology and psychology with a particular interest in exploring the interrelationship of faith, spirituality, intellect, personhood, morality and culture. He brings over 20 years of ministry experience to the classroom. His areas of expertise include faith formation & discipleship, philosophy of ministry and qualitative research methods.

AT TALBOT SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY,
BIBLICAL WISDOM
IS OUR DOCTORAL
PROGRAMS'
CENTRAL PURSUIT.

Our programs equip students with the knowledge and skills to more effectively address the challenges of educational leadership and ministry in the world today. Since 1984, more than 175 doctoral graduates from our programs have gone on to impact the world for Christ through a variety of educational leadership roles in 25 of the United States and 19 countries on five continents.

TWO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

PH.D. IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree equips the “Researcher-Teacher” with the research, integration, as well as teaching and leadership skills to contribute to their discipline, teach and equip others for educational formation leadership roles, and give leadership to their institutions. This is the preferred degree for full-time teaching at most Christian higher education institutions.

ED.D. IN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree equips the “Leader-Teacher” with skills in research assessment and application to educational concerns. The program provides the same training in conceptual thinking, theological integration and teaching as the Ph.D. program, but with more applied focus. This fits well for the needs of formation leaders and some teaching settings.

TWO CONVENIENT FORMATS

RESIDENTIAL FORMAT

Both programs are available in a regular residential format, consisting of five or six semesters of study on campus, a candidacy exam and the dissertation. For Ph.D. residential students, it usually takes five to six years to complete the programs in this format. For Ed.D. residential students, it usually takes four to five years to complete the programs in this format.

HYBRID DISTANCE FORMAT

Both programs are also available in a format that involves semester-long readings and assignments combined with class time during one-week, on campus intensives in November and March (some electives offered as livestream and asynchronous online courses). For Ph.D. hybrid distance students, it usually takes six to seven years to complete the programs in this format. For Ed.D. hybrid distance students, it usually takes five to six years to complete the programs in this format.

“We desire to advance the mission of developing disciples of Jesus Christ whose thought processes, character and lifestyles reflect those of our Lord, and who are dedicated to disciple-making throughout the world. The goal is that our students develop both academic competence and spiritual formation, characterized by tender hearts before the Lord, an active passion for the gospel and a steadfast commitment to building the church.”



DR. CLINTON E. ARNOLD
DEAN, TALBOT SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

FIVE PROGRAM DISTINCTIVES

CHRISTIAN AND CONCEPTUAL THINKING

We are committed to the integration of social science research and theory through a Christian worldview. Theological reflection and integration are central to our programs, as we encourage an interdisciplinary study of issues relevant to teaching and leadership in educational studies within a Christian perspective.

RESOURCES OF A TOP CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Students in our programs benefit from the resources of Biola University, including vast library holdings, and access to relevant academic databases.

RESEARCH FOCUS

We are committed to equipping our students with the tools they need to apply current research and develop new research to strengthen the practice of educational studies within a Christian perspective.

DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

The diversity of cultural, educational and professional experience our students bring to the classroom enriches our discussion and stimulates our thinking. Our program has served students from, and had graduates go out and serve in teaching and educational leadership roles in 20 countries across the world, including: Australia, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Singapore, Swaziland, Taiwan and the United States.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

We embed spiritual formation activities across the program and within coursework. The goal is to grow students in their relationship with God in the midst of academic work, equipping them to be spiritually vital leaders and teachers.

FACULTY EXPERTISE:

SAMPLE ELECTIVE COURSES

TTDE 8101 - THEORIES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Kim - This course provides an advanced study of the processes of Christian teaching, learning and formation. It provides theological and theoretical knowledge about human nature and learning and implications for teaching efforts to promote Christian formation. *Credits: 3*

TTDE 8141 - CURRICULUM THEORY AND DESIGN

Instructor: Dr. Shelly Cunningham - An advanced study of the rationale for, and guiding principles of, curriculum design and development. Foundational course equipping students to make informed decisions about curriculum selection, organization, and effective implementation in a church or academic setting. *Credits: 3*

TTDE 8211 - CHARACTER FORMATION AND PERSONAL RENEWAL

Instructor: Dr. Klaus Issler - An exploration of the formation of Christian character and Christ-likeness with implications for the practice of teaching and learning in local church, parachurch and higher education settings. *Credits: 3*

TTDE 8331 - ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP IN CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Instructor: Dr. Orbelina Equizabal - This course examines the roles of academic leaders in higher education with special emphasis on the role and functions of the academic dean and department chair in the implementation of the school mission and strategic vision. *Credits: 3*

TTDE 8441 - THE PROFESSORIATE IN CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Instructor: Dr. Octavio Equeda - This course is an introduction to the key factors involving the office, duties and position of a professor in Christian higher education. Attention will be given to the importance and balance between teaching, research and service in the professoriate. *Credits: 3*

TTDE 8501 - STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF EDUCATION

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Lawson - Investigation of the great teachers, great education ideas or great educational systems in the history of education and the teaching ministry of the Church. A particular historical period may be treated or themes across historical periods. *Credits: 3*

FOR MORE INFO and to APPLY

The process of applying to graduate school is a big commitment. The Office of Graduate Admissions is here to help you navigate the process.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

talbot.edu/phd

TUITION

talbot.edu/admissions/tuition

FINANCIAL AID

Limited Ph.D. fifty percent coursework scholarship for highly qualified applicants at talbot.edu/phd/scholarships.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

FALL: January 31

ABOUT BIOLA UNIVERSITY

Biola University is a nationally ranked Christian university in the heart of Southern California. Founded in 1908, Biola offers biblically centered education, intentional spiritual development and vocational preparation within a unique learning community where all faculty, staff and students are professing Christians.

STAY CONNECTED

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