

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

Description of the Doctor of Ministry Program (DMin)

The Doctor of Ministry degree is an advanced professional degree designed to enable students to practice ministry at a high level of competency. The program builds on the general theological preparation of the Master of Divinity degree and moves toward a concentration that combines theory and significant experience. The professional character of the degree is designed to prepare students to be effective in the practice of ministry rather than preparing for research and teaching vocations.

The program of study integrates the classical disciplines of biblical, historical, theological, social, and linguistic studies with those significant tasks of one involved in the practice of ministry. It assists those whose responsibilities range broadly in pastoral, missionary, or administrative ministries by enhancing both competency and excellence in the practice of ministry. Six Doctor of Ministry specializations are offered:

- DMin, Biblical Counseling
- DMin, Christian Ministries
- DMin, Church Revitalization
- DMin, Expository Preaching
- DMin, Missions
- DMin, Pastoral Ministry

Educational Objectives of the Doctor of Ministry Program

The Doctor of Ministry program is expected to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To enable participants to develop a theology of ministry which is responsive to both the leadership of God and the needs of the church, or ministry in which they serve;
2. To satisfy the demand for continuing education in ministry;
3. To renew the personal life of faith and servanthood of the participant;
4. To stimulate continued growth in biblical and theological foundations;
5. To develop skills that facilitate intellectual inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking;
6. To enable participants to communicate the truth of God's Word effectively with greater competency in the total practice of ministry;
7. To enable those serving in mission ministries to gain competence in the practice of mission ministries; and
8. To enable the participant to acquire a sensitivity for the needs of society, thus preparing the participant for excellence in ministry leadership in a complex and changing world.

Admission Requirements and Procedure for the Doctor of Ministry Program

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Applicants must have a Bachelor of Arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. Any exception must be approved by the doctoral programs committee.

Seminary Degree Requirements

Applicants normally will have completed the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Biblical language requirements are six semester hours of Greek and six semester hours of Hebrew. Other master's degree work may be acceptable with approval from the doctoral programs committee. Leveling courses may be required. An applicant must have maintained an average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 in their master's degree work.

Field Experience Requirements

The Doctor of Ministry degree is the most advanced professional degree any seminary can offer. Because Mid-America is committed to preparing persons for the most effective ministry possible, we believe significant ministry experience contributes to that end. The completion of the Doctor of Ministry degree, therefore, requires two years of pastoral ministry, church staff service, missionary service, or denominational service. Final evaluation of the completed practical experience is made by the doctoral programs committee.

International Students

The DMin program fulfills the residential requirement of an F-1 Visa. Applicants from international seminaries offering the Master of Divinity or its equivalent may be admitted to the Doctor of Ministry program on the same basis as students from national seminaries, provided they score a minimum of six hundred on the paper-based TOEFL examination or one hundred on the internet-based TOEFL. Refer to Admission Procedure for International Students in this catalog.

The Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

An applicant must complete all procedures and requirements for approval by the Seminary's doctoral programs committee. Applicants will receive notice of approval from the associate dean of doctoral programs.

Applicants must perform satisfactorily on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test to demonstrate competency to function at the graduate level. The GRE can be taken at any of the regional testing centers. Evaluation of test results is consistent with the practice of similar educational institutions and is in conformity to performance scales published in the GRE scores interpretation resources and corroborating research reports. With the approval of the doctoral programs committee, the GRE may be waived for an applicant who has already taken the MAT (Miller Analogies Test) and made an acceptable score. The MAT waiver will only be valid until November 2028. The MABTS code number, 2234, must be used to report GRE test scores. GRE test scores will be valid for five years.

Essay

An applicant must submit a 10-page essay which includes the following components:

1. Three pages of autobiography;
2. One page giving a brief personality sketch;
3. Two pages describing the applicant's vocational experience and ministry intentions; and
4. Four pages relating to the applicant's personal view of Christian ministry.

The essay is to be written in accordance with *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (latest edition), by Kate Turabian (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

Conditional Admission

An applicant may be admitted on a conditional basis for the first year of study in the doctoral program at the discretion of the doctoral programs committee. The associate dean of doctoral programs will notify the applicant of the reasons for any conditional status, specify any requirements that must be fulfilled, and state any limitations to be imposed upon the projected seminar load. Students admitted conditionally are evaluated at the conclusion of the first year of study, and the doctoral programs committee governs the student's continuance in the program. Exceptions to the published admission requirements for the Doctor of Ministry program must be approved by the faculty.

Time Limit for Approved Applicants

Applicants for the Doctor of Ministry program who do not enroll in a seminar within one year from the date of approval must submit a new application to the program.

Completion Requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Program

Completion Time and Continuous Enrollment

The degree requires 30 semester hours of doctoral-level work above the Master of Divinity or its equivalent. The student must complete six four-semester hour seminars, plus the major project (six semester hours of credit). The program is designed to be completed in three to five years, though some students may choose to extend their time in the program. Continuous enrollment is required.

Students will take three seminars (12 semester hours) during a 12-month period. A load of 12 semester hours per year is considered full-time status for loan verification or for Department of Veterans Affairs purposes.

Doctor of Ministry Courses

Each seminar in the Doctor of Ministry program has the following three components:

1. Reading of a minimum of 2,000 pages from a seminar bibliography provided to the student at the start of the semester;
2. Meetings of two hours one day per week in a 16-week semester; and
3. A project or paper that applies the theory of the reading and seminar sessions in the student's ministry setting.

Major Ministry Project

In addition to the seminar work, students must complete a major ministry project. This is a supervised ministry project, which may be done in a local church or ministry setting, or it may be a research project. Details are provided in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

The student will be advanced to candidacy status after the satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examinations, all academic course work, the approval of the prospectus for the major ministry project, and the completion of any Witness One:Seven deficiencies. Students initiate the process of advancement by submitting the prospectus for the major ministry project to the DMin office. The associate dean of the Seminary will give a formal notice of advancement to candidacy when all requirements have been satisfied and the doctoral programs committee has given approval.

Comprehensive and Oral Examinations

After the satisfactory completion of all seminars, the student will participate in written examinations, which will cover each of the seminars taken (reading, intensive session, post-seminar written paper). Details are provided in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

In addition, after the submission and completion of the ministry project or research project, the student must present and orally defend the project. The student should discuss the inception, justification, development, implementation, evaluation, and impact of his project. This professional and creative presentation is considered a major component in the overall grade of the dissertation.

Doctor of Ministry Curriculum

Code	Title	Hours
Core Seminars		12
Concentration Seminars		12
Dissertation		6
Total Hours		30

Cost of the Program

Tuition and fees for the Doctor of Ministry program are covered in the Fees and Expenses section of the catalog and in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

Interruption of Study

An interruption of study status may be requested when a student experiences a natural disaster or major medical problem, (i.e., death in the family, major illness, cancer treatment, etc.). Interruption status can only be granted by the doctoral programs committee. It will not be granted for minor illness. The interrupted status fee is listed in the Fees and Expenses section of the catalog and in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

Acceptable Grades

Only course work with a grade of B or above (3.0 on a scale of 4.0) will satisfy the requirements for this degree. If a student receives a B- in the course, the student need not retake the seminar but may be assigned remedial work by the professor that will, upon successful completion, bring the student's grade to a B (90). If the grade in two seminars is lower than B, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

Doctor of Ministry Seminars

All seminars are four credit hours.

Doctoral Core

The following doctoral core seminars are required for all concentrations except Biblical Counseling (an additional counseling course is offered instead of Leadership Development).

Code	Title	Hours
DR 9910	Doctoral Research and Writing	4
DM 8620	Relationships/Spiritual Formation	4
DM 8150	Leadership Development	4
Total Hours		12

Biblical Counseling Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8871	Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling	4
DM 8872	The Theology of Counseling and Critical Stages	4
DM 8873	Counseling Theories and Issues	4
DM 8874	Marriage and Family Counseling	4
Total Hours		16

Christian Ministries Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8160	Interpretation/Teaching	4
DM 8170	Development and Administration of Education Ministry	4
DM 8820	Change, Power, and Conflict	4
Total Hours		12

Church Revitalization Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8800	Principles and Practice of Church Revitalization/Congregational Renewal	4
DM 8810	Critical Issues in Church Revitalization	4
DM 8830	Disciple-Making in the Context of Church Revitalization	4
Total Hours		12

Expository Preaching Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8100	Interpretation/Preaching	4
DM 8115	The History of Preaching	4
DM 8121	Contemporary Preaching	4
Total Hours		12

Missions Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8420	Missionary Principles and Practices/Issues in Missiology	4
DM 8570	Cultural Anthropology	4
DM 8250	North American Church Growth	4
Total Hours		12

Pastoral Ministry Concentration

Code	Title	Hours
DM 8100	Interpretation/Preaching	4
DM 8200	Advanced Pastoral Ministry and Care	4
DM 8800	Principles and Practice of Church Revitalization/Congregational Renewal	4
Total Hours		12