



WESTERN SEMINARY



2010-2011 Academic Catalog Gospel-Centered Transformation

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program

D.MIN. PROGRAM

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program is an advanced professional degree intended for persons engaged in some aspect of full-time Christian ministry, such as the pastorate, Christian education, chaplaincy, evangelism, music and worship ministry, and related areas of service. Its intent is to enable seminary-trained Christian leaders who have already demonstrated a significant measure of ministerial competence to enlarge their vision and abilities in the service of the Lord and His Church. Through the exploration of biblical and theological knowledge and exposure to various issues and needs in contemporary ministry, the D.Min. student further develops practical skills of ministry rooted in and governed by biblical and theological truth.

The aim of the program is to apply classic pastoral wisdom to contemporary challenges, in order that pastors might exert a radical, redemptive influence upon culture. There are four grids through which courses are offered: Pastoral Preaching; Pastoral Leadership; Pastoral Care; and Pastoral Life/Spirituality. The student will complete eight three-credit courses and a six-credit written dissertation, earning a total of 30 credits. In addition, the student will conduct a final, oral dissertation demonstration.

PROGRAM IDEOLOGY

With the goal of elevating the practice of ministry, we wish to bring together strong student and faculty resources to create an excellent learning environment. Our students should be interested in seeking unselfishly to increase the impact of the Church worldwide. They should be committed to sharing their ideas and sharpening one another, "as iron sharpens iron."

Our D.Min. faculty, consisting of both adjunct ministry experts (including current practitioners such as Don Carson, Don Sunukjian, Alan Hirsh, Gordon MacDonald, Andy Crouch and Jerry Bridges) and members of our resident faculty with expertise in the ministry areas, possess a concern for and interest in working with D.Min. students and are able to relate to the cutting edge of ministry.

1. Attitudinally: transmit a contagious missionary vision for ministry, passionate concern for the lost, commitment for evangelism and church-planting/building.
2. Competently: formulate and practice a holistic understanding of ministry, integrating theology, missiology, communication and linguistic sciences, anthropology, and related disciplines.

Together, students and faculty concentrate on the planning, doing, assessing, and reporting of ministry effectiveness. Methods used include such things as diagnostic testing, peer and professorial discussion, peer and professorial critiques of student work, broad reading in a subject area, development of ministry research skills, meaningful involvement of the student's congregation, and case study.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements for the D.Min. program assume a high level of achievement in biblical, theological, and ministerial areas through previous academic studies and ministry experience.

In addition to the Seminary's general requirements for admission given on pages 18-19, the applicant to the Doctor of Ministry program shall hold a three-year Master of Divinity degree or its educational equivalent from an institution accredited regionally and/or by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada. A cumulative grade point of 3.0 (on a 4.0 point scale) is required. In certain cases, a student with a two-year theological M.A. degree may be admitted in a provisional status with the agreement to complete M.Div. equivalency courses prior to doctoral course work.

An applicant with a Master of Divinity degree from an unaccredited institution may seek admission by special review. A copy of the institution's catalog, setting forth faculty credentials, curriculum, facilities and learning resources, shall be submitted at the time of application. Any additional documentation the applicant wishes to submit to assist the Committee in its decision is welcome. If the review is favorable, the student will be admitted on academic probation. The probationary status will be reviewed upon the satisfactory completion (3.0 average or greater) of two doctoral courses.

Doctoral applicants must provide evidence of significant achievement in ministry. A minimum of three years of full-time ministry experience after the completion of the Master of Divinity degree is required. Current involvement in vocational ministry is required both for admission and for continuance in the program. Because the D.Min. is an in-service professional program, it is necessary for the doctoral student to remain active in pastoral ministry throughout the program.

A set of admission materials must be completed and on file in the Admissions Office before action can be taken. These materials include an admission statement; experience statement (or professional vita); a statement of supportive endorsement from the church or agency with which the applicant serves; four professional and personal references; and official transcripts of all college, graduate-level, and seminary education. In addition, doctoral applicants must provide a sample of writing and research skills. This commonly takes the form of a seminary research paper, articles for publication or distribution, or materials produced for use in one's ministry. The sample selected should reflect the applicant's writing skills in form, style, and content. The deadline for submission of the application is eight weeks prior to each doctoral course. (For a schedule of D.Min. courses and the registration dates, please contact the D.Min. Office at 503.517.1868.)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The D.Min. degree is conferred upon the attainment of pertinent personal and academic requirements. In addition to the general seminary requirements outlined on pages 31-32, degree candidates must (1) give evidence of a genuine Christian character, orthodox belief, and conduct consistent with a God-given call to a position of leadership; and (2) complete all components of the program, accumulating at least 30 hours of credit. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained throughout the program. If the student receives a grade for any one course below a "B," he or she will be placed on academic probation and continuance in the program will be in jeopardy. Two grades below a "B" are grounds for dismissal from the program.

Up to three hours of Th.M. credit and up to six hours of D.Min. credit may be transferred into the program from other accredited seminaries. The maximum number of credits transferred shall not exceed six. Transfer of credit is not automatic. The student must show that the work to be transferred is relevant to the program emphasis in church leadership, and was completed at a comparable advanced level. Requests for acceptance of credit from other seminaries should be made at the time of admission to the program. Later transfer will only be done by prior approval through the program director and the Registrar's Office.

The statute of limitations for the Doctor of Ministry program is six years. If the circumstances warrant, an extension of this time limit may be granted by the Doctoral Standards Committee based upon petition submitted to the Doctor of Ministry program director.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Doctor of Ministry courses are offered throughout the year. Courses encompass four or five month enrollment periods, with a week-long intensive seminar scheduled approximately in the middle of the course. Pre-seminar preparation and post-seminar projects are part of each course, and are completed by the student over the enrollment period. Specific dates for courses are available from the D.Min. Office.

COURSE EMPHASIS

There are two required courses followed by six courses of the student's choosing. Each course has been designed to contribute to the overall goal of equipping pastors to lead healthy ministries. Knowledge, skill, and character formation are part of the curriculum of every class. Each course, therefore, will stretch students intellectually, enabling them to exercise library and field research skills conducive to personal growth and enrichment of their ministry. Students must be prepared to articulate and defend an advanced biblical philosophy of ministry that demonstrates knowledgeable and competent use of Scripture, as well as historic and contemporary thinking. In addition, because of the practical nature of a D.Min. program, courses are aimed to enhance students' skills for ministry. Finally, it is the mission of every course to bring ministers to a deepened level in their spiritual walk.

This curriculum takes place within the context of a community of faith, where consecrated scholars are gathered for studies and mutual enrichment. Instructors are encouraged to view their class as a community of learners, where the professor's role is primarily interactive. Students are invited to participate with respected practitioners and ministry peers, with a view to learning from each other.

The Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Missiology programs at Western Seminary are two professional degrees with significant compatibility: a non-residence module format, field research, and the dissertation. Students enrolled in one program may cross-register for up to two electives (six credit hours) in the other. The module format of both programs is designed to make doctoral level training programs accessible to active practitioners in ministry.

The curriculum is guided by the following emphases:

PASTORAL PREACHING: Courses encourage exegetical, expository preaching, equipping students to develop sermons that are true to the text of Scripture and relevant to the listening audience. In other words, preaching that does not dumb down but elevates peoples' understanding of Scripture, enables churches to address contemporary issues using sound theological methods, and attracts so that people will listen. Within this grid, there is also the intent to equip pastors to lead their congregation into genuine spirit and truth worship of God.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP: Courses equip pastors to think strategically and administrate successfully. In particular, courses enable pastors to train their lay people effectively, take leadership through a vision-mission-structure process, develop a staffing philosophy, recruit and develop a church leadership team, assess cultural trends, revitalize the church for the 21st century, exercise change and deal with conflict management skillfully, and release the church's potential.

PASTORAL CARE: Courses center around spiritual formation, developing people, mentoring lives, building community, building a church through small groups, marriage & family counseling, and teaching effective visitation, discipleship, and evangelism.

PASTORAL LIFE/SPIRITUALITY: Courses address the importance of one's spiritual walk. Classes aim to develop a pastor's intimacy with God, and nurture his prayer life and ability to engage in trained attentiveness before God. Other subjects include motivations for ministry and a pastor's marriage and family life.

A minimum of six courses are offered per year. The goal is to schedule at least three years ahead, so that students can plan wisely in their curriculum selection, gaining the very best instruction for ministry.

Required D.Min. courses:

- PTS 711 Foundation for Ministry and Missions
– David Fisher
- PTS 712 Research Design & Methodology
– John Johnson and Enoch Wan

Sample elective D.Min. courses:

- PTS 732G Increasing the Clarity and Relevancy of Your Preaching
– Don Sunukjian
- PTS 737I The Shaping of Things to Come – Michael Frost
- PTS 737L Leading a Missional Church in a Post-Christian Age
– Gerry Breshears/Mark Driscoll
- PTS 737O God's Plan for Leading the Church – Gene Getz
- PTS 737P Cultural Creativity & the Church – Andy Crouch
- PTS 737R The Forgotten Ways: Cultivating Missional Imagination & Praxis for the 21st Century Church – Alan Hirsh

- PTS 747B Shepherding God's People
– Dave Hansen/Steve Matthewson
- PTS 747H Evangelism and Discipleship in Contemporary Context
– Todd Hunter
- PTS 747I The Connecting Church – Randy Frazee
- PTS 747J Building the Church by Creating a Discipleship Ethos – Bill Hull
- PTS 752B The Private Life of the Public Person
– Gordon MacDonald/Gary Thomas
- PTS 752E Grace and Discipline: The Relationship of God's Grace and the Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines in Christian Growth
– Jerry Bridges
- PTS 752I Sacred Family – Gary Thomas
- PTS 780 Individualized Study (course designed by the student and program director—may be completed in conjunction with approved ministry seminars, such as T-Net, Purpose Driven Church, etc.)
- PTS 791 D.Min. Dissertation

D.MIN. CORE OUTCOMES

Upon completing the program, the student should be able to:

1. Be more effective in his/her ministry skills, think more carefully and theologically about one's ministry, and develop and execute a plan for enhanced ministry effectiveness, including the ability to assess (and learn from) that plan's actual outcomes.
2. Be able to articulate and defend an advanced biblical theology of pastoral leadership, based upon competent use of Scripture and engagement with contemporary thought.
3. Be able to exercise library and field research skills conducive to ministerial growth, as appropriate to subjects investigated.
4. Demonstrate advanced ministry knowledge and skills in at least one of four grids of ministry: Pastoral Preaching, Pastoral Administration, Pastoral Care, and Pastoral Life/Spirituality.
5. Be able to think, write, and speak critically and logically on biblical, theological, and practical ministry issues.
6. Be more sensitive to one's walk with God, discerning the activity of the Spirit in his/her own life and in the lives to whom one ministers.