

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program is an advanced professional degree intended for persons engaged in vocational Christian service, such as pastors, chaplains, educators, missionaries, and leaders in parachurch ministries. Its design is to increase effectiveness in seminary-trained leaders who have already demonstrated competence in their respective spheres of ministry.

This is accomplished by:

- Deepening biblical/theological foundations and their consequent implications;
- Cultivating ministry applications that result from these foundations/implications; and,
- Implementing these biblically-informed applications in the actual practice of ministry.

To achieve these aims, the D.Min. curriculum is concentrated into three emphases: 1) Christ-Centered Preaching; 2) Pastoral Leadership; and, 3) Gospel Spirituality.

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.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

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

1. Think critically and theologically about the practice of ministry, developing and implementing plans for greater gospel effectiveness, including the ability to assess actual outcomes;
2. Demonstrate an advanced understanding and skill in at least one of three ministry concentrations: Christ-centered Preaching, Pastoral Leadership, and Gospel Spirituality;
3. Articulate and defend an advanced biblical theology of ministerial leadership based upon a competent use of Scripture and engagement with contemporary ministry practice;
4. Evidence an increased maturity in spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer, Scripture reading, application of gospel to all areas of life, meditation);
5. Exercise library and field research skills conducive to ministerial development in keeping with the chosen concentration of study;
6. Effectively critique and communicate on biblical, theological, and ministerial issues in both oral and written disciplines.

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 20-21, 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 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 M.A. in Ministry and Leadership degree may be admitted in a provisional status with the agreement to complete M.Div. leveling 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. All application materials must be submitted by the application deadline stated on the Western Seminary D.Min. website, www.westernseminary.edu/DMin. For a schedule of D.Min. courses and the registration dates, please contact the D.Min. office at 503.517.1868.

TRANSFER CREDIT

Upon approval by the Registrar, transfer of up to 6 hours credit is allowed toward the D.Min. program from graduate institutions accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, 3 hours of which may be Th.M. credit. Students must have earned a grade of B or better for a course to be considered for transfer and coursework must have completed no more than five years prior to matriculation to Western Seminary. Transfer of credit is not automatic. The student must show that the work to be transferred is relevant to the D.Min. 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 Registrar's Office. Transferability of credits earned at Western and transferred to another institution is at the discretion of the receiving institution. Consult the Registrar's Office for information on eligibility of transfer credit and advanced standing.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Of the 30 credit hours required for the Doctor of Ministry program, a minimum of 24 credit hours must be completed through coursework completed at Western Seminary, with a minimum of 24 credit hours taken in resident study at Western Seminary's Portland Campus. All work leading to the Doctor of Ministry must be completed within six years from the time of matriculation. Extension of this limit requires approval of the Doctoral Standards Committee. However, only one such extension may be considered due to special circumstances, such as ill health. Reinstatement to the program after withdrawal requires Admissions Committee action and may subject the student to additional requirements for the degree. All credits applied toward degree requirements must be earned within ten years of the awarding of the degree.

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 34-36, 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.

PROGRAM EMPHASIS

Students may complete their studies in as few as eight semesters, with a minimum of 30 credit hours required as a minimum for graduation. In addition to six credit hours of dissertation coursework, the program requires two core courses: PTS 710 (to be taken early in the program) and PTS 712 (to be taken near the conclusion of the program). The student is required to select six additional courses from the following areas of concentration:

CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING. These courses are designed to furnish pastors and leaders with greater skill in the science and art of sermon preparation and delivery. Particular attention is given to discovering the Christocentric emphasis of the entire Bible, its redemptive intention for the people of God, and the unique empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP. These courses are designed to furnish pastors and leaders with an increased capacity to shepherd a congregation with the gospel over an extended season of ministry. Fresh consideration is given to pastoral care, church discipline, effective evangelism, leadership training, God-centered worship, contemporary theological challenges, and church planting.

GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY. These courses are designed to furnish pastors and leaders with an enhanced commitment to their own spiritual and theological formation. In a manner uniquely influenced by the gospel, specific attention is directed at developing intimacy with God, peers, parishioners, and family members.

COACHING COHORT

The D.Min. program also features a ministerial Coaching Cohort, which blends advanced ministry training with the breadth of coaching skills, enough coach specific training hours to apply for Professional Coach

Certification with the International Coach Federation (ICF). Coaching Cohort students take four courses that develop coaching knowledge and skills within the six concentration courses in the program.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

To maintain satisfactory academic progress, students must earn grades of B or higher and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. One grade of B- or below immediately places the doctoral student on Academic Warning. A second course with a grade of B- or below immediately places the doctoral student on Academic Probation and subject to review by the Doctoral Standards Committee for dismissal from the program.

If the Doctoral Standards Committee dismisses the student from the doctoral program, the student may appeal to the Doctoral Standards Committee for re-admission. The student must show that there were exceptional circumstances involved and provide evidence indicating that they can remove the grade point deficiency within one semester. Appeals for re-admission will be considered for the next semester.

A doctoral student may graduate with up to two grades of B-, as long as the cumulative GPA is above 3.0. A course receiving a grade below B- cannot be counted toward degree graduation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Doctor of Ministry courses are offered throughout the year. Courses encompass four 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.

Sample Elective D.Min. Courses:

- PTS 732J Preaching and Pastoralia (R. Kent Hughes)
- PTS 732M Doctrinal Preaching: The Holy Spirit and Preaching (Robert Smith, Jr.)
- PTS 732N Christ-Centered Preaching (Bryan Chapell)
- PTS 732O Preaching Through the Epistles of John (D. A. Carson)
- PTS 752E Grace and Discipline: The Relationship of God's Grace and the Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines in Christian Growth (Jerry Bridges)
- PTS 7XX Preaching the Gospel from the Old Testament (Ray Ortlund, Jr.)
- PTS 7XX Key Theological Issues for Pastoral Ministry (Bruce Ware)
- PTS 7XX The Art of Pastoring (Dave Hansen)
- PTS 7XX Multicultural Ministry in Contemporary Context
- PTS 780 Individualized Study (course designed by the student and program director)

CURRICULUM PLAN

Required D.Min. Courses:

- PTS 710 Effecting Gospel-Centered Transformation (3)
- PTS 712 Research Design and Methodology (3)
- PTS 791 D.Min. Dissertation (6+)

Electives: 18 credits

Total: 30+ credits