DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.MIN.)

Purpose

The Doctor of Ministry degree offers pastors, missionaries and other church leaders an opportunity for professional and personal growth. It is designed to enhance one’s knowledge and skills in the practice of ministry. Students will have the opportunity to interact with recognized church leaders, to explore new ministry perspectives, to evaluate their ministry, to increase their vision and to crystallize their understanding of the purpose and goals of ministry.

The program is composed of 30 credit hours involving 6 hours of core courses, 9 hours of cognate courses, 6 hours of research courses, 6 hours of thesis courses, and DMIN 890 Thesis Project Defense (3 c.h.).

Program Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Construct a theological foundation that interacts with precedent literature to evaluate ministry.
2. Evaluate a ministry idea or context demonstrating advanced observation and analysis.
3. Develop a research project to address a specific ministry objective.

Program Specific Admission Requirements

In addition to the general admission procedures, applicants to the Doctor of Ministry degree program must meet the following specific requirements:

1. A Master of Divinity degree, or its equivalent, from an appropriately accredited theological seminary with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above (on a 4.00 scale).
2. Professional vita showing three years of experience in full-time ministry after receiving the Master of Divinity degree. This experience must be pastoral in nature (pastor, assistant pastor, youth pastor, missionary, etc.) and must be connected to a church body. Exceptions to this must be approved by the Dean.
3. A current place of ministry where the student can successfully carry out a ministry-related project. International students who file under the I-20 may be allowed to complete their residency course work without this requirement. However, they must complete their thesis project in the context of a full-time ministry.
4. Two recommenders’ contact information for two recommendations from colleagues in the ministry.
5. Ecclesiastical Endorsement indicating the agreement of the church (or employing organization) with the applicant’s participation in the Doctor of Ministry program.
6. A detailed Statement of Purpose for pursuing the program.
7. School of Divinity Questionnaire
8. TOEFL Scores for students who speak English as a second language (score of 600 paper-based test; 250 computer-based test, 80 internet-based test).

1 Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Equivalency

Students who have not completed a M.Div. degree may meet the M.Div. admission requirement by completing the following requirements:

- 72 accredited graduate hours (in any graduate discipline)
- Accredited seminary degree
- 9 hours in graduate-level Bible / Theology
- 9 hours in graduate-level Apologetics / Church History / Church Ministries / Evangelism / Discipleship / Global Studies / Homiletics / Leadership

Note: An applicant to the Doctor of Ministry program who is within 6 credits of meeting the M.Div. equivalency, may be admitted to take the remaining equivalent master’s level credit hours within the D.Min. program. These classes must be taken and passed before any doctoral level classes are taken, and all other published admission requirements for the program must be met.

Advancement to Candidacy (D.Min.)

Candidate status is granted when all admissions criteria have been met, 24 hours of coursework have been completed, and a formal introduction for the thesis project has been submitted.

Seminary Continuation Fee

Students enrolled in the D.Min. program who are unable to take classes during a semester will be charged a $30 continuation fee. Students who remain inactive for more than three semesters will be automatically dropped from the program and will be required to reapply in order to be readmitted to the program.

Thesis-Project Enrollment Policy

Once students enter the thesis-project phase of their degree, they must maintain continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring semesters mandatory, with Summer terms optional) until they complete all degree requirements. If they do not, they will break enrollment, and they will be required to apply for readmission if/when they wish to resume the pursuit of their degree. They will have to complete their degree under the Degree Completion Plan (DCP) in effect at the time of their readmission.

Programs of Study

Delivery Format: Online Only

- Ministry (D.Min.) - Biblical Studies
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Chaplaincy
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Church Revitalization
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Discipleship
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Evangelism & Church Planting
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Expository Preaching & Teaching
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Ministry Leadership
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Next Generation Ministry
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Pastoral Counseling
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Spiritual Formation
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Strategic Christian Ministry
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Theology & Apologetics
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Urban Ministry
- Ministry (D.Min.) - Worship
Career Opportunities

- Christian Scholar
- Church Counselor
- Church Planter
- Community Chaplain
- Director of Next Generation Ministries
- Discipleship Pastor
- Evangelist
- Lead/Associate pastor
- Pastoral Counselor
- Preaching Pastor
- Seminary Professor
- Senior Church Administrator
- Senior Pastor
- Small Group Pastor
- Student Pastor
- Teaching Pastor
- Worship Leader
- Youth Pastor

Courses

**DMIN 810 Foundations for the Doctor of Ministry 3 Credit Hour(s)**
This course provides a general introduction to the Doctor of Ministry program. Students are presented an overview of the program along with doctoral research and writing resources. These resources are then utilized to examine various theological and ministry concepts academically in preparation for progress through the program.

*Note:* Admission to the DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 820 Research and Thesis Development 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* (DMIN 810 and BIBL 810 and BIBL 820 and BIBL 830) or (CHPL 810 and CHPL 820 and CHPL 830 and DMIN 810) or (DMIN 810 and CHMN 810 and CHMN 820 and CHMN 830) or (DMIN 810 and DSMN 810 and DSMN 820 and DSMN 830) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 830) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 830 and EVCP 840) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 830 and EVCP 840) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 830 and EVCP 840) or (DMIN 810 and HOMI 810 and HOMI 820 and HOMI 830) or (DMIN 810 and LEAD 810 and LEAD 820 and LEAD 830) or (DMIN 810 and PACO 830 and PACO 835 and PACO 840) or (DMIN 810 and APOL 810 and APOL 820 and APOL 830) or (DMIN 810 and WRSP 820 and WRSP 835 and WRSP 845)

In this course, the student will create a micro-project based on the research of current and historic practices that address the ministry problem identified in DMIN 851. In other words, this course establishes what has been done to address this ministry problem.

*Registration Restrictions:* Admission to DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 830 Thesis Project Proposal Development 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 820

In this course, the student will identify a ministry problem and create a micro-project demonstrating the biblical precedence for addressing this ministry problem. In other words, this course establishes why something should be done to address this ministry problem.

*Note:* Admission to the DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 840 Thesis Project Writing Stage 1 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 830

The candidate will write, revise, and complete chapters 1 and 2 of their DMIN thesis project. In addition, the candidate will complete and submit their IRB application in order to begin the field research phase of their project.

*Note:* Admission to the DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 841 Thesis Research and Writing Part 1 4 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 820 and DMIN 830

The candidate will create all the documentation needed for their DMIN thesis in preparation for submitting their IRB application under the supervision of a mentor.

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 851 Micro-Project I: Biblical Precedence 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 810

In this course, the student will identify a ministry problem and create a micro-project demonstrating the biblical precedence for addressing this ministry problem. In other words, this course establishes why something should be done to address this ministry problem.

*Registration Restrictions:* Admission to DMIN program, DMIN 810, and 12 hours of Liberty DMIN credit

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 852 Micro-Project II: Current and Historic Practices 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 851

In this course, the student will create a micro-project based on the research of current and historic practices that address the ministry problem identified in DMIN 851. In other words, this course establishes what has been done to address this ministry problem.

*Registration Restrictions:* Admission to DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 853 Micro-Project III: Personal Engagement 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 852

In this course, the student will create a micro-project engaging the ministry problem identified in DMIN 851 and researched in DMIN 852. In other words, this course establishes what the student is currently doing to address this ministry problem.

*Registration Restrictions:* Admission to DMIN program

*Offered:* Online

**DMIN 854 Micro-Project IV: Recommended Engagement 3 Credit Hour(s)**

*Online Prerequisite:* DMIN 853

In this course, the student will create a micro-project promoting specific actions for others to take in addressing the ministry problem identified in DMIN 851, researched in DMIN 852, and engaged in DMIN 853. In other words, this course establishes what others can do to address this ministry problem.

*Registration Restrictions:* Admission to DMIN program

*Offered:* Online
DMIN 855 Portfolio Presentation  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: DMIN 854
In this course, the student will synthesize what they have learned, evaluate the collective micro-projects, and predict the future state of this problem in ministry. In other words, this course establishes what the student has learned and where the candidate sees this problem in the future.
Registration Restrictions: Admission to the DMIN program
Offered: Online

DMIN 880 Research and Writing of the Thesis Project  3 Credit Hour(s)
An introduction to the Thesis Writing Process and how ministry is enhanced using current electronic resources. Students will be introduced to all phases of the D.Min Thesis writing process, including the thesis timeline, research, writing your thesis, and the finished product, including the abstract and the vita. Students will become familiar with the Thesis Manual and with resources available to them through the library and the Liberty University Writing Center. Use of electronic databases for ministry research and Turabian Formatting will be introduced.
Offered: Online

DMIN 881 Thesis Research and Writing Part 2  5 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: DMIN 810 and DMIN 815 and DMIN 820 and DMIN 830 and DMIN 841 and (BIBL 810 and BIBL 820 and BIBL 830) or (CHPL 810 and CHPL 820 and CHPL 830) or (CHMN 810 and CHMN 820 and CHMN 830) or (DSMN 810 and DSMN 820 and DSMN 830) or (EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 830) or (HOMI 810 and HOMI 820 and HOMI 830) or (LEAD 810 and LEAD 820 and LEAD 830) or (CHMN 840 and CHMN 841 and CHMN 842) or (PACO 825 and PACO 830 and PACO 835) or (PACO 825 and PACO 830 and PACO 840) or (PACO 825 and PACO 835 and PACO 840) or (DSMN 850 and DSMN 860 and DSMN 870) or (CHMN 860 and CHMN 861 and CHMN 862) or (APOL 810 and APOL 820 and THEO 810) or (CHMN 850 and CHMN 851 and CHMN 852) or (WRSP 820 and WRSP 835 and WRSP 845)
This course is designed for the Doctor of Ministry candidate to complete the research and writing of the Thesis Project under the supervision of a mentor.
Registration Restrictions: Admission to the DMIN Program
Offered: Online

DMIN 885 Thesis Project Writing Stage 2  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: DMIN 840
This course allows the candidate time to conduct and evaluate research in coordination with a professional mentor. Once the research has been conducted, the student will complete the thesis project under the mentor supervision.
Note: Admission to the DMIN program
Offered: Online

DMIN 889 Thesis Project Writing  3 Credit Hour(s)
DMIN 889 - Thesis Project Writing (3 hours)
Offered: Online

DMIN 890 Thesis Project Defense  3 Credit Hour(s)
Online Prerequisite: DMIN 881
Note: Admission to DMIN program
Offered: Online

DMIN 995 Directed Research  3 Credit Hour(s)

DMIN 997 Seminar in Pastoral Studies  3 Credit Hour(s)