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, 12 hours of research 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\(^1\), 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\(^2\)’ 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.

Graduation Requirements
In addition to the other regulations governing graduation, graduates of the D.Min. program must meet the following requirements:

1. Must complete 33 semester hours of course work, including the thesis project, with a cumulative GPA of 3.00.
2. A minimum of 27 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include credit from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
3. A maximum of six (6) hours of transfer credit, including credits from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
4. The student must earn no more than one grade of C (includes grades of C+/C-).
5. No grades of D may be applied to the degree (includes grades of D+/D-).
6. Must complete the thesis project (DMIN 890 Thesis Project Defense (3 c.h.)) with a minimum grade of B (includes B-).
7. For information regarding the repeat policy, please refer to "Course Repeat Policy" in the Academic Information and Policies section of this Catalog.
8. Degree must be completed within 7 years.
9. Submission of Degree Completion Application must be completed within the last semester of a student's anticipated graduation date.

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.) - 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 830 and EVCP 840) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 and EVCP 840) or (DMIN 810 and EVCP 810 and EVCP 820 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 PACE 830 and PACO 835 and PACO 840) or (DMIN 810 and APOL 810 and APOL 820 and THEO 810) or (DMIN 810 and WRSP 820 and WRSP 835 and WRSP 845)
This introductory course prepares the DMIN candidate for an understanding and completion of the groundwork elements required to begin writing their DMIN proposal. The course is designed to help students identify researchable DMIN thesis projects, build sound arguments for a thesis through literature and biblical evaluation, and develop competent research skills to complete the thesis project.

Note: Admission to the DMIN program

Offered: Online

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

Online Prerequisite: DMIN 820
This course guides the candidate toward the completion of the DMIN thesis project proposal. The student will write each chapter and revise them as needed in preparation to present the proposal to an assigned mentor. Acceptance of the proposal by a mentor is required in order to pass the course.

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 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 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 885
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)