

Doctor of Ministry Program

A. Purpose and Objectives of the Program

The Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree is a terminal degree in the practice of ministry. It is offered to persons who are engaged in ministry and who wish to develop excellence in the practice of ministry. This is not a research degree preparing candidates for academic careers; its purpose is to help candidates become excellent practitioners of ministry.

The Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) degree arises out of the purpose and mission of Memphis Theological Seminary. This educational community shares in the mission of the Church in the world by contributing to the formation of persons for service in the Church. Within the body of Christ, some are called to be formed as pastoral ministers to serve and guide the Church in its formation as the people of God, to order the Church for ministry to the world, and to prepare God's people for works of service.

Formation for pastoral ministry is not merely personal development, but a process of formation in and with a community of believers. Because formation for ministry is a process, the D. Min. degree is in continuity and coherence with the basic M. Div. degree and with experience in the practice of ministry. Also because formation is a process, the D. Min. degree is designed to continue the formation of pastors in order to amplify at a doctoral level their theological skills, analytical and integrative proficiency, spirituality, knowledge and competence for ministry.

In light of the Seminary's commitment to formation of persons for service and leadership in ministry, the image that shapes the D. Min. degree at Memphis Theological Seminary is servant leadership. This image derives from the biblical concept of diakonia. A pastoral minister is one who serves in and with a community of believers and one who leads a community of believers in service. In and with a community, a servant/leader nurtures faith, identifies the context, scope, and shape of ministry in the world, and enables the development of skills and commitment for ministry.

The Doctor of Ministry curriculum seeks to accomplish the following:

1. Students will refine the theological basis for ministry in their area of specialization and will contribute to the body of knowledge as it relates to the practice of ministry by completing a ministry project reflecting their theological basis for ministry and their understanding of sound research.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and attitudes on issues related to the student's context of ministry.
3. Students will demonstrate ministry skills at an advanced level of professional competency and demonstrate new skills in leadership, vision,

conflict management, care systems, and/or other strategies for accomplishing effective ministry.

4. Student will think, plan, and act creatively in transcending traditional approaches to ministry by the use of innovative concepts and methods.

The Doctor of Ministry degree requires at least three years of study after admission and must be completed within six years.

B. Admission

The early admission deadline is July 31. Applications completed by the early admission deadline will be reviewed by August 31. The regular deadline for application for admission is October 1. Applications completed by October 1 will be reviewed by October 30.

Requirements for admission:

- 1) participation in full-time practice of ministry for a minimum of three years after receiving the M.Div. degree;
- 2) an M. Div. degree or its equivalent from an accredited seminary with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; however, if there are strong recommendations and a demonstrated promise of success, a candidate may be accepted whose GPA is not lower than 2.75. Each entering class is limited to no more than 20 percent of participants whose GPA is lower than 3.00;
- 3) recommendations from at least three persons evaluating the applicant's qualifications for admission;
- 4) assessment of the applicant's theology of ministry and an assessment of her or his practice of ministry through a reflection paper;
- 5) endorsement by the appropriate supervising body indicating that the applicant is engaged in the full-time practice of ministry and showing the congregation's or constituency's support for applicant's pursuit of the D.Min. degree such as granting the necessary time for the program and a willingness to be involved as a setting for field study;
- 6) assessments of the applicant's ministry by selected constituents among whom the applicant ministers;
- 7) interviews with the VPAA/ Dean and members of the D.Min. Committee at Memphis Theological Seminary.

The process of admission to the D.Min. degree program at MTS begins with submitting a completed Application for Admission form with the \$50.00 application fee. The Application for Admission and other application forms must be completed and the transcripts and all required materials must be received by October 1 prior to the January entering date. The D.Min. Committee approves admission. Persons who skip a seminar or are terminated from the program for any reason must be re-admitted.

C. Enrollment and Registration

The schedule for enrollment and participation in the D. Min. seminars does not correspond to the schedule of the Master's level courses nor the fiscal/academic year of MTS. When a person is admitted to the degree program, the admissions office automatically registers the students for the first seminar. Course work begins in January.

D. Seminars

Students are required to earn 36 hours in the D.Min. degree program. Five hours are earned in each of five seminars, totaling 25 hours. Students may earn the final eleven hours in the two phases of the Project in Ministry study program.

After admission to the D.Min. degree program is approved, a participant completes five seminars in sequence. Each seminar requires advance preparation, a two-week residency, and a reflection paper. A faculty member prepares a syllabus, a bibliography, assigned readings and other assignments, leads the seminar, and evaluates learning. The student must have a "B" average to be considered for candidacy.

Memphis Theological Seminary offers three tracks or courses of study in the D. Min. program:

1. Leadership in Ministry
2. Faith and Health
3. Theology & Arts

Doctor of Ministry Degree Requirements

Track	Seminar	Credit Hours	
Leadership in Ministry	DM 10001	Theological Reflection	5
	DM 10002	Spirituality and Worship	5
	DM 10003	Context for Ministry	5
	DM 10004	Christian Education and Pastoral Care	5
	DM 10005	Preaching and Worship	5
Faith and Health	DM 20001	Healthy Souls, Healthy Bodies	5
	DM 20002	Biblical Faith and Human Health: Health as Urban Ministry	5
	DM 20003	Building Healthy Communities of Faith	5
	DM 2004	Religious Faith & Public Health: Global Perspectives	5
	DM 2005	Religious Faith & Public Health: Integrative Seminar	5
Theology & Arts	DM 30001	Insight – Art as a lens for personal and Theological Reflection	5
	DM 30002	Faith, Art & Theology in Classical, Historical and Postmodern Context	5

	DM 30003 Art, Justice, and Community Building	5
	DM 30004 Art and Justice in International Perspective	5
	DM 30005 Beyond Performance - Theology and Art in Context	5
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Project		
in Ministry	DM 10006, DM 20006, or DM 30006	Project Development 5
(each track)	DM 10007, DM 20007, or DM 30007	Written Project Review 6
		and Oral Review
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Totals 7 seminars (2 project stages)		36

Core Courses in the Leadership in Ministry Track

DM10001 Theological Reflection (5 hrs). This seminar is concerned with the pastor's ability to reflect or think theologically on the issues that arise in the context of ministry. The ability to engage in theological reflection is fundamental to ministry. Without it, ministry becomes shallow, visionless, and merely functional. Theological reflection enables us to draw insight from our theological resources, to look for and discern the active presence of God in our midst, to become more acute in our theological perception, to invite others to see their life and calling in relation to God, and to challenge the church to be more insightful and faithful. Through theological reflection, we can learn to see our ministry as a vocation lived in the power of the Holy Spirit.

DM10002 Spirituality and Worship (5 hrs). This seminar centers on the role and function of pastor and people as growing disciples. Through this seminar participants will increase their understanding of personal and corporate Spiritual Formation in the context of their own congregations, and further develop personal and corporate disciplines. Through this seminar, participants will explore ways in which personal and corporate spiritual disciplines can influence their ministries and the ministries of those in their congregations. Through this seminar they will increase their understanding of Spiritual Theology and its components of Foundational, Mystical, Moral, and Ascetical theology as viewed from the perspective of Christian tradition. Through this seminar participants will also increase their understanding of and ability to engage in theological reflection. Each participant's work in the seminar and the reflection paper are the bases for evaluation.

This seminar also focuses on the pastor's role in congregational worship and as preacher in that worship, especially as that role expresses the pastor's understanding of servant ministry. It seeks to explore the theological underpinnings of homiletics and liturgics, to evaluate the participant's own congregational worship and preaching perspectives, and to re-examine resources and necessary skills that enable the pastor to serve responsibly and effectively as preacher and worship leader.

DM10003 Context for Ministry (5 hrs). This seminar enables participants to develop a local strategy of ministry rooted in biblical and theological models of ministry for effective missiological engagement with a variety of cultures. It will train leaders to reflect conceptually on their local, biblical theology of ministry and mission, and to analyze their local context internally and externally.

Participants will develop greater competency in their abilities to: (1) identify and assess the congregation's tradition and memory through understanding its primary religious language, i.e., its images, metaphors, myths, worldviews, stories, and biographies; (2) create and use research tools in order to identify the congregation's identity, context, program, and process; (3) identify and assess the cultural and demographic contexts in which a congregation finds itself; (4) reflect theologically upon the congregation's identity and praxis; and (5) develop a program of ministry out of congregational studies and reflection.

DM10004 Christian Education and Pastoral Care (5 hrs). This two week seminar provides participants with the opportunity to explore the disciplines and practices of religious education and pastoral care, and the pastor's role in each of these elements of ministry. The students will be introduced to the most current materials in each area and will create strategies for ministry in each of the areas.

The first week of the residency will focus on Christian Education. Students will explore the congregation as the basis for the ongoing ministry of spiritual formation and Christian education. Students will examine current trends and methodologies by evaluating, designing, and implementing the ministry of Christian spiritual formation in the congregational setting. Specifically, students will develop greater competency to identify and assess the congregation's identity, context, program, and process; identify the congregations' cultural and demographic context; and, in light of these, consider ways to increase spiritual formation programming in the congregation.

DM10005 Preaching and Worship (5 hrs). The practices of preaching and worship are central to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the church and the world. This course will provide an opportunity for advanced study and reflection on these practices in the life of the contemporary church. Through critical engagement with contemporary scholarship, participants will grow in their knowledge of the fields and explore their own theological commitments in light of changing cultural trends. Individuals will have an opportunity to improve skills in sermon design and delivery within the context of the seminary setting and to engage in peer review.

Core Courses in the Faith and Health Track

DM20001 Healthy Souls, Healthy Bodies (5 hrs). This seminar is a reflective exploration of human embodiment, and the spiritual, mental and

physical issues that maximize opportunities for health. The seminar is designed for participants to assess, evaluate, rediscover and begin to redirect the state of his or her personal overall health of body and soul. Assessment tools, honest reflection, discussions, and assigned readings from texts and scripture will help participants with both the discovery process and a plan for creating positive lifestyle changes. Contributing factors and influences such as culture, family/church practices, heredity, socio-economic status, and individual spiritual disciplines will be explored. As a caring learning community begins to develop, it is expected that participants will hold each other accountable for desired lifestyle changes.

DM20002 Biblical Faith and Human Health; Health as Urban Ministry (5 hrs). This seminar will assist participants in their inquiry into the biblical, biological and theological foundations for faith and health studies. Further, students will make on-site visits to places in urban America where persons live on the margins and have limited access to good health care. One of the challenges in the Faith and the Health of Communities program is to discover ways to embrace and empower those relegated to the margins of our society, especially in terms of the brokenness of individual and community health; students will have opportunity to explore causes and possible solutions.

DM20003 Building Healthy Communities of Faith (5 hrs). Students will explore how to design, plan and build healthy faith communities, and ways of improving health through alternative approaches. Students will visit the Interfaith Health Program and Church Health Center in Memphis; additionally, students will visit the Carter Center, Centers for Disease Control, CARE, and Emory Global Health Initiative, all in Atlanta, Georgia.

DM20004 Religious Faith and Public Health: Global Perspectives (5 hrs). This seminar enables participants to consider global issues related to the health of individuals and institutions, and to develop greater competency in analyzing, assessing, and adapting ministries in the light of a globalized world. We highlight five key issues: poverty, environmental destruction, economic globalization, multi-faith issues, and the need to nurture a deep spirituality from which ministry and mission flow. This is a required Immersion course.

DM20005 Religious Faith and Public Health: An Integrative Seminar (5 hrs). This seminar will provide a contextual view of faith and health in congregations and public service organizations. It will include a clinical component designed to provide advanced pastoral care training and will focus on religious health assets designed to expand the leadership capacities of religious professionals working on the boundaries of faith and public health practices. Leaders of congregations and institutional ministries will be helped to address individual, community, and global health issues with vision steeped in theological realities and practice committed to forming new alliances.

Core Courses in the Theology & Arts Track

DM30001 Insight - Art as a Lens for Personal and Theological Reflection (5 hrs).

This course assists the learners to reflect theologically on issues which arise in the context of ministry. Where do we see God active in the world? What is God doing in my life/ministry and in my context's life? Week One's theme is "Emergence - The Role of the Artist/Theologian." Week Two's theme is: "Aesthetics, Method and Practice." The seminar will seek to create an interface between artistic disciplines, philosophies of liberation and cultural responsibility (ethics). Calling upon resources from the arts, learners will engage in developing their theological reflection skills.

DM30002 Faith - Art and Theology in Classical, Historical, and Postmodern Contexts (5 hrs).

This course seeks to reflect on methods of biblical and art interpretation: the historical method (explores circumstances and events that gave rise to these texts; namely, what occurred and "why"?); the literary method (explores biblical texts so as to determine their symbolic narrative worlds, authorial perspectives and determines date and place of origin, intended audience, reason for writing, styles, and themes); and the contemporary method (observes the influence these texts have on the contemporary reader). Particular attention will be given to selected themes and their significance for contemporary artists. Week One: "Classics and Innovation - Art and Faith;" Week Two: "Bible - Faith and Tradition."

DM30003 Art, Justice and Community Building (5 hrs).

This course will focus on building what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called "the beloved community," the community of God which is comprised of justice and equality and compassion for all. How might artists assist in building such a community? Week One's theme is: "Art in the Rural Context." It will be an Immersion to Kentucky, holding conversation with Appalachian Artists, perhaps an interface with AMERC and the Appalachian Travel Group. Week Two's theme is: "Art in the Urban Context (Memphis)."

DM30004 Art and Justice in International Perspective (Immersion) (5hrs).

This course will focus on listening to voices from other parts of the globe. It intentionally will seek to listen to those who live on the margins. This seminar seeks to develop a local theology of ministry rooted in a biblical and theological model of ministry, reflect on this local theology in a global world, and nurture a deep spirituality of ministry and mission.

DM30005 Beyond Performance - Theology and Art in Context (5 hrs).

This seminar focuses on the participant's context for ministry. Specifically, the seminar will consider the doctrine of the church (ecclesiology) and the acquisition of skills to identify, assess, and build ministry from the context's

tradition and memory, identity, and demographic and cultural contexts. It is a time of personal discernment, with students developing their identity as a researcher about the context's ministry, analyzing the context of setting for ministry, building relationships with faculty and peers, and developing a learning community.

Project in Ministry

In addition to the five seminars, students will implement a project and write a project report. Growth in the practice of ministry that demonstrates integration of the theory and practice of ministry on a doctoral level is the central objective of the project. An advanced level of formation for ministry that is evident in the candidate's understanding of ministry and in the candidate's skill and competency to serve and lead the congregation or constituency in being a community of faith in the world is the basis upon which the project advisor evaluates the candidate.

The **Project in Ministry** aims to achieve a higher level of ministry for the candidate and the constituency through reflection on and implementation of ministry as indicated in the six objectives of the D.Min. degree. The Project of Ministry gives the candidate the opportunity to concentrate on a specific area of ministry that is related to a particular field of study approved by the D.Min. Committee. The project fulfills all the objectives of the D.Min. degree. Through self-initiated ministry, learning takes place for the candidate and the constituency. The candidate demonstrates the ability to lead in the improvement of ministry, and the candidate and the constituency grow in concepts and practices of ministry.

The Project of Ministry is completed in two stages: Project Development and Written Project Report with an Oral Review. A passing grade in DM6 is awarded upon approval of the Complete Project Proposal (which includes a strategy for implementation) by the D.Min. Committee and approval of the manuscript on "reflection on project knowledge and skills" by the faculty advisor.

E. Academic progress throughout the degree program: The grading system for the D. Min. program is the following: Students will earn a letter grade for each seminar (A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, F). The D.Min. Committee will review the grades of all students after each semester. Students who receive a C grade or lower will be placed on probation. Two Cs in the program means the person is terminated from the program. After the fourth seminar, the student must have a B average as one criterion for being voted into candidacy.

F. Course Completion: Written coursework for any of the D.Min. seminars is due to the professor at a time set by the professor (normally between 45 and

60 days). However, after 90 days, if no paper has been submitted, a student will receive a grade of F and will be terminated from the program.

G. Workshops and Consultations with Faculty: Each participant is expected to participate in the project workshops and consultations with the project advisor as scheduled to maintain satisfactory progress in the project in ministry. In extraordinary circumstances, a person may be excused from attending a workshop or consultation with project advisor provided (a) that permission of the VPAA/Dean is secured in advance and (b) that satisfactory progress is being maintained in developing the project in the context of ministry.

H. Admittance to Candidacy: A student in the D.Min. degree program must be admitted to candidacy after successful completion of DM4 and no later than the end of DM5. Requirements for application for admission to candidacy include (a) a complete project proposal approved by the faculty advisor and D. Min. Committee and (b) a B average in the first four D.Min. seminars.

I. Time Limits: In the normal course of events, a student is expected to complete DM6 and DM7 within a two year period starting at the conclusion of DM5 and ending with graduation in May two years following. Any exceptions to this time must be reviewed and approved by the D.Min. Committee.

J. Termination from Program: When a participant has failed to maintain satisfactory progress in the D.Min. degree program, the person is dropped from the degree program and notified by the Dean.

K. Readmission to the Program: Any request for readmission to the program from a student who has been terminated from the Doctor of Ministry program for failure to maintain satisfactory progress as stipulated by the program policies must be made to the Doctor of Ministry Committee in writing. The request must be made no later than six months after the student was terminated from the program. The request will be reviewed, and, if deemed appropriate by the Committee, an interview with the student will be scheduled. If readmission is granted, the Committee will establish a time line for completion of the program with the student. No further exceptions will be granted.

L. Graduation Requirements: D.Min. students must have completed all work prescribed within the time limits established by the program or through the Doctor of Ministry Committee. The student must receive a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 in all seminars and for the final project.

M. Student Grievance Procedure: If a student has a personal or academic grievance with anyone involved in the Doctor of Ministry program, the student

should first contact that person. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, the student has the right to submit a formal written complaint to the Doctor of Ministry Committee. A meeting shall be arranged to meet or communicate with each party. A decision shall be rendered by the Committee and shall be considered final.

N. Policy on Late Work: When a participant is unable to complete work on time because of illness, death or illness in the immediate family, or other unavoidable circumstances, the participant may request an extension of time. To request an extension of time, the participant shall submit the request in writing to the VPAA/Dean prior to the date the assignment is due. The Associate Dean shall forward the request to the professor(s) concerned, who may grant an extension of time not to exceed 60 days beyond the original due date.

If the reasons for late work are other than those described above, the professor(s) concerned may grant an extension of not more than 60 days beyond the original due date for the assignment but shall appropriately penalize the tardy work. Any exception to the foregoing procedures must be made by a committee consisting of the professor(s) leading the seminar, the participant's advisor, and the VPAA/Dean as chair. Any work not completed within the extension of time granted shall be awarded a grade of F unless (a) permission of the VPAA/Dean is secured in advance and (b) satisfactory progress is being maintained in developing the project in the context of ministry.