

Doctor of Ministry



Doctor of Ministry
Pastoral Studies Concentration
Intercultural Studies Concentration

36 Hours

Purpose of the Program

The Doctor of Ministry degree is an advanced professional degree program designed for the continuing development of those involved in vocational ministry. The Doctor of Ministry program at Grace Theological Seminary is designed to enhance professional competence by expanding upon an initial foundation of theological studies and ministry experience, to enable those in vocational ministry to enhance current strengths, address areas of weakness, and increase overall effectiveness. Since it is not oriented toward teaching or research in graduate theological studies, the Doctor of Ministry degree is distinct from the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) and the Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degrees. Students may pursue one of two concentrations: Pastoral Studies or Intercultural Studies.

Admission to the Doctor of Ministry program

These requirements are in addition to the general admission policies for Grace Theological Seminary found in this catalog.

Basic Academic Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for the Doctor of Ministry program, an applicant must have obtained a Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent* from an approved institution as determined by the D.Min. Committee. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4-point scale) in his/her previous academic work is required. A limited number of students may be admitted under academic restriction by action of the D.Min. Committee, but they must maintain the grade point average required for candidacy to continue in the program.

*In general, M.Div. equivalency includes (1) a bachelor's degree in Bible, theology, or Christian ministry, (2) training in one of the biblical languages, and (3) 60 credit hours of graduate theological training.

Experience Prerequisite

The primary purpose of the Doctor of Ministry program is to enhance the development of those already engaged in vocational ministry. Therefore, to be eligible for admission, the applicant must be currently serving in a vocational ministry, having completed at least four years in full-time professional ministry after earning an M.Div. degree. The D.Min. Committee must approve any waiver of these requirements.

Local Church Endorsement

Each applicant must provide an endorsement from his or her local church and, if applicable, the Christian organization under which he or she serves. This endorsement should indicate:

- (1) The quality and characteristics of the applicant's ministry.
- (2) The encouragement and support of the ministry organization under which he or she serves to allow time to complete the Doctor of Ministry program, as well as opportunity to implement goals and strategies developed during the time of study.

Required Statement

Prospective students will also provide a typewritten statement of five to eight pages, including conversion experience, call to ministry, philosophy of ministry, assessment of personal strengths and weaknesses, and objectives in pursuing a D.Min. degree. A résumé of all previous positions in Christian ministry will also be required.

Spouse Support

The spouse of the prospective D.Min. student is asked to complete a statement indicating his or her support of the mate's enrollment in doctoral level studies.

References

In addition, three references are to be provided from those qualified to give a current assessment of the applicant's ministry effectiveness.

Interview Requirement

The D.Min. Committee may, at its discretion, require a personal interview with the Committee or its authorized representative and/or standardized testing, to assist in determining the applicant's potential for work at the doctoral level.

Prospective applicants who meet the above prerequisites are encouraged to write the Seminary Recruitment Office for a Doctor of Ministry Handbook and a Doctor of Ministry Application Form.

Program Requirements

Course Numbering System

The Doctor of Ministry courses are numbered from 800–899. The letter prefix indicates the program of study:

IM 800–899 Intercultural Studies Concentration
PM 800–899 Pastoral Studies Concentration

The courses that are offered on a regular basis are listed in this catalog. Contact the director of the Doctor of Ministry program or access the Grace Seminary Web site (<http://gts.grace.edu/>) for upcoming seminars.

Program Description

Each student must complete a total of 36 credit hours. This includes eight seminar units (four credit hours each) and a Professional Project at the conclusion of his or her seminar studies (four credit hours). Each seminar unit involves:

- (a) Completion of 2000–3000 pages of reading and/or writing assignments in advance of the seminar. Pre-course assignments are available approximately 90 days before the beginning of each seminar. In order to receive pre-course assignments, students should provide the Seminary Administrative Office with a \$100 non-refundable deposit for the applicable seminar and request the pre-course assignments at that time.
- (b) Satisfactory attendance and participation in the one-week intensive seminar.
- (c) A post-seminar project turned in within 12 weeks of the completion of the seminar.

Students pursuing the Pastoral Studies Concentration are required to take PM 851 "Foundations for Ministry" offered every other June. The other seven seminars are the choice of the student. However, at least one seminar must be chosen within each of four general categories of focus:

- Cultural Relevance (CR)
- Ministry Skills (MS)
- Personal Growth (PG)
- Theological Application (TA)

Students pursuing the Intercultural Studies Concentration are required to take five specified seminars. The remaining three are the choice of the student. The five required seminars are:

PM 851..... Foundations for Ministry
IM 881..... Cultural Anthropology for Ministry
IM 862..... Intercultural Communication
IM 864..... Contextualization for Meaningful Ministry
IM 866..... Intentional Multicultural Ministry

In addition, a ministry-related Professional Project (PM 899 or IM 899), supervised by a mentor assigned by the faculty of Grace Seminary, must be completed after satisfactorily meeting all seminar requirements. The Professional Project is required of all D.Min. students. Prospective students should contact the Seminary Recruitment Office for a Doctor of Ministry Handbook for full details regarding the required D.Min. Professional Project.

Academic Requirements

All general academic requirements outlined elsewhere in this catalog apply to the Doctor of Ministry program.

The D.Min. Committee may place any student who receives a grade of less than a "B" in any seminar on academic probation. A student's program may be terminated by the D.Min. Committee should a grade of less than a "B" is earned in two or more seminars.

As an advanced ministry degree, the highest levels of academic, spiritual, and ministry expectations will be required. Students failing to meet these objectives of the program may be discontinued in the program.

Transfer of Credit

Students requesting a transfer of credit from other recognized D.Min. programs must petition the D.Min. Committee. No more than the equivalent of two seminar units (eight hours) may be transferred. Such courses must be deemed as meeting the purpose and objectives of the Grace Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program.

Continuation in the Program

Students in the program who are unable to take at least one seminar within an academic year (including summer sessions) are encouraged to inform the director of the D.Min. program of their plans to continue or discontinue in the program. All returning students who have not taken a seminar for a period of one year must file an "Update Form" with the Graduate Admissions Office before registering for further D.Min. seminars.

All degree requirements must be completed within a reasonable time period following the beginning of the program as determined by the Doctor of Ministry Committee. This is usually a five to seven-year period.

Continuing Education

Pastors, missionaries, and other vocational Christian workers desiring to audit a seminar are invited to register as unclassified students and pay the audit fee. Graduates of Grace's D.Min. program may attend classes on an informal basis for \$100.00. A schedule for upcoming seminars may be obtained on the Grace Web site, <http://gts.grace.edu> or from the director of the Doctor of Ministry program.

Note: Scheduled Doctor of Ministry seminars will only be conducted if a minimum of six degree students have pre-registered for that seminar.

Unclassified Students

A student who qualifies for the Doctor of Ministry program may complete up to two D.Min. seminars (eight hours) as an unclassified student before he or she has been fully accepted into the program.

Full-time Students

Full-time doctoral students are those enrolled in a doctoral level program for at least nine semester hours of credit during a regular semester. The exceptions to this are the international doctoral students. Full-time status for international students in a doctoral degree program at Grace Theological Seminary is achieved by taking eight semester hours of credit during a regular semester.

Tuition and Fees

Current Doctor of Ministry tuition rates may be obtained from the Grace Schools Business Office or from the Grace Seminary Web site (<http://gts.grace.edu>). D.Min. seminary fees must be paid in full during the week of class.

A non-refundable \$100 deposit paid 90 days before the beginning of each seminar (to register and receive pre-course assignments) will be applied toward the tuition. D.Min. students are required to pay the remaining seminar tuition in full during the week of class.

The fee for the Professional Project (seminar) must be paid by the student at the outset of the semester during which he or she registers for the Professional Project (by January 15 of the year of graduation).

Financial Aid

Financial aid is not available for students in the Doctor of Ministry program.

Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from Grace Theological Seminary with the Doctor of Ministry degree a candidate must:

1. Complete eight seminars (32 credit units) with a grade of "B" or above in each seminar.
2. Pass an oral review for candidacy, if requested by the D.Min. Committee.
3. Complete the ministry-related Professional Project (four credit hours).
4. Have no outstanding financial obligation to Grace Theological Seminary.
5. Complete the following graduation procedures:

Register for the Professional Project by contacting the Dean of the Seminary Office on or before Jan. 15 of the school year of his or her graduation. The Professional Project will be well underway by this time and is to be completed during the spring semester of the graduation school year of the student. Professional projects may not be completed during the summer to qualify toward graduation during the same school year. (See complete Professional Project schedule as set forth in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.)

Complete an "Application for Graduation." This form may be found on the Grace Web site and must be received by mail or fax in the Registrar's Office by December 15 of the semester immediately prior to the student's expected graduation. Applications received after this date will be considered late and a \$150.00 late fee will be charged to the student.

Each student pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree must take full responsibility for meeting graduation requirements.

It should be noted that there are three possible completion dates for a graduating student: December, May and July. NOTE: No student in the Doctor of Ministry program may be a July graduate if his or her Professional Project is to be completed over the summer term.

Course Descriptions



