Doctor of Ministry Program
(Cordova Campus)

Description of the Doctor of Ministry Program (DMin)

The doctor of ministry degree is an advanced professional degree designed to enable students to practice ministry at a high level of competency. The program builds on the general theological preparation of the master of divinity, master of missiology or master of Christian education degrees and moves toward a concentration which combines theory and significant experience. The professional character of the degree is designed to prepare students to be effective in the practice of ministry rather than preparing for research and teaching vocations. There are three functional majors in the program: practical theology, missiology and Christian education. The practical theology major has three functional tracks: pastoral ministry, biblical counseling, and expository preaching. The missiology major includes two functional tracks, international missions, and North American missions.

The program of study integrates the classical disciplines of biblical, historical, theological, social, and linguistic studies with those significant tasks of one involved in the practice of ministry. It assists those whose responsibilities range broadly in pastoral, missionary, or administrative ministries by enhancing both competency and excellence in the practice of ministry.

Educational Objectives of the Doctor of Ministry Program

The doctor of ministry program is expected to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To enable participants to develop a theology of ministry which is responsive to both the leadership of God and the needs of the church, or ministry in which they serve;
2. To satisfy the demand for continuing education in ministry;
3. To renew the personal life of faith and servanthood of the participant;
4. To stimulate continued growth in biblical and theological foundations;
5. To develop skills that facilitate intellectual inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking;
6. To enable participants to communicate the truth of God's Word effectively with greater competency in the total practice of ministry;
7. To enable those serving in mission ministries to gain competence in the practice of mission ministries; and
8. To enable the participant to acquire a sensitivity for the needs of society, thus preparing the participant for excellence in ministry leadership in a complex and changing world.

**Modified Cohort System of Study**

A cohort system of study operates on the principle that groups of people who share a common goal or experience are better able to learn and to finish a course of study within a defined period. Building on that principle, the system of study employed by the DMin program at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary consists of a modified cohort system designed to take three years to finish, with a five-year maximum.

The modified cohort system will operate as follows. Prior to entry into the Program, every student must take Graduate Research & Writing (offered in January and June). Upon satisfactory completion of the course and all the prerequisites required for admission, the student will receive an acceptance letter and will begin seminar work in September of the same year. From that point on, the student will follow the prescribed curriculum according to one of three tracks, practical theology: pastoral ministry/biblical counseling/expository preaching, missions: North American/international, or Christian education.

**Cohort System Advantages**

By utilizing the modified cohort system various advantages accrue:

- Ensures interaction with teachers from various fields of study.
- Allows for interaction between students in various fields of study (core courses involve students from all three tracks).
- Serves to provide built in incentives for members to finish together.
- Promotes camaraderie and fellowship within the specialty cohort groups while still allowing for interaction with students in other tracks.
- Increased numbers in the seminars provides for a wider variety of inputs from the students, enhancing the learning environment.
- Both on-campus and online offerings for the international missions track provides flexibility and convenience for overseas students.

**Admission Requirements and Procedure for the Doctor of Ministry Program**

**Undergraduate Degree Requirements**

Applicants must have a bachelor of arts degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.
Seminary Degree Requirements

Applicants must have completed the master of divinity degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution. Other two-year master’s programs may be considered, but the applicant must complete the master of divinity required courses of the Seminary to enter the program. In such cases, the Seminary does not grant the master of divinity degree but establishes its equivalency. An applicant must have maintained an average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0 in his master of divinity or equivalent work.

Field Experience Requirements

Applicants must have two years of ministry experience. Any exception must be approved by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

International Students

The DMin program does not fulfill the residential requirement of an F-1 Visa. Applicants from international seminaries offering the master of divinity or its equivalent may be admitted to the doctor of ministry program on the same basis as students from national seminaries, provided they score a minimum of six hundred on the paper-based TOEFL examination or one hundred on the internet-based TOEFL. Refer to Admission Procedure for International Students in this catalog.

The Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

An applicant must complete all procedures and requirements for approval by the Seminary's Doctor of Ministry Committee. Applicants will receive notice of approval from the dean of the DMin program. The application must be complete and approved by May 1 to enter the program in the fall.

Applicants must perform satisfactorily on the Miller Analogies Test to demonstrate competency to function at the graduate level. The Miller Analogies Test can be taken at any of the regional testing centers. Evaluation of test results is consistent with the practice of similar educational institutions and is in conformity to performance scales published in the Miller Analogies Test Manual and corroborating research reports. The MABTS code number, 1750, must be used to report Miller Analogies Test Scores.

Essay

An applicant must submit a ten-page essay which includes the following components:

1. Three pages of autobiography;
2. One page giving a brief personality sketch;
3. Two pages describing the applicant's vocational experience and ministry intentions; and
4. Four pages relating to the applicant's personal view of Christian ministry.
Conditional Admission

An applicant may be admitted on a conditional basis for the first year of study in the doctoral program at the discretion of the Doctor of Ministry Committee. The dean of the DMin program will notify the applicant of the reasons for any conditional status, specify any requirements that must be fulfilled, and state any limitations to be imposed upon the projected seminar load. Students admitted conditionally are evaluated at the conclusion of the first year of study, and the Doctor of Ministry Committee governs the student's continuance in the program. Exceptions to the published admission requirements for the doctor of ministry program must be approved by the faculty.

Time Limit for Approved Applicants

Applicants for the doctor of ministry program who do not enroll in a seminar within one year from the date of approval must submit a new application to the program.

Completion Requirements for the Doctor of Ministry Program

Completion Time and Continuous Enrollment

The degree requires thirty-two semester hours of doctoral-level work above the master of divinity or its equivalent. The student must complete a two hour Graduate Research & Writing seminar, 6 four-semester hour seminars, plus the major project (six-semester hours of credit). The program is designed to be completed in three years with a five year maximum. Continuous enrollment is required.

Student will take three seminars (twelve-semester hours) during a twelve month period. A load of twelve semester hours per year is considered full-time status for loan verification or for Department of Veterans Affairs purposes.

Doctor of Ministry Courses

Each seminar in the doctor of ministry program has the following three components:

1. Preseminar reading of a minimum of two thousand pages from a seminar bibliography provided to the student at the time of preregistration;
2. A one-week intensive seminar; and
3. A postsession project which applies the theory of the reading and seminar sessions in the student's ministry setting.

The Major Project

In addition to the completion of 24 semester hours of seminar work, students must complete a major project. The major project is a supervised ministry project, which
may be done in a local church or ministry setting, or it may be a research project. Details are provided in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

The student will be advanced to candidacy status after the satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examinations, all academic course work, the approval of the prospectus for the major project, and the completion of any practical missions deficiencies. Students initiate the process of advancement by submitting the prospectus for the major project to the DMin office. The dean of the DMin program will give a formal notice of advancement to candidacy when all requirements have been satisfied and the Doctor of Ministry Committee has given approval.

Comprehensive and Oral Examinations

After the satisfactory completion of all seminars, the student will participate in written examinations. They will cover each of the seminars taken (reading, intensive session, post-seminar written paper). Details are provided in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.

In addition, after the submission and completion of the ministry project or research project, the student must present and orally defend the project. The student should discuss the inception, justification, development, implementation, evaluation, and impact of their project. This professional and creative presentation is considered a major component in the overall grade of the project.

Overview of the Doctor of Ministry Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Research &amp; Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Major (six seminars)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
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Graduate Research & Writing

A prospective doctor of ministry student must complete this course before beginning seminars in order to demonstrate proficiency in research and writing. Graduate Research & Writing will be taken in January or June prior to fall enrollment. Equivalent work from another recognized institution may be accepted in fulfillment of this requirement at the discretion of the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

Graduate Research & Writing must be satisfactorily completed before other seminars are taken. Any exception must be approved by the dean of the program.

Cost of the Program

Tuition and fees for the doctor of ministry program are covered in the Fees and Expenses section of the catalog and in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook.
Interruption of Study

An interruption of study status may be requested when a student experiences a natural disaster or major medical problem, (i.e., death in the family, major illness, cancer treatment, etc.). Interruption status can only be granted by the Doctor of Ministry Committee. It will not be granted for minor illness.

Acceptable Grades

Only course work with a grade of B or above (3.0 on a scale of 4.0) will satisfy the requirements for this degree. If a student receives a B- in the course, the student need not retake the seminar but may be assigned remedial work by the professor that will, upon successful completion, bring the student’s grade to a B (90). If the grade in two seminars is lower than B, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program.

Cohort System Academic Calendar/Curriculum

The seminar schedule below provides a visual perspective of the entire DMin Program.

Seminar Schedule for September 2014 Cohort

Practical Theology Track (Pastoral Ministry)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- September 22–26, 2014: Relationships/Spiritual Formations (DM 8620)
- January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
- April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Pastoral Ministry and Care (DM 8200)
- September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
- January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Preaching (DM 8100)
- April 11–15, 2016: North American Church Growth (DM 8250)

Practical Theology Track (Expository Preaching)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
- April 13–17, 2015: History of Preaching (DM 8115)
- September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
- January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Preaching (DM 8100)
- April 11–15, 2016: Contemporary Preaching (DM 8121)

Practical Theology Track (Biblical Counseling)

- June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
- June 16–20, 2014: Theology of Counseling and Critical Stages (DM 8872)
- June 23–27, 2014: Counseling Theories and Issues (DM 8873)
• September 22–26, 2014: Relationships/Spiritual Formations (DM 8620)
• April 13–17, 2015: Change, Power, and Conflict (DM 8820)
• TBA: Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling (DM 8871)
• TBA: Marriage and Family (DM 8874)

Missions Track (North American Missions)
• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting (DM 8470)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• January 11–15, 2016: Mission Administration and Supervision (DM 8410)
• April 11–15, 2016: North American Church Growth (DM 8250)

Missions Track (International Missions)
• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting (DM 8470)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• April 11–15, 2016: Cultural Anthropology (DM 8570)

Christian Education Track
• June 9–11, 2014: Prerequisite: Graduate Research & Writing
• January 12–16, 2015: Administration/Finance (DM 8720)
• April 13–17, 2015: Change, Power, and Conflict (DM 8820)
• September 21–25, 2015: Leadership Development (DM 8150)
• January 11–15, 2016: Interpretation and Teaching (DM 8160)
• April 11–15, 2016: Development and Administration of Education Ministry (DM 8170)

Doctor of Ministry Seminars

Practical Theology Track
The practical theology track consists of three functional majors: pastoral ministry, biblical counseling, and expository preaching. Core courses for pastoral ministry and expository preaching include the following:

DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers.
The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

**DM 8720—Administration/Finance**
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field. This will include program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns and the issues that drive the budget.

**DM 8100—Interpretation/Preaching**
This seminar focuses on the task of preaching the Word of God. It assumes that preaching correctly comes only from understanding the Word correctly. Accordingly, the seminar has two focuses: hermeneutics and homiletics. The hermeneutics component has a threefold emphasis: a brief synopsis of the history and basic issues in interpretation, a survey of contemporary issues in interpretation, and a thorough discussion of proper principles and methodologies involved in interpretation. The goal is to preach biblical passages in a manner consistent with God’s intent. The homiletics component deals practically with sermon preparation and delivery in the light of the hermeneutical reference points. Specific texts are analyzed, and sermon guidelines are discussed. This component emphasizes the communication and application of the Word of God today.

**DM 8150—Leadership Development**
This seminar focuses on pastoral leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

The last two seminars will be individualized according to pastoral or expository preaching major.

Students who are enrolled in pastoral ministry will take the following:

**DM 8200—Advanced Pastoral Ministries and Care**
The purpose of this seminar is to provide an increased understanding in the field of pastoral care. Emphasis is given to pastoral care as a ministry of teaching, preaching, and counseling. The seminar integrates biblical, historical, and psychological perspectives in pastoral understanding and care of persons.

**DM 8250—North American Church Growth**
This seminar focuses primarily on evangelism from a church growth perspective. Methodologies which are currently producing church growth are presented and evaluated. Models of evangelistic ministry are examined.
Students who are enrolled in expository preaching will take the following:

DM 8115—The History of Preaching
The goal of this seminar is to provide a historical overview of preachers and preaching. Particular emphasis will fall upon the spiritual lives of great preachers and their homiletical works.

DM 8121—Contemporary Preaching
This seminar seeks to provide the student with an overview of contemporary preachers and their methods of preaching. Students will learn some of the latest methods and methods of preparing and delivering sermons.

Students who are enrolled in biblical counseling will take the following six seminars:

DM 8871 – An Introduction to Nouthetic Counseling
This seminar is a foundational course dealing with the need for and the fundamentals of biblical counseling. Attention will be given to an understanding of what nouthetic counseling means and how it differs from the prominent secular and religious counseling models. In addition, the course will address the key elements of the counseling process including data gathering, questioning, homework, giving hope, methods of change, and the role of the Holy Spirit in counseling. Other topics include the sufficiency of Scripture, self-esteem, and counseling failure.

DM 8872 – The Theology of Counseling
This seminar will deal with the importance of sound theology as it relates to the counseling process. The class will survey the entire scope of theology as it relates to counseling issues and process. The importance of solid exegesis and hermeneutics will also be discussed. Additionally, students will examine the process of training others to be biblical counselors.

DM 8873 – Counseling Theories & Issues
The seminar will begin with an overview of the history and current state of the modern biblical counseling movement. Included will be a survey and critique of many Christian counseling teachers, philosophies, and organizations with a special focus on the dangers of integrating secular psychological concepts. Other topics will include legal issues in counseling, counseling in the local church, evaluating counseling resources, the value and process of certification in biblical counseling, and the critical stages in the progression of typical counseling cases.

DM 8874 – Marriage and Family Counseling
The seminar consists of an examination of the biblical concept of marriage and the specific Scripture passages that relate. The student will be challenged to lead couples to biblical solutions to marriage conflict. Specific topics include communication, the purpose of marriage, gender roles, the sexual relationship, adultery, finances, raising children, and the dynamics of counseling couples. In addition, the course will include a study of the relevant Scripture passages dealing with the issue of divorce and remarriage with the goal of leading the student to a biblical view of the issue and
an application of that view to counseling situations. The course concludes with an examination of specific counseling cases in a church setting.

DM 8620 – Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

DM 8820 – Change, Power, and Conflict
This seminar focuses on methods and approaches for effectively managing change, power, and conflict within the context of the local church. This will include a study of the effects of change on people and the church. Ways to diffuse the negative reactions people have to change will also be discussed to help leaders make needed changes without raising resistance or conflict. The issue of power will also be explored so church leaders better understand the people dynamics within a church that drive it. Biblical ways of responding to and handling conflict will also be discussed.

Missiology Track

There are two functional majors in the missiology track of the doctor of ministry program. One is for persons involved in international missions and the other for those involved in North American missions. Core courses for both functional majors include the following:

DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

DM 8720—Administration/Finance
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field, including program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns, and the issues that drive the budget.

DM 8470—Advanced Church Growth/Church Planting
The first section investigates the major concepts and essential principles of church growth thinking, including multi-individual conversion, the harvest principle, sociological influences on church growth, and the movement of God in church growth. The second section examines strategies and methods of planting indigenous churches.
DM 8150—Leadership Development
This seminar focuses on leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

The last two seminars will be individualized according to North American or international missions major.

Students who are enrolled in international missions will take the following:

DM 8420—Missionary Principles and Practices/Issues in Missiology
The first section studies the elements of life and work on the mission field. Special attention is given to developing contextualized models of ministry to meet the changing paradigms of missions in the twenty-first century. The second section examines current issues and global trends that impact missions theory, methodology, and strategy.

DM 8570—Cultural Anthropology
This seminar is an introduction to the basic concepts of cultural anthropology that have practical relevance to effective missionary communication of the gospel in a culturally heterogeneous world. The course examines marriage, family, and kinship structures, authority and decision-making structures; status, role and function; the life cycle and rites of passage; and other factors relevant to meaningful public confession of Christ and church membership in traditional societies. Special attention is given to the significant features of animism and traditional folk religions, with a focus upon the manner in which traditional religious expressions underlie and permeate even the more developed formal religions such as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. It is designed to equip practicing cross-cultural missionaries for more effective evangelism and church development among un-reached people groups.

Students who are enrolled in North American missions will take the following:

DM 8410—Missions Administration and Supervision
Designed to help students prepare for or enhance ministry in denominational missions ministry, this seminar examines principles of administration of missions programs and supervision of volunteers and missions personnel in a missions setting. It primarily addresses the role and ministry of the associational director of missions and missions leadership in a state convention. Interagency relationships, especially related to national missions agencies such as the North American Mission Board, are included in the study.

DM 8250—North American Church Growth
This seminar focuses primarily on evangelism from a church growth perspective. Methodologies which are currently producing church growth are presented and evaluated. Models of evangelistic ministry are examined.
Christian Education Track

DM 8620—Relationships/Spiritual Formations
The first section examines interpersonal relationships and offers biblical and practical strategies for relationship building and conflict resolution among families and peers. The second section examines primary areas of ministry stress and the personal formation, development, cultivation, and nurturing of a personal walk with God.

DM 8720—Administration/Finance
The first section of the seminar examines the elements of administrative responsibilities for the pastorate and the mission field. This will include program and project planning, hiring of staff, selection of team members, time management, delegation, management of non-profit entities, supervision and developing job descriptions. The second section will include budget planning and budget management, capital campaigns and the issues that drive the budget.

DM 8820—Change, Power, and Conflict
This seminar focuses on methods and approaches for effectively managing change, power, and conflict within the context of the local church. This will include a study of the affects of change on people and the church. Ways to diffuse the negative reactions people have to change will also be discussed to help leaders make needed changes without raising resistance or conflict. The issue of power will also be explored so church leaders better understand the people dynamics within a church that drive it. Biblical ways of responding to and handling conflict will also be discussed.

DM 8150—Leadership Development
This seminar focuses on pastoral leadership. Special attention is given to leadership theory, leadership roles, personal leadership development, and equipping leaders. Individuals who excel in specific leadership and administrative areas are used as team teachers.

DM 8160—Interpretation/Teaching
This seminar focuses on the task of teaching the Word of God. It assumes that teaching correctly comes only from understanding the Word correctly. Accordingly, the seminar has two focuses: hermeneutics and homiletics. The hermeneutics component has a threefold emphasis: a brief synopsis of the history and basic issues in interpretation, a survey of contemporary issues in interpretation, and a thorough discussion of proper principles and methodologies involved in interpretation. All of this is done with a view to teaching biblical passages in a manner consistent with God’s intent. The homiletics component deals practically with lesson preparation and delivery in the light of the hermeneutical reference points. Specific texts are analyzed, and lesson guidelines are discussed. This component emphasizes the communication and application of the Word of God today.

DM 8170—Development and Administration of Education Ministry
This seminar focuses on the development and administration of educational programs within the local church. Special attention is given to the role of education leadership in promoting the growth of the church, approaches to leadership theories, roles,
ministries, and training, development of church staff, selection and development of education curriculum, and administrative organization, organization paradigms, and program implementation in the different stages of church growth. Consideration is given to qualifications and duties of staff members, to staff relationships, to the place of each staff member in carrying out the functions of the church, and to choosing curriculum that aids teachers in an effective Bible teaching ministry.