

D.MIN., THEOLOGICAL/ MINISTRY MASTER'S ENTRANTS

Director, Rochelle Scheuermann

The Doctor of Ministry for Theological/Ministry Master's Entrants is a 44-credit hour doctoral degree designed for applicants with a theological or ministry master's degree.

Learning Objectives of the D.Min. degree include:

- *Advanced Theological Integration:* The D.Min. program gives graduates the ability to engage cultural context with advanced theological acumen and critical thinking.
- *In-Depth Contextual Competency:* The D.Min. program gives graduates the ability to identify and frame crucial ministry issues.
- *Strategic Planning and Implementation:* The D.Min. program equips graduates to enhance their impacts as ministerial leaders.
- *Personal and Spiritual Maturity:* The D.Min. program enables graduates to reinvigorate and deepen vocational call and extend tenure in ministry. D.Min. programs are integrative in that they are focused on spiritual, personal, moral, and ministerial formation.

As part of this D. Min. program, all students are required to complete a doctoral project, which serves as the capstone of the D.Min. program. It is an opportunity for students to connect knowledge gained from their coursework with the concrete realities of their ministries:

1. Identifying a challenge they face in ministry and situating that challenge in their context
2. Reflecting theologically on that challenge
3. Designing a new ministry initiative to address that challenge which must then be implemented and assessed

Flexible Learning Format:

Most students will continue to serve in their current ministry roles while completing the program part time. While most of the courses will be delivered as one-week intensives, some courses may be offered in an online format at the discretion of the Program Director. This is to provide students the opportunity to come to campus just two weeks in a year and be able to immediately apply their learning in their current context while earning this doctoral degree.

Admissions

Admission is intended for those serving in ministry leadership roles and have a theological or ministry master's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA. They should have served a total of five years in a full-time ministry role or three years after earning their master's degree. Students are expected to possess proficiency in written and spoken English.

Admissions Requirements:

Students must possess a theological or ministry master's degree, or a master's degree with significant theological study and ministerial experience in an area related to one's ministry setting or vocational calling that enables the applicant to engage as a ministry peer with other students in this advanced professional doctorate. The master's degree

needs to be from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

- Students with a theological or ministry master's degree will be admitted into the full 44-hour D.Min. program. A theological or ministry master's degree is defined as one in biblical studies, theology, or a ministry-related field of study. The application will be evaluated by the D.Min. Program Director in consultation with the Bible and Theology department when necessary to determine whether prior undergraduate or graduate courses in biblical and theological studies and ministry experience meet the admissions requirements of the D.Min. degree at Wheaton College Graduate School, as noted in the next point below.
- Students without a theological or ministry master's degree will be evaluated by the D.Min. committee to determine whether the degree and ministry experience merits equivalent status. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis with students being evaluated on the following: (a) the ability to thoughtfully interpret scripture and the theological tradition of one's ministry context, (b) the capacity to understand and adapt one's ministry to the cultural context, (c) a basic self-understanding of one's ministerial identity and vocational calling, (d) a readiness to engage in ongoing personal and spiritual formation for one's ministry, (e) an accredited master's degree (or its educational equivalent) in an area related to one's ministry setting or vocational calling, and (f) significant ministerial experience that enables the applicant to engage as a ministry peer with other students in this advanced professional doctorate.
- Minimum of three years of experience in a ministry leadership role after earning the master's degree or a total of five years in a ministry leadership.
- Currently involved in an active ministry leadership role.

Application Requirements

1. Application
2. Three references – Pastoral, Academic, and Ministry Peer or Ministry Supervisor
3. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts
4. Four essays which will evaluate students based on the ATS entry-level competencies for D.Min. students
 - a. Religious Autobiography (*Competency Evaluated: Personal and Spiritual Formation*)
 - b. Statement of Experience (*Competency Evaluated: Ministerial and Leadership Identity*)
 - c. Statement of Vocational Calling (*Competency Evaluated: Ministerial and Leadership Identity*)
 - d. 8-10 page writing sample of showing biblical interpretation, theological integration, and contextual analysis (*Competencies Evaluated: Theological Integration and Contextual Analysis*)

Requirements

Doctor of Ministry for Theological/Ministry Master's entrants

This is a 44-credit hour program. Students applying should have completed a theological or ministry master's degree.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Biblical and Theological Studies | | 12 |
| BITH 711 | Seminar in Ecclesial Theology | |

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| BITH 712 | Global Church History | |
| BITH 713 | Old Testament Book Study | |
| or BITH 714 | New Testament Book Study | |
| Core Courses | | 12 |
| BITH 811 | Theological Hermeneutics in Ministry | |
| MIN 702 | Public Christianity for a Post-Christian World | |
| MIN 811 | Contemporary Issues in the Church | |
| Concentration Courses | | 12 |
| Spiritual Formation Courses | | |
| MIN 703 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 1 – The Importance of Soul Care | |
| MIN 704 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 2 – The Heart of Christian Spirituality | |
| MIN 705 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 3 – Self-Awareness and the True Self | |
| MIN 706 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 4 – The Spiritual Journey | |
| MIN 707 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 5 – Emotionally Healthy Spirituality | |
| MIN 708 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 6 – Suffering and Spiritual Formation | |
| MIN 709 | Personal and Ministerial Formation 7 – Rule of Life | |
| Research Methods and Doctoral Project | | 8 |
| MIN 851 | Research Methods | |
| MIN 992 | Doctoral Project | |
| Total Credits | | 44 |

Pastoral Leadership Concentration

The Concentration in Pastoral Leadership is a 12-credit concentration that can be taken as part of the Doctor of Ministry for M.Div. and Theological/Ministry Master's entrants.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Pastoral Leadership Concentration Courses | | |
| LEAD 811 | Healthy and Spiritual Leadership | 4 |
| MIN 812 | Gender, Sexuality, and Spirituality | 4 |
| MIN 813 | Advanced Preaching and Teaching | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 12 |

Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders Concentration

The Concentration in Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders is a 12-credit concentration that can be taken as part of the Doctor of Ministry for M.Div. and Theological/Ministry Master's entrants.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|---|-----------|
| Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders Concentration Courses | | |
| MIN 711 | Formation and Soul Care | 4 |
| MIN 821 | Theology and History of Spiritual Formation | 4 |
| MIN 822 | Strategies for Spiritual Formation in Community | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 12 |

Women in Ministry Leadership Concentration

The Concentration in Women in Ministry Leadership is a 12-credit concentration that can be taken as part of the Doctor of Ministry for M.Div. and Theological/Ministry Master's entrants.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Women in Ministry Leadership Concentration Courses | | |
| LEAD 831 | History of Women in the Church | 4 |
| LEAD 833 | Gender Issues in Ministry Leadership | 4 |
| MIN 832 | Women, the Bible, and the Church | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 12 |

Specialized Studies Concentration

The Concentration in Specialized Studies is a 12-credit concentration that can be taken as part of the Doctor of Ministry for M.Div. and Theological/Ministry Master's entrants.

| Code | Title | Credits |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|
| Specialized Studies Concentration Courses | | |
| MIN 894 | Special Topics in Ministry | 4 |
| MIN 894 | Special Topics in Ministry | 4 |
| MIN 894 | Special Topics in Ministry | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 12 |