



## Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

Locations: ● Dallas ● Houston ● Guatemala City

Hours: 30 Languages: • English • Spanish

### PURPOSE:

The Doctor of Ministry degree program is designed to provide advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry to those actively involved in vocational or bivocational ministry. The program concentrates on developing expertise in the biblical rationale, sociological strategy, and practical implementation of ministry.

The DMin program is offered “in ministry” rather than “in residence,” as it assumes students will remain in ministry throughout the program and does not require them to relocate to Dallas. Entry to the program normally requires a minimum of three years of meaningful ministry experience. Each course assumes this ministry experience and endeavors to integrate learning with the student’s present context of ministry and future goals.

One of the most inviting features of the DMin at DTS is that the curriculum is designed with a high degree of flexibility. Of the 27 hours of coursework required for the degree, only 6 hours are prescribed so that students may tailor the program to their own ministry goals. Three additional hours are granted for the student’s applied research project, which the student reports in the dissertation.

### Goals

To enable students to:

- evaluate their own personal, spiritual, and professional development;
- assess and construct biblical ministries in a variety of contemporary contexts;
- conduct biblically and theologically integrated professional applied research within their chosen field of study;
- manifest a maturing and Spirit-filled character;
- enhance identified ministerial skills such as preaching, leadership, administration, counseling, spiritual formation, educational programming, and communication;
- communicate God’s Word effectively through preaching, teaching, writing, or other media; and
- contribute to the practice of ministry for greater local church and parachurch effectiveness.

### Admission Requirements

In addition to the common admissions requirements for all degree programs (please refer to the Admission section of this catalog), the following prerequisites apply to DMin applicants. All applicants must:

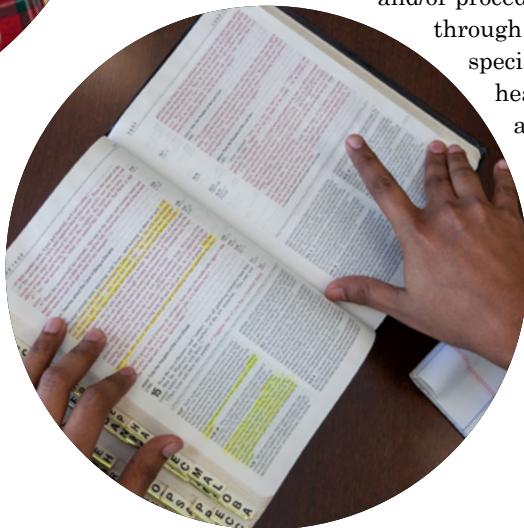
- normally have at least three years of vocational or bivocational Christian ministry experience since receiving their first graduate theological degree;
- give evidence of growth and competence in ministerial skills and leadership;
- be involved in an ongoing ministry (including lay ministry);

- have an academic record that demonstrates superior ability and shows promise of success in doctoral studies; and
- hold an accredited Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Theology (ThM) degree, or a Master of Arts (MA) degree plus leveling courses as necessary to provide MDiv equivalence. Prerequisite degrees and/or equivalence must include three terms of Greek and two terms of Hebrew.

(For certain DTS master's degrees, the student needs only ID7201 Computer Tools for Biblical Exegesis in lieu of Greek and Hebrew.)

Credits needed to meet MDiv equivalence requirements must cover the breadth and scope of DTS's curriculum and commitment to Scripture as prescribed by the DMin office. Courses required for MDiv equivalence may be earned at DTS, its extension sites, through external studies programs, or other accredited institutions. For more information on MDiv equivalence, please contact the Doctor of Ministry office.

Applicants must supply the requisite written admission materials and must have a personal or phone interview with members of the faculty. Prospective DMin students may apply for admission at any time. The deadline for the summer seminar is January 15 and the deadline for the winter seminar is June 1. Further details on admission requirements and procedures are available from the Admissions office.



## DMin Program Overview

The Doctor of Ministry program offers two tracks of study: Ministry Leadership and Spanish Ministry Leadership. Students may select different emphases within each of the two tracks. While the DMin program generally follows a standard model in which students, in consultation with their advisor, design and customize their degree plan around individual ministry needs and goals, some emphases follow a cohort model. In the cohort model, students proceed through the courses necessary for their emphasis with a small group of ministry colleagues. This group moves through the designated part of the program together. The cohort model has the advantage of providing a community experience with fellow learners and faculty mentors.

### Ministry Leadership Track

The Ministry Leadership track is designed to equip students for greater ministry effectiveness in their respective areas of leadership. Ministry leaders can concentrate their individualized plan of study in Church Planting, Expository Preaching, Pastoral Leadership, Marriage and Family, Spiritual Formation, Multicultural Ministry, Women in Ministry, or customize their own concentration. The Ministry Leadership track also offers the following cohort emphases:

#### • Advanced Expository Preaching

This emphasis provides advanced training in the art and discipline of expository preaching as practiced in a church context. This specialty will reaffirm and refine the principles of homiletics. The courses will also address leading from the pulpit, long-range sermon planning, and preaching the major biblical genres with accuracy and creativity. This cohort-based program will further provide advanced study in audience analysis, variety in sermon structures, mentoring in homiletics, and preaching to the post-modern generation. Key aspects of this cohort specialty are peer-group interactive learning and individual mentoring in homiletics.

#### • Church Health, Leadership, and Multiplication

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for church pastors and church planters. Courses focus on an evaluation of problems, programs, and/or procedures unique to church leaders through case-study methodology, with special attention given to church health, leadership development, and ministry multiplication.



- **Executive/Associate Pastors**

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for executive and associate pastors serving in the local church. This training specialty supports and promotes pastoral leadership development through the evaluation of problems, programs, and/or procedures unique to executive and associate church leaders. Attention is given to leadership development and case-study research methodology.

- **Marriage and Family Ministry**

This emphasis explores biblical and theological foundations, cutting-edge programs, and ministry-education strategies. Certification in the use of research-based tools for marriage and family educators will be included. A major focus will be to design sustainable, context-specific marriage and family ministries, particularly in the church.

- **Ministry Leadership in International Contexts**

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for those ministering in international contexts. This cohort focuses on pastoral and parachurch leadership issues, along with challenges and opportunities unique to ministry abroad.

- **Multicultural Ministry**

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for multicultural church leaders serving the local church and parachurch organizations. This cohort program is designed to help ministry leaders through a study of the principles, leadership issues, challenges, and opportunities uniquely confronting multicultural church leaders with the goal of helping students take their ministry to the next level. Attention is given to leadership development and case-study research method.

- **Pastors of Large Churches**

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for pastors serving in large churches. It is designed to support and promote pastoral leadership development through the evaluation of problems, programs, and/or procedures unique to pastors of large churches. Attention is given to leadership development and case-study research method.

- **Spiritual Formation**

This emphasis provides advanced training in Christian spiritual formation for ministry practitioners. Special attention will be given to the theology and history of Christian spirituality, personal and corporate practices of spiritual formation, and the process of providing spiritual nurture and guidance to others. This cohort-based program will further provide advanced study on topics related to the history and practice of soul care, spiritual direction, and spiritual formation in small groups.

- **Women in Ministry**

This emphasis provides advanced training in the practice of biblically and theologically oriented ministry for women. It is designed to support and promote the complementary role of men and women in ministry.

## Spanish Ministry Leadership Track

The Spanish Ministry Leadership track is designed to equip Spanish-speaking students for greater ministry effectiveness in their respective areas of leadership. This program of study is offered on the campus of *Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA)* in Guatemala City for leaders in Latin America, Spain, North America, and elsewhere.

## DMin Extension Programs

The seminary offers DMin classes in two locations outside the Dallas area: Guatemala City, Guatemala and Houston, Texas. These extension sites are designed to provide greater access to DMin studies for interested students.

The DMin extension in Guatemala City is the seminary's Spanish-language DMin program for leaders in Latin America, Spain, North America, and elsewhere. The week of residence is offered on the campus of the *Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA)* in Guatemala City. The courses offered in the Spanish DMin program are the same as those offered in Dallas but are contextualized for the Spanish-speaking world. Interested students should contact the DMin office for more information.

The Houston campus is designed to make the DTS DMin degree more accessible to students living in the larger Houston metroplex. Any DMin student may take courses at the extension site, though international students entering the United States on an F-1 student visa are required to take all DMin courses at the Dallas campus.

## National Certifications

Presently, three national certification programs are offered for DMin students in cooperation with the following partnership organizations:

1. Christian Conciliator, Peacemaker Ministries
2. Sexual Educator, Institute for Sexual Wholeness
3. Sexual Abuse Awareness, MinistrySafe

Please contact the DMin office for more information about these opportunities.

## Course Requirements

The DMin program requires 27 credit hours of coursework (which includes from 21 to 24 hours of prescribed and elective courses and from 3 to 6 hours of independent study courses) plus a 3-hour applied research project related to the student's ministry. The program normally requires at least four years of study.

Normally, three prescribed courses must be taken by all DMin students: DM7101 The Ministry Leader, DM7102 Applied Research Project Development Seminar, and DM7103 The Applied Research Project. Some cohorts include the leadership and/or research components in the selected cohort. In addition, students normally complete at least one independent study course, DM7901 Independent Study. Course descriptions for these and other DMin courses may be found in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog.

All courses are six months in length and include one or two weeks of residence in either January or July. Classes meet on the main campus, the Houston campus, or at the Guatemala site. During the pre-resident months, students read and interact with course material. After the course meets for the resident week, students complete assignments that are appropriate for their ministry. (DTS alumni are allowed to audit the resident portion of a course as space permits.) Registration for summer DMin courses must be completed by March 15, and registration for winter DMin courses must be completed by September 15. Electives in the various areas of concentration are listed in the Course Descriptions section of this catalog.

**All work leading to the Doctor of Ministry degree must be completed in no less than three and no more than six years from the time of matriculation.** A minimum grade of B- must be received in every course credited toward graduation and on the applied research project.

## CURRICULUM (DOCTOR OF MINISTRY)

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program provides leaders with training in the biblical rationale, sociological strategy, and practical implementation of ministry through group-based cohorts or individualized study.

THE BASICS	STUDENT PREFERENCE	FINAL PROJECT
DM7101 The Ministry Leader	COHORT: 9-15 Hours	DM7901 Research Independent Study
DM7102 Applied Research Seminar	ELECTIVES: 3-9 Hours	DM7103 Applied Research Project
<b>TOTAL: 6 HOURS</b>	<b>TOTAL: 18 HOURS</b>	<b>TOTAL: 6 HOURS</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS FOR DMIN: 30</b>		

Additional information on DMin policies and procedures is provided in the Doctor of Ministry Handbook, which is available at [dts.edu/dmin](http://dts.edu/dmin).

## Transfer of Credit

Transfer of credit for the DMin may not exceed 10 credit hours. Doctoral-level credit completed at another accredited institution may be applied toward the DMin degree if those hours constitute equivalent work. Normally only courses taken after receiving an MA, MDiv, ThM, STM, or equivalent degree can be credited toward the DMin degree.

The training and courses completed in the Basic and Advanced Chaplaincy programs of the US Army, or equivalent training and courses completed as a chaplain in other branches of the US Military, may be transferred for up to 10 hours of credit toward a DMin degree at DTS.

Requests for transfer of credit should be directed to the director of DMin studies. Plans to take other courses for transfer credit must be approved by the DMin committee prior to taking the course.

## Admission to Candidacy

Students may be admitted to candidacy for the DMin degree by action of the faculty only after these requirements have been met: (1) completion of all residence requirements leading to the degree; (2) the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 21 credit hours of coursework; (3) evidence of proven Christian character and effectiveness in Christian ministry; and (4) adherence to the following doctrines: the authority and inerrancy of Scripture, the Trinity, the full deity and humanity of Christ, the spiritual lostness of the human race, the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Christ, salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, and the physical return of Christ.

Students applying to candidacy for the DMin degree must also provide (1) a written letter of reference from the local church or organization where the student is serving that endorses the student's ministry; and (2) a personal reference from another source.

Students must be admitted to candidacy before they can register for DM7103 The Applied Research Project. Six of the 9 hours that remain for completion of the degree can be taken concurrently with DM7103 (3 hours).

## Applied Research Project Requirements

The applied research project is the student's major research project in the degree program. It must be directly related to his or her ministry and must make a significant contribution to the field of professional ministry as well as to the student's personal life. The project normally should deal with some aspect of communication, administration, nurture, leadership, or Christian education. The length

is to be appropriate for the subject as judged by the student's advisors.

If the applied research project is not completed within the first year after enrolling in DM7103, then the student will be required to register for DM7105 Applied Research Continuation each summer and winter term until the project is completed.

Details on the procedures and deadlines for the topic approval and proposal and for first and final drafts of the applied research project are available in the Doctor of Ministry office and in the DMin Handbook.

## Graduation Requirements

Candidates for the DMin degree must have completed 27 credit hours of coursework and the 3-hour applied research project, along with any other requirements that may have been assigned. The completion of minimum requirements does not automatically qualify a student for the degree. The candidate must evidence, to the satisfaction of the faculty, proven Christian character, ability and acceptability in Christian ministry, and adherence to the doctrines stated in the previous Admission to Candidacy section.

Diplomas will not be awarded, transcripts issued, or placement assistance provided unless all financial obligations to the seminary and/or the student loan program are current.

