

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.) degrees offered through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary are designed for persons seeking a high level of competence in the practice of ministry. The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. are recognized by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) as professional theological degrees. Although the degrees are considered equivalent in quality to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), it differs significantly in that the latter seeks primarily to understand the way things are, with practical payoffs being a secondary concern (Charles Conniry, Jr. "Reducing the Identity Crisis in Doctor of Ministry Education." *Theological Education*, 40, no. 1 (2004): 138).

Midwestern is exploring the development of a research doctorate (Ph.D.) with concentrations in Old Testament and New Testament. The Ph.D. is intended primarily to equip persons for vocations of teaching and research in theological schools, colleges, and universities, or for the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice.

These degree programs are under the direction of the Doctoral Studies Office. For more information call 1-816-414-3755 or email docstudies@mbts.edu.

Admission

In addition to the general criteria for admission to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary listed earlier in this catalog, applicants to the D.Min. or D.Ed.Min. programs must have:

1. An earned Master of Divinity degree or equivalent from an ATS accredited institution for entrance into the D.Min. program or an earned Master of Arts in Christian Education degree or equivalent (e.g., MDiv, CE Concentration) from an ATS accredited institution for entrance into the D.Ed.Min. program;
2. A 3.0 grade point average or above on a 4.0 scale for all graduate level studies;
3. Three years of ministry experience since the completion of the first theological master's degree.

Upon receiving an application packet, the prospective student must:

1. Submit a completed Doctoral Studies application form, health form, and application fee;
2. Submit a personal essay of 8-12 pages providing the applicant's understanding of Christian ministry and describing the applicant's calling, ministerial service to-date, and ministerial goals with an explanation of how the doctoral program will help the applicant reach those goals;
3. Provide a letter of endorsement/recommendation from the applicant's current ministry;
4. Provide academic, personal, and professional references.
5. Request that original transcripts from each academic institution previously attended be sent to the Doctoral Studies Office.

International applicants must score a minimum of 550 on the written version or 213 on the computer version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination.

Applicants not meeting all admission requirements may petition to enter the program under probationary status. Information about probationary admission may be requested from the Doctoral Studies Office (1-877-414-3755 or docstudies@mbts.edu).

Professional Doctoral Studies Objectives

Students graduating from a Professional Doctoral Studies program will be able to:

1. Draw on the resources of the classical area of theological study.
2. Do original field research and needs analysis.
3. Organize and motivate others to carry out such program plans with a high level of competence.
4. Move beyond routinely accepted techniques of ministry toward new dimensions, methods, and outreach.

Seminars

Required seminars (doctoral courses) are offered three times per year. All new students must complete the Orientation to Professional Doctoral Studies Seminar prior to enrolling in any other seminars. Elective seminars are also offered at various times throughout the year.

Each seminar is offered as a week-long intensive course with pre- and post-coursework. The Project Methodology seminar should be completed as the last seminar, as it transitions the student into the ministry project phase of the program.

Location

All foundational doctoral seminars are offered on Midwestern's main campus in Kansas City, Missouri.

Status

The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. are continuous enrollment programs. Students enroll in a minimum of two seminars each year until all requirements are met. During the project dissertation phase of the program, students continuously enroll each fall and spring semester in 30999 Ministry Project Dissertation-Research (0 hours) until the project dissertation is ready to defend, then students register for 30990 Ministry Project Dissertation-D.Min. or 30995 Ministry Project Dissertation-D.Ed.Min.

Students who are unable to maintain continuous enrollment status may request to be placed on a one-year interrupted status for a medical or ministry-related hardship. A fee of \$250 is assessed for each semester on interrupted status. Students requiring a longer suspension of continuous enrollment may request to be placed on inactive status for a period not to exceed three years. An inactive status fee of \$500 per year is charged. Updated information and admission requirements must be met before reentering the program. No academic work may be done while on interrupted or inactive status.

Ministry Project Dissertation

After the completion of all seminars, the student is required to design, implement, and evaluate a ministry project. The ministry project will demonstrate the student's integration of theological education and ministry practice. From idea conception to oral defense, the ministry project usually takes 10 to 16 months and results in a dissertation of at least 100 pages.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.Min.)

Purpose

The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry degree program is to develop Christian leaders through doctoral level instruction, research, and practice. The degree can be completed in three but no more than five years. The program is divided into three major components: Foundational Seminars, Elective Seminars, and the Ministry Project Dissertation.

Specializations

Students may specialize by choosing elective seminars from one or more emphases. Qualified students selecting the Church Planting Specialization are eligible for appointment as church planting missionaries through the North American Mission Board's Nehemiah Project. Directed (independent) studies are available for students seeking advanced training in a particular ministry field. Contact the Doctoral Studies Office (1-877-414-3755 or docstudies@mbts.edu) for information about these and other available emphases.

Military Chaplaincy Program

Qualified U.S. army chaplains admitted to Midwestern's D.Min. program may request the transfer of up to 15 credit hours toward the D.Min. degree for military training in such areas as Chaplaincy Officer Basic Course, Chaplaincy Officer Advanced Course, and/or ILE/CGSC training. At least one half (15 hours) of the 30 hours required for the D.Min. degree must be completed at Midwestern. All of the D.Min. program fees (i.e., \$4,950 for a qualified Southern Baptist student and \$9,900 for all other students) must be paid regardless of the number of transfer hours. Contact the Doctoral Studies Office (1-877-414-3755 or docstudies@mbts.edu) for information about the D.Min. Military Chaplaincy Program.

Professional Doctoral Studies Objectives

Students graduating from a Professional Doctoral Studies program will be able to:

1. Draw on the resources of the classical area of theological study.
2. Do original field research and needs analysis.
3. Organize and motivate others to carry out such program plans with a high level of competence.
4. Move beyond routinely accepted techniques of ministry toward new dimensions, methods and outreach.

D.Min. Degree Objectives

Students graduating from the Doctor of Ministry degree program will be able to:

5. Demonstrate competence in applying theological convictions to any ministry context to which they are called;
6. Interpret and apply Biblical texts to life situations by demonstrating accurate, classically defined discipline in the handling of sacred Scriptures;
7. Lead the church of God ethically and effectively in pursuing Christ's commission and commandments; and
8. Demonstrate exceptional skills in the Biblically assigned tasks of proclamation, care, leadership, and/or church planting.

CURRICULUM

Foundational Seminars (<i>all are required</i>)	12 hours
30020 Orientation to Doctoral Studies	4 hrs
30060 Integrating Christian Faith & Practice	4 hrs
30090 Project Methodology	4 hrs
Elective Seminars (<i>choose three</i>)	12 hours
Proclamation	
30120 Evangelism & Ministry Practice	4 hrs
30130 Global Missions through the Church	4 hrs
30140 Expository Preaching	4 hrs
30150 Preaching & Ministry Practice	4 hrs
Care	
30240 Pastoral Care & Counseling	4 hrs
30250 Counseling Issues (topic varies)	4 hrs
Leadership	
30070 Christian Leadership	4 hrs
30330 Developing Christian Leaders	4 hrs
30340 Leadership Issues (topic varies)	4 hrs
30370 Worship Leadership	4 hrs
30380 Spiritual Formation	4 hrs
Church Planting	
30420 Church Planting Evangelism	4 hrs
30430 Sponsoring New Churches	4 hrs
Ministry Project Dissertation	6 hours
30990 Ministry Project Dissertation – D.Min.	6 hrs
TOTAL	30 hours