doctor of ministry

The Doctor of Ministry is a practical, professional degree program that enables individuals to reflect critically upon their vocations, engage in rigorous theological reflection and advanced learning experiences, and grow in ministry competence. The program is centered around a praxis model of theological reflection that stresses the continual interaction of the biblical, theological, and historical disciplines of inquiry with the practical application of those disciplines in ministry.

outcomes

The Doctor of Ministry program is designed for the continuing development of persons who have exhibited exceptional leadership and academic ability. It is designed to help students:

- Demonstrate high level integration of knowledge, character, and ability specific to their ministry context;
- Demonstrate ability to engage in theological, practical, and critical reflection of their ministry practice;
- Articulate the biblical/theological foundation and framework for their particular ministry context and practice;
- Articulate the sociological and cultural realities that impact their particular ministry context and practice and how they address them;
- Be able to explore and present new knowledge about the practice of ministry in their particular ministry context.

tracks

Classic Track: designed for students seeking to engage in a program that is based primarily on campus. Students often progress through the program alongside others taking the same courses. This track consists of three core courses, two additional courses, two directed learning experiences, and a final project.

Partnership Track: designed for students who have a very specific focus in mind for their degrees. Partnerships have been formed with various ministry organizations in order for students to develop hyper-focused directed learning experiences. This track has three core courses at the Sioux Falls campus, four directed learning experiences, and a final project.

admissions requirements

- Completion of a Master of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) with a B average or higher from a school accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (or an equivalent accrediting body outside of the United States or Canada)
- Three years of ministry experience after completion of the master’s degree program
- Active engagement in a ministry setting
- Completion of all application materials
- Approval of the Doctor of Ministry Committee

Students not meeting all requirements may be eligible for a provisional acceptance if additional criteria are met. Contact Enrollment Management for more details.
course of study

Entry Phase  
- Foundations Seminar
  The Entry Phase includes acceptance into the Doctor of Ministry program and enrollment in the Foundations Seminar, which is the first of three core courses.

Directed Learning Phase  
- Classic Track Students:  
  - Two courses in Sioux Falls and  
  - Two Directed Learning Experiences (12)
  OR
- Partnership Track Students:  
  - Four Directed Learning Experiences (12)
- PLUS Classic and Partnership Students:  
  - Remaining core courses: Biblical and Theological Reflection and Research Seminar (6)

Candidacy Phase  
- Final Project
  Students are admitted to candidacy upon approval of his or her final project prospectus by his or her Doctoral Committee (faculty advisor, final project second reader, Doctor of Ministry Director, and other faculty as deemed necessary). During this phase, students work with their Doctoral Committee to complete the final project.

Upon completion, candidates have a final competency evaluation with the Doctoral Committee and/or an expanded faculty committee before receiving approval for graduation. Students are expected to complete all program requirements within six years of initial enrollment.

Total Required  
- 30

Peer learning groups will be developed for students while they are in the Doctor of Ministry program. Groups will consist of other ministry professionals and create a network for feedback, reflection, and support.

sample course sequences

Classic Track

First Year
- Fall - Foundations Seminar
- Spring - Missional Leadership and Ministry Practices

Second Year
- Fall - Biblical and Theological Foundations for Ministry
- Spring - Engaging the Cultural Context and Directed Learning Experience I

Third Year
- Fall - Directed Learning Experience II
- Spring - Research Seminar and Work on Final Project Thesis

Fourth Year
- May - Present Final Project and Graduation

Partnership Track

First Year
- Fall - Foundations Seminar
- Spring - Directed Learning Experience I

Second Year
- Fall - Biblical and Theological Foundations for Ministry and Directed Learning Experience II
- Spring - Directed Learning Experience III

Third Year
- Fall - Directed Learning Experience IV
- Spring - Research Seminar and Work on Final Project Thesis

Fourth Year
- May - Present Final Project and Graduation

sioux falls seminary

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