

Program Description

The Doctor of Ministry in Church and Community Leadership (DMin) degree program at CTS is an advanced course of study for those engaged in professional Christian ministry in a variety of contexts. The program provides leaders with an opportunity to integrate their ministry experience with advanced academic study, and to develop new skills for more effective Christian ministry. It also encourages leaders to develop and sustain Christian faith that is healthy and life-giving, both for themselves and for the communities they serve.

Program Requirements

The DMin degree program requires (1) the successful completion of 33 credit hours of course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale; and (2) the successful completion of a candidacy review; and (3) the successful completion of a qualitative Project in Ministry and dissertation of 100-125 pages in length.

1. Course Work

The course work consists of 9 credit hours of required seminars (taken as a cohort):

- D-915: "Theological & Practical Foundations of Leadership in Ministry" (3 CH)
- D-917: "Research Methods for More Effective Ministry" (3 CH)
- D-927: "Project in Ministry Development" (3 CH)

And 18 credit hours of electives (taken by choice in consultation with the advisor):

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2. Candidacy Review

After completing at least 24 credit hours of course work, DMin students enter a review process leading to candidacy for the degree. The student is required to assemble a portfolio of work that illustrates their progress toward the degree, including the Project in Ministry (PIM) Proposal. The student's project committee will evaluate the portfolio

and authorize the student's admission to candidacy for the degree. No academic credit is awarded for the candidacy review.

3. Project in Ministry and Dissertation

The DMin degree also requires a Project in Ministry (PIM), a qualitative research project designed in prior course work and conducted under the direction of a CTS faculty member. During their research students enroll in:

D-999: "Project in Ministry" (6 CH)

The PIM culminates in a written dissertation that exhibits solid academic research, sound methodology, and mature theological reflection. Candidates for the DMin degree must successfully complete an oral defense of their PIM and dissertation with their Project Committee.

Time Limitation

Students are required to complete all requirements for the DMin program—including the PIM, dissertation, and oral presentation and defense—within 5 years of matriculation.

Under extraordinary circumstances, an extension of one (1) academic year may be granted by the seminary's Academic Council upon student request and with the support of the Director of the DMin Program and Academic Dean. Further extensions are not ordinarily granted.

The time limitation of 5 years does not include any approved leaves of absence. See the seminary's Leaves of Absence Policy for details.

Additional Information

Additional and more detailed information about the DMin program can be found in the current edition of the degree program handbook or by asking the Director of the DMin Program.