



WINEBRENNER

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Making a Difference

Winebrenner Theological Seminary serves God's mission of reconciliation in changing the world by preparing servants of the Lord Jesus Christ to lead the Church.

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Doctor of Ministry Program Overview

[2017 Academic Year]

This program overview contains relevant information concerning the policies, practices, and procedures for the Doctor of Ministry degree program at Winebrenner Theological Seminary. It is effective the beginning of the 2016 Fall Trimester and will be revised when necessary.

Purpose

The purpose of the course of study leading to the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree is to enhance the practice of ministry for persons holding the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or its equivalent, and who are currently engaged in positions of Christian leadership. The program is practical in nature and is designed to increase professional competency. Students will be equipped at a more advanced level of theological reflection, critical thinking, communication skills, and leadership formation than that achieved in the foundational work of the M.Div. A program assumption is that the ministry of a local congregation of Christian ministry setting will provide the context for the course of study.

Doctor of Ministry Director’s Vision: “Professional and personal development of Christian leaders is a vital objective to globally enhance the extension of God’s kingdom. The currency of the 21st Century is time; this becomes the primary challenge for doctoral students to experience freedom in Christ’s *Kairos* kingdom time zone!”

—Dr. M. John Nissley

Program Outcomes for D.Min. Graduates

1. Knowing: The graduate will investigate and reflect on critical ministry challenges and theological issues with a cogent biblical worldview.
2. Being: The graduate will manifest growth in achieving personal, spiritual, and professional formation.
3. Doing: The graduate will contribute new insights to the body of ministerial practice through quantitative and qualitative research during an intensive field research process based on her/his ministry context.

Description

As a four-year, in-service degree, the WTS Doctor of Ministry degree program affords students the opportunity to complete the program while remaining in full-time ministry. The program consists of 32 credit hours composed of seminar context, personal and professional development, and research and writing for the research project report. A distinctive feature of this D.Min. program begins with the initial one-week seminar as the student designs a prospectus to guide his or her research project, instead of waiting until mid-way through the program to begin the research process. These intensive one-week seminars are held twice annually, in January and July, on the Seminary’s campus located in Findlay, Ohio.

The focus of a WTS doctoral candidate’s research project is not constrained by a specific program track or other institutional parameters. The design and intent of this degree program is to provide an opportunity for students to be engaged in prolonged research for the duration of the four-year degree program. The research process is a unique feature of the WTS doctoral program that affords a venue for in-depth research, reflection, and review with feedback from peers, mentors, and professors in the student’s specific area of research emphasis. The parameter for research emphasis is to be within the broad scope of kingdom ministry.

Duration of Degree Program

The D.Min. degree program is designed to be completed in four years. The Program Director, in consultation with the Academic Dean, may design an alternate curriculum plan. Plans which extend beyond the four-year program will require approval for program extension by the Academic Dean.



Shafer Library is located adjacent to the seminary building on the Findlay campus.

Components

1. Intensive Week Seminars

Students meet with professors and other students for intensive, week-long learning experiences twice each year. During each of these intensive weeks students may complete two seminars of two credit hours each. Pre- and post-course assignments are to be anticipated, as well as assignments during the week of the intensive courses.

In the morning seminars in January, doctoral students meet to focus on personal formation, confronting leadership, and wholeness issues, by completing four core formation seminars (DM 800, DM 820, DM 840, and DM 860).

In the morning seminars in July, research seminars emphasize focused inquiry on contemporary professional development, addressing theological and ministry issues within diverse cultural contexts. These four research seminars undergird doctoral students' theological formation and help shape their research projects.

In addition, doctoral students complete eight research and writing seminars (DM 880.1-DM 880.8) during the afternoons of the intensive weeks. Doctoral students meet in cohorts to focus on the research process and on writing their project reports as they present a current chapter for cohort processing, evaluation, and feedback. Faculty and students each bring academic and practical knowledge to the discussion.

While professors shape the seminar design and provide class leadership, students are free to discuss, interact, and share, creating a positive communal learning environment and experience. See Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions for additional details.

Doctor of Ministry Curriculum Plan

Year	January [Fourth Week]	July [Fourth Week]
1	Formational Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm	Research Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm
2	Formational Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm	Research Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm
3	Formational Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm	Research Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm
4	Formational Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm	Research Seminar-am Project Research & Writing-pm

**AM seminars meet Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-noon)
PM seminars meet Monday-Thursday (1-5 p.m.)**



WTS Room# 253 is home base for the D.Min degree program.

Doctoral Studies Planning Schedule

January—Seminar sessions (Fourth Week)

February, 30 days post-seminar—Formational Seminar Paper due

May 1st, 90 days post-seminar—Research Project Chapter, Draft #3 due

April—July, Prepare for July Seminars

July—Seminar sessions (Second Week)

August, 30 days post-seminar—Research Seminar Paper due

November 1st, 90 days post-seminar—Research Project Chapter, Draft #3 due

October—January, Prepare for January Seminars

2. Individual Self-Directed Learning

Adult learners function best when they are directly involved in the learning process. The D.Min. program assumes that the students are adult learners who not only receive information but who also actively participate in their own learning. Students are held accountable for their own learning through pre- and post-session readings and projects related to their ministry contexts.

3. Community Peer Learning

Participants in the D.Min. program are expected to think and work both independently and collaboratively. The traditional model assumes that teachers transmit significant knowledge to passive receivers of that knowledge. Learning, however, also takes place in community. Adults bring a large pool of previous experience and wisdom to the classroom. Thus, collaborative learning in community with other ministry peers and practitioners creates an atmosphere where students can learn from and share with one another.



Centered and blessed at the Cross!

4. Research Project

The D.Min. research project is the culminating experience of the doctoral program, and is intended to challenge the candidate to think and act theologically with integration by identifying a specific problem in ministry, organizing an effective research model, gathering appropriate resources and data, and evaluating the results. The research should be conducted within the applied setting of the student's own context of ministry. The research project may not be started until the prospectus has been approved by the Program Director.

The candidate has great latitude in the selection of a focus for the research project, which may include many possible ministry situations. In terms of quantity and quality, each research project report will be evaluated according to professional standards commensurate with doctoral level work as defined by the Seminary's comprehensive chapter evaluation rubric.

The purpose of the research project is to provide students with an opportunity to study a particular ministry problem and provide an effective solution. Research projects can emerge out of such areas as administration and leadership, church development and planting, Christian education, counseling, discipleship, evangelism, missions, pastoral care, preaching, spiritual formation, stewardship, teaching, worship, youth work, and other areas. The research project should demonstrate doctoral level work and display how the candidate's competence in ministry has been strengthened or transformed. Research projects are completed under the direction of a project mentor, external reader, writing stylist, and the D.Min. Director.

Research Emphasis

The unique emphasis at WTS is that 50% of the doctoral degree program is weighted in completing a sequence of eight two-credit Project Research and Writing seminars over the duration of the degree program. Students will engage in exploring and designing creative approaches to issues that are experienced within their specific area of research. WTS has a distinctive approach in guiding students through the four-year research experience that provides a unified structure for all D.Min. students, yet affords diversity in research emphasis while engaging the students in cohorts for peer evaluation and feedback during the research journey.

Research Topic

D.Min. students engage in research that will utilize a focus on their current ministry context that may be one of the following broad categories, which have been utilized by previous D.Min. students: chaplaincy, church development, counseling, discipleship, education, leadership, multi-cultural ministry, pastoral ministry, spiritual formation, and worship. Students will explore and design creative approaches to issues that are experienced within their specific area of research. WTS has a distinctive approach in guiding students in a four-year research experience that provides a unified structure for all D.Min. students, yet affords diversity in selecting their research topic while engaging the students in cohorts for peer evaluation and feedback during the research journey.

Research Project Template Options

The D.Min. program has two template options for students to select in designing their research project report. The preferred template is selected by students during the first year of their doctoral program. The following chart provides a basic explanation to guide students in making this vital decision:

Components	Project Report	Applied Project Report
Focus	Students research a ministry or theological issue that will benefit the student’s ministry context and the broader church. In this option, students develop an in-depth report that describes their research journey.	Students research a ministry or theological issue that will benefit the student’s ministry context and the broader church. In this option, students develop a succinct report that explains their research journey and resource materials focused on their ministry issues.
Format	Students craft a six-chapter project report that follows the research design process yielding a 200-page, high quality, written document. This is a qualitative and quantitative research process that utilizes theological reflection, cogent research models, and practical ministry outcomes.	Students craft a six-chapter project report that follows the research design process yielding a 120-page high quality written document, plus 120 pages or more contained in the appendix in the form of a practical application manual, a book, or a book and application manual. This is a qualitative and quantitative research process that utilizes theological reflection, cogent research models, and practical ministry outcomes.
Follow-up	Students apply research findings in their ministry context and in the broader church.	Students apply research findings in their ministry context and in the broader church. Students may also publish their resource materials developed during the research process.



The Doctor of Ministry degree program is a journey. . . .

Admission Policy

Winebrenner Theological Seminary's admission policy does not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, gender, handicap, age, or denominational affiliation.

Application to the Seminary implies a strong interest in a ministry-related vocation and/or occupation. The educational objective of all students is the same: the acquiring of knowledge and skills needed for effective work in Christian service.

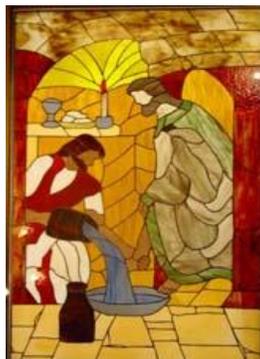
Admission to the Seminary is by approval of its Admissions Committee upon receipt of a completed application form, application fee, and transcripts. Applicants may complete their application online via the WTS website. The Admissions Office will send applicants written notification of acceptance to or rejection from the Seminary.

Any student interrupting his or her program at WTS for two or more years must apply for readmission to the program. Readmission must be initiated by the student and includes submitting a completed new application form, updated transcripts if any additional courses have been completed since the previous matriculation period or if previous enrollment was more than five years ago, and application fee. Students being readmitted will need to fulfill the requirements of the WTS catalog in effect when they are readmitted.

Admission Process/Program Entrance Process

The following five items are required in completing the application/entrance process for the D.Min. degree program:

1. Applicant must submit a completed application with a \$30 non-refundable application fee.
2. Applicant must submit evidence of prior quality academic work documented by a final official transcript for all coursework completed in undergraduate and graduate institutions.
3. Applicant must submit a 750-1000 word *Ministry Assessment Essay* (see below) and specifically answer how participation in the WTS Doctor of Ministry degree program will contribute to his or her ministry.
4. Applicant must submit a *Ministry Study Endorsement Letter* from his or her church board or appropriate supervising body acknowledging their support and encouragement of the applicant's doctoral study program.
5. The D.Min. Director will schedule an interview via telephone or Skype, and/or a campus visit.



Program Matriculation and Communication

Enrollment in the Doctor of Ministry degree program is based on competence in ministry and theology. Evidence of the motivation and ability to pursue further study at the doctoral level must be demonstrated, not only by the applicant's previous academic work, but also by the endorsement of the church or para-church organization to which the applicant is accountable. An applicant's file will not be acted upon until all necessary components are received. An applicant who has previously been enrolled in any academic program at WTS must still complete the Doctor of Ministry application and all other entrance requirements.

It is required that applicants own or have available a computer with e-mail and Internet access. Communication between students and administration, students and faculty, and students and peers will be aided by this technology.



The journey concludes where it began at the cross. . . .

