



# WINEBRENNER

## THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



### MISSION STATEMENT

*Winebrenner Theological Seminary equips leaders for service in God's kingdom.*

### **Doctor of Ministry Program Overview** [2019-20 Academic Year]

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*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 2019 Fall Trimester and will be revised when necessary.*

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## **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 the doctoral student will provide the context for the research project.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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) Gain Knowledge (Knowing): The graduate will investigate and reflect on critical ministry challenges and theological issues with a cogent biblical worldview.
- 2) Pursue Wholeness (Being): The graduate will manifest growth in achieving personal, spiritual, and professional formation.
- 3) Change Lives (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 Winebrenner Doctor of Ministry degree program affords students the opportunity to begin their doctoral degree program in any of the three trimesters (Spring, Summer, or Fall) and to complete the program while remaining in full-time ministry. The program consists of 32 credit hours composed of courses focused on personal and professional development while completing a comprehensive research project.

A distinctive feature of the Winebrenner DMin program is that it begins with the initial research methodology course as the student designs a prospectus to guide his or her research project, instead of waiting until mid-way through the program. The intensive one-week courses are held twice annually in the Fall and Summer trimester on the Seminary’s campus located in Findlay, Ohio, and the online courses are offered in the Spring trimester.

The focus of a Winebrenner doctoral candidate’s research project is leadership formation by enhancing leadership effectiveness, spiritual formation, and theological praxis. The design and intent of this degree program is to provide an opportunity for students to be engaged in prolonged research with a Personal Research Design (PRD) for the duration of the four-year degree program. This PRD is a unique feature of the Winebrenner doctoral program that affords a venue for in-depth exploration, reflection, and review with feedback from peers, mentors, and professors in the student’s specific area of ministry and research emphasis. The parameter for research study emphasis is to be within the broad scope of kingdom service in the student’s ministry context.

## Components

### 1. Contextualized Learning in the Students' Ministry Context

Students meet with professors and other students for intensive, week-long courses in two trimesters/year (Summer and Fall) on the Findlay, Ohio campus. During each of these intensive weeks students complete two courses with pre- and post-course assignments along with assignments during the week of the intensive courses. In the Spring trimester, an online course is offered to provide an extended 12-week contextualized learning experience. Doctoral courses are equivalent in contact hours to a 2-credit hour course over a 12-week trimester, which involves 24 hours of learning activity via in-class and contextualized learning format. The research courses are 1-credit hour that involves 12 hours of learning activity via in-class plus contextualized learning projects.

**Spring trimester (January-March)**, during the 12-week trimester, online courses (24 hours) emphasize focused inquiry on contemporary theological issues from a biblical and social perspective within diverse cultural contexts. These four courses (DM 820, DM 835, DM 842, and DM 812) undergird doctoral students' theological formation and help shape their research projects.

**Summer trimester (May)**, on the Winebrenner campus, students meet in the morning Monday through Thursday to engage in studying contemporary practical ministry issues utilizing case study and reflection skills (20 hours) with follow-up contextualized field research (4 hours) in four ministry development courses (DM 871, DM 855, DM 854, and DM 805). Research and writing courses (DM 900s) meet Monday through Wednesday (12 hours). Mentored research study is guided by the RPT during the trimester to complete the research and writing assigned chapter. Symposium presentations (DM 907) are frequently scheduled in this trimester for doctoral candidates who intend to graduate in August.

**Fall trimester (November)**, on the Winebrenner campus, students meet in the morning Monday through Thursday (20 hours) to focus on personal formation, resilience, leadership, and wholeness issues, by completing four core formation courses (DM 800, DM 840, DM 845, and DM 847). The contextualized learning component consists of case study and focus group process in the student's ministry context (4 hours). In the afternoon, students complete research and writing courses (DM 900s) Monday through Wednesday (12 hours). Doctoral students meet in cohorts to focus on the research process and 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. Mentored research study is guided by the Research Project Team (RPT) during the trimester to complete the research and writing assigned chapter.

*See Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions for additional information.*

### 2. Individual Self-Directed Learning

Adult learners function best when they are directly involved in the learning process. The DMin 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 DMin 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.

#### 4. Research Project

The DMin research project is the culminating learning 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 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 rubrics. Prior to beginning the data collection phase of the research study, students will submit an Ethical Research Plan to the Seminary's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for review and approval. After the IRB and the RPT approve the Ethical Research Plan, the student may commence the data collection phase.

The purpose of the research project is to provide students with an opportunity to study a specific ministry problem and provide an effective solution. The research study may emerge out of the following areas of inquiry: 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 kingdom ministry areas. The research project should demonstrate doctoral level work and display the candidate's competence in critical thinking, analysis, and synthesis. Research projects are completed under the direction of a project mentor, external reader, writing stylist, and the DMin Director.



### *Research Emphasis*

The unique emphasis at Winebrenner is that 25% of the doctoral degree program is weighted in completing a sequence of eight 1-credit research 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. Winebrenner has a distinctive approach in guiding students through the four-year research experience that provides a unified structure for all DMin students yet affords diversity in research emphasis while engaging the students in cohorts for peer evaluations 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:

<b>Components</b>	<b>Project Report</b>	<b>Applied Project Report</b>
<b>Focus</b>	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.
<b>Format</b>	Students craft a six-chapter project report that follows the research design process yielding @ 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 @ 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.
<b>Follow-up</b>	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.

### **Mrs. Jaclynn Krum-Frisch, Doctor of Ministry Graduate 2010**

“Winebrenner was an experience of growth for me. I gathered with people of all ages and backgrounds to pursue a common passion—God’s Word. Thank you to all who walked that path with me.” In speaking to those seeking theological training, she says, “Winebrenner is a place to continue your education in a format that applies to life and ministry.”

## Qualifications of Applicants

Applicants for the Doctor of Ministry degree program must have the following four prerequisites:

1. Applicants must possess an ATS accredited Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or its educational equivalent, as determined by the Academic Dean.
2. Applicants must give evidence of ability to do doctoral level work as indicated by a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) at the graduate level.
3. Applicants must have three years of ministry experience. Applicants with less than three years of ministry experience may provide proof of alternative life experience for three or more years in other types of professional, business, and/or military service.
4. Applicants must be involved in a current ministry context and remain in ministry throughout the duration of their doctoral program.

## 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.



**Shafer Library is adjacent to the seminary building on the University of Findlay campus.**

### **Pastor Joe Carney, Doctor of Ministry Graduate 2010**

“The one word that I would use to extol the Doctor of Ministry program at WTS is “collegial.” There is certainly diversity among the student body in all programs at WTS but I think the program format and the interaction of the students with one another’s project allowed that diversity to evolve into something higher. I am using the word collegial because I think it best describes that character of interaction that demands respect for one another’s uniqueness without requiring a compromise of one’s individuality. The WTS Doctor of Ministry program allows students to gain a healthy and positive understanding of the larger body of Christ and thus produces better informed graduates who can more effectively serve the Church universal.”

### **Funding Options**

Doctoral students at Winebrenner who are United States citizens have been approved to receive Federal Direct Loans. You may apply for these student loans. Please read the following information on this new financial aid program for Doctor of Ministry students at Winebrenner who are U.S. citizens. If this financial aid program is beneficial for you in completing your doctoral degree program, begin now to apply for these loans.

A graduate student who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident can borrow up to \$20,500 per year. Interest begins to accrue immediately and the student is responsible for interest payments while in school, but is not required to begin repayment of the loan until six months after graduation. Payment may begin prematurely if enrollment drops below half-time status. The interest rate for an unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan is variable, capped at 8.25%.

To apply for an unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan, students must annually complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a renewal FAFSA. The form is available online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (Winebrenner’s school code is G04060). The annual application deadline for continuing and returning students is July 1 for the upcoming academic year.

Contact the Financial Aid Coordinator ([financialaid@winebrenner.edu](mailto:financialaid@winebrenner.edu)) for more information.

### **Pastor Mark Brodbeck, Doctor of Ministry Graduate 2010**

“One of the greatest things that I ever did was work on my doctorate program at Winebrenner. You first need to know that I had no interest in doing such a program. However, my son, Josh, felt differently.” He said, “You need to do this dad. You would be great being a teacher for those who are going into ministry.” So, long story short, I applied and participated in this outstanding program. Not only were the classes beneficial, but getting to know pastors and leaders from other denominations was the most vital part of the program. It was fun and challenging bouncing ideas, doctrines, and traditions off of individuals who had no background or pre-determined opinion about one’s denomination. So, if someone were to ask me if I would recommend the Doctor of Ministry program at Winebrenner? The obvious answer is, “You need to do this.”

### **M.Div. Equivalency**

Applicants who have completed a master’s degree(s) or doctoral degree(s) but do not hold the Master of Divinity degree may apply for M.Div. equivalency by submitting an evaluation worksheet (obtained from the Seminary’s Admissions Staff) and supporting documentation, in addition to the documents that were submitted as part of the admissions process.

Winebrenner considers M.Div. equivalency as the successful completion of a master's degree, and a minimum of 72 semester hours or comparable graduate credits. Transcripts of all post-secondary studies must demonstrate successful completion of graduate credits that represent broad-based work in theology, biblical studies, and the arts of ministry, in order for equivalency to be granted. Ministerial experience alone is not considered the equivalent of, or a substitute for, the master's degree, but at least five years of full-time ministerial leadership is required.

After all documentation has been submitted, the equivalency portfolio is evaluated by the Academic Dean. Equivalency applicants will be required to complete an interview with the Academic Dean. On occasion, the Academic Dean and the D.Min. Director may request additional documentation in order to verify equivalency.

Once a student has been granted Winebrenner M.Div. equivalency, he or she will be admitted to the D.Min. program on probation and given permission to begin work on the degree. Students admitted on probation will be required to meet individually with the Student Academic Support Coordinator to help ensure his or her success in the program. The probationary status will be removed following completion of 12 hours of study with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher. *6/2013*



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

### **Pastor Jason Arant, Doctor of Ministry Graduate 2010**

“Winebrenner Seminary has played an essential role in my personal formation and vocational growth. It has provided me with unparalleled opportunity to experience interdenominational community and spiritual formation. Winebrenner prepared me to take advantage of doors that otherwise would never have been opened to me.” When talking to prospective students, Jason says, “I would enthusiastically encourage anyone considering ministerial preparation, and who are willing to submit to the challenging and disciplined processes of higher education, to consider taking advantage of the educational opportunities that WTS makes available.”



**Doctor of Ministry cohort engaged in discussion during a class session.**

### **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 address issues that are experienced within their specific area of research. Winebrenner 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 students in cohorts for peer evaluation and feedback during the research journey.

## CURRICULUM SUMMARY

**Personal Formation [Fall courses]: 8 credits**

**Theological Critique [Spring courses]: 8 credits**

**Ministry Development [Summer courses]: 8 credits**

**Research & Writing courses: 8 credits**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Spring [Online]</b>	<b>Summer [May]</b>	<b>Fall [November]</b>
<b>#1 2019</b>	DM 820 Theological Reflection	DM 871 Conflict Management & Resolution  DM 900 Research Methodology	DM 847 Emotionally Healthy Leadership  DM 900.1 Project Research & Writing
<b>#2 2020</b>	DM 835 Biblical Theology	DM 855 Missional Context & Design: New Realities for Engaging the Church  DM 900.2 Project Research & Writing	DM 845 Leadership Resilience & Ethics  DM 900.3 Project Research & Writing
<b>#3 2021</b>	DM 842 Evangelicalism & the Dynamics of Power	DM 854 Preparing Leaders for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century  DM 900.4 Project Research & Writing	DM 840 Formed in Christ for & in Community  DM 900.5 Project Research & Writing
<b>#4 2022</b>	DM 812 Prophet, Priest, & Sage: Models for Ministry	DM 805 Systemic Issues in Pastoral Care  DM 900.6 Project Research & Writing	DM 800 Spiritual Formation  DM 907 Symposium Presentation

### 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 Winebrenner 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.



**Centered and blessed at the Cross!**



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## Reflecting on Your Potential Doctoral Research Journey

**Questions to consider when exploring the possibility of enrolling in a Doctor of Ministry degree program.**

- 1) What has been your heart passion in ministry?
  
- 2) What are the core values that guide your Kingdom ministry?
  
- 3) Describe your vision for research in a doctoral project report that would direct the journey in discovering new insights and data related to your area of inquiry.
  
- 4) Who have been the primary mentors that have influenced your theological, spiritual, and ministry formation?
  
- 5) What are the primary challenges that you encounter in ministry?

### Next Steps

Engaging in a doctoral degree program at an accredited seminary like Winebrenner requires setting aside time for advanced study, research, reflection, and writing in the midst of an already active, meaningful ministry role. Prayer, exploring various schools, and sharing your vision with your family, friends, and mentor will be helpful for you to discern: Is now the right, opportune time to embark on the Doctor of Ministry degree journey?

Contact Dr. M. John Nissley, Doctor of Ministry Director, is available to help you pray and discern whether now is the *kairos*-opportune time to begin doctoral studies at Winebrenner to enhance your personal and professional development. You may contact Dr. John at (419) 434-4247 or E-mail: [jnissley@winebrenner.edu](mailto:jnissley@winebrenner.edu) to continue the discussion.

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