DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
PROSPECTUS
Ashland Theological Seminary
2013-2014
Introducing Ashland Theological Seminary

This introductory packet will acquaint you with the Doctor of Ministry degree. Ashland Theological Seminary has been offering the Doctor of Ministry degree program for over thirty years. More than 200 graduates are serving around the world. The Doctor of Ministry program is an integral part of the mission of Ashland Theological Seminary.

- Ashland Theological Seminary is a graduate division of Ashland University, a liberal arts university founded by members of the Brethren Church in 1878.

- Ashland Theological Seminary enrolls almost 900 students each year from over 70 denominations, of which over 200 students are in the Doctor of Ministry program.

- Ashland Theological Seminary exists to equip committed Christians for servant-leadership in the pastorate, missions, education, counseling, and community life ministries.

- Ashland Theological Seminary seeks to serve men and women who are ministering in a variety of global contexts and Christian faith traditions.

Centrally Located

We are located in North Central Ohio, a few miles west of I-71 at about the mid-point between Columbus and Cleveland. The seminary is one hour from the Cleveland airport and ninety minutes from the Columbus airport.

ATS
910 Center St.
Ashland, OH 44805
419-289-5174
The Philosophy of the Doctor of Ministry Program
Ashland Theological Seminary

Our Mission

Ashland Theological Seminary defines the degree as follows: The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is an advanced degree for professionals who seek to improve their practical expertise, explore the concerns of their own ministry setting, and challenge their hearts and minds. It is both affordable and workable for the full-time minister.

• The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is an advanced degree for professionals.

The degree developed out of a concern for advanced study in the application of ministry. It is a professional degree with an academic foundation that addresses the needs of those who practice the art of ministry. Therefore:

  ▪ The degree is primarily for persons in full-time ministry.
  ▪ The degree builds upon the Master of Divinity (or theological equivalency).
  ▪ The degree is designed for a working pastor, counselor, or other ministry professional.

• ... For professionals who seek to improve their practical expertise.

The course of study emphasizes:

  ▪ The exploration of personal issues for the minister.
  ▪ The deepening of classical tools for ministry.
  ▪ The application of skills and knowledge.

• ... For professionals who seek to explore the concerns of their own ministry setting.

The culmination of the degree is completion of a project carried out in the context of the local church or ministry. The whole experience derives from and is directed toward ministry. This is done through case study, practical research, and the design of electives. The final dissertation will incorporate:
- A support team – advisor, field consultant, resource person(s). These are individuals who know the student and ministry context.
- The ministry setting – church or ministry context.

- **For professionals who seek to challenge their heart and mind.**

  The heart comes first. Students bring their souls full of questions: questions of identity, personhood, purpose, meaning, significance, and value. Students will be challenged with introspection and reflection. When the heart is stirred, the mind must respond with a quest for new knowledge and skills that result in renewed ministry. Each class of the D. Min. program seeks three goals:

  - To challenge the inner life to new integrity, openness, and renewal.
  - To challenge thinking and understanding with the practical study of ministry.
  - To challenge each student with renewal of purpose and vision in ministry.

- **It is both affordable and workable for the full-time minister.**

  The DMin degree is for the full-time professional. Students are expected to be involved in some form of Christian ministry. To this end, the courses of the program are offered in one or two-week intensives.
Our Values

The Doctor of Ministry program is committed to a biblical understanding of life, spirituality, education, and ministry:

- We value **servant leadership** as a biblical model.

- We value **spiritual formation** that results in renewed life and the recovery of identity in Christ.

- We value **self-understanding** and **discovery**.

- We value **team building** and shared responsibility, both in the academic experience and within the local ministry context.

- We value the vision of the leader as a **change agent** in church and society.

- We value Christian **witness** and **mission**.

- We value **academic excellence**.

- We value the **renewal, personal healing**, and **equipping** of each student.

- We value an **attitude** of stewardship and a careful **discernment of the culture**.
Application and Cost

Admission Policy

Requirements:

You must fulfill the following requirements before making a formal application:

1. A Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from an Association of Theological Schools accredited seminary or university, or its theological equivalent. (At your request, an equivalency evaluation will be completed after receiving your transcripts.*)

*(Because increasing numbers of Christian leaders do not have a Master of Divinity, an equivalency track is provided at Ashland Theological Seminary. Based on your academic record, an individualized program will be developed to prepare you for the doctoral program. Courses to fulfill equivalency requirements will not count toward the requirements of the DMin degree, nor can they be taken concurrently with doctoral coursework.)

2. A grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 = A) in all graduate work. Students with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 may be considered for admission with probationary status.

3. Current involvement in a ministry context (pastoring, teaching, missions, evangelism, counseling, etc.).

4. At least three years in ministry, experienced after receiving your first graduate theological degree.
Procedures

Application can be made as follows:

1. You may apply online by referring to the link below and following the instructions to create an account. All application materials (except Official Transcripts) can be completed online.

   www.seminary.ashland.edu/

   • Click on "Apply Now"
   • Follow prompts to create an account

Once you have completed the application, please hit the “Submit” button for processing.

If applying online is not an option, you may obtain an application from the Doctor of Ministry office by contacting the Doctor of Ministry Office at Ashland Theological Seminary, 910 Center Street, Ashland, OH 44805. You may also email dmin@ashland.edu, or call 419.289.5174. A non-refundable application fee must accompany your application.

2. You must request that transcripts of all credits earned in undergraduate and graduate institutions be sent to Ashland Seminary by the respective institutions for inclusion in your file.

3. You will need three recommendations: spiritual, professional and academic.

Tuition

The tuition for the program is determined by the Board of Trustees for Ashland University and is set each January for the following fiscal year. For the latest tuition fees, contact the DMin Admissions Office.

The Doctor of Ministry degree is a 45 quarter-hour program.

• Six classes at 5 credit hours each (30 hours)
- Two seminars on writing the proposal and dissertation at 2.5 hours each (5 hours)
- One project at 10 hours (10 hours).

**Billing**

In the Doctor of Ministry program students pay for each course before the beginning class date. Payment for class must be made prior to the first day of class.

**Length of Program**

The program is designed for a student to complete within three to four years. The degree must be completed within six years.

**For more information contact:**

Wanda M. Coleman
Director of Recruitment
Doctor of Ministry Program

Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center Street
Ashland, OH 44805

Email: dmin@ashland.edu

Or call: 1-419-289-5174
1-866-ATS-OHIO
Pedagogical Principles

The pedagogical principles that guide the planning and organization of the Doctor of Ministry program are:

- **Transformational Teaching:** The Doctor of Ministry program encourages in-depth transformational interaction between the professors and students, resulting in higher order change in both student and faculty.

- **Spiritual Vitality:** The Doctor of Ministry program supports spiritual vitality by fostering experiences that allow students and faculty a sense of discovering “aliveness” in God.

- **Modeling:** The Doctor of Ministry program models the spirituality and leadership that we hope will take place in local ministries.

- **Student Empowerment:** The Doctor of Ministry program empowers students to learn from and with each another, to teach and guide one another. Students are “partners” in the process.

- **Team Learning:** We organize the Doctor of Ministry program to emphasize team learning, team encouragement, and community building.

- **Decentralized Control:** The Doctor of Ministry program facilitates decision-making and ownership by the student and the learning team whenever possible.

The program is designed to be a learning experience emerging within your ministry context.

Ashland’s Doctor of Ministry program uses a contextual model of learning that is focused on the student’s participation and reflection on ministry. Several ingredients contribute to the integration of theory and practice in the program.

1. **Integrative projects,** such as case studies, case reports, and notes from ongoing ministry are used in many of the classes.
2. **An advising team** of student colleagues, faculty, and an advisor will interact, reflect, and challenge one another in the development of specialized concentrations and projects.

3. **A project core team** that includes an advisor, field consultant, and resource person(s) is designed to encourage and challenge the student.

4. **A support group** from the student’s ministry context relates the project to practical service.

5. **The project and thesis** integrate theory and practice, theology and ministry, and is based upon course work and the student’s context of ministry.

### Tracks of Study

Ashland Theological Seminary offers Doctor of Ministry tracks in the following areas:

1. Black Church Studies
2. Canadian Church Studies
3. Formational Counseling
4. Independent Design
5. Spiritual Formation
6. Transformational Leadership
7. Wesleyan Practices

*Following is a description of each doctoral track offered at Ashland Theological Seminary.*
A Doctor of Ministry Designed To Meet Your Needs

**Purpose:** Students choose from several tracks of study (listed above) designed to meet the specific needs of their ministry context.

**General Tracks**

Design of the General Tracks (Independent Design, Spiritual Formation, Transformational Leadership):

The DMin general tracks are designed around **3 core classes** and **3 electives**.

The **core classes** for the regular DMin tracks are: DM 911, DM 912, and DM 913. We offer classes in February, May, and September each year. Each class (regular tracks) meets for 4 – 5 days (Monday through Thursday, or Friday noon) at the Ashland main campus. Two core classes are generally offered each time we offer classes. Students are encouraged to take all their core classes before they begin taking their electives. Exceptions to this request can be directed to the Dean of the DMin program. The **proposal and dissertation writing classes** are taken only after the completion of the six main courses.

**Three Foundational Core Classes**

**DM 911 Formational Hermeneutics**
This course draws participants into a critical and theological conversation on the faithful interpretation of Scripture. It provides a forum for exploring hermeneutical models and approaches, reflecting on the role of Scripture in forming faith and ministry, and refining exegetical skills that engage the diversity of the Bible’s contents, contexts, literary forms, and perspectives.

**DM 912 People in Relationship to God**
This course will acquaint the student with the biblical, theological, historical, and contemporary dimensions of the church. The focus is on the leadership and spiritual formation aspects of the church’s life. The student will come to a deeper understanding of the nature and mission of the church and experience unique elements that make the church the community of Christ.
DM 913 Leading the Church in the 21st Century
This course will focus on selected issues facing Christian leaders in an ever-changing world. Particular attention will be given to understanding the context in which the student lives and serves, and how to develop effective forms of ministry that remain faithful to biblical principles while being relevant, incarnational in approach, and culturally sensitive in presentation. The relationship between spiritual formation and leadership development will be included.

The Three Elective Courses Are Based on Particular Tracks of Study:

- Canadian Church Studies
- Independent Design
- Spiritual Formation
- Transformational Leadership

Final Dissertation Project in Ministry Context

DM 914 Research Proposal Seminar – The purpose of this class is to prepare the student to write an acceptable proposal for a Doctor of Ministry project. The student will conceive and design a ministry project. The proposal is a document with a precise form that outlines the strategic planning and rationale of the ministry project. The class will include instruction in project design, assessment, and academic research.

DM 919 Dissertation Writing Seminar – “The Project In Your Context” – You will carry out the strategic plan outlined in your proposal, implementing your project and assessing the results. Your project may 1) apply the principles you’ve learned through teaching, process, or model. Or, 2) your project may seek to explore the principles you have learned in their actual use in ministry. You will report your project in a final document of approximately 100-250 pages in length.
Spiritual Formation

**Purpose:** The vision of the spiritual formation track is for the student to establish Christian spiritual formation as the fountainhead for Christian discipleship and ministry. The student will emerge from the program with a commitment to the foundational roles of Scripture and Christian community in healthy spiritual formation, and will engage in spiritual formation as the locus of practical ministry in a post-modern context.

Classes in Spiritual Formation

**DM 941 Formational Guidance**
This course will expose the student to the disciplines that enhance an intimate pursuit of God’s embrace, including the history and practice of spiritual direction (both individual and group direction), formative prayer, and formational reading of God’s word. The practice of direction will be included as part of the class experience.

**DM 944 Formational Ethics**
This course is designed to empower participants to conduct constructive theological analysis and reflection on the various dimensions of our Christian body-life, to assist them in developing a formational ethic for our embodied lives, and to develop competency in applying ethics to various issues in Christian spirituality. While the focus of the course will vary from year to year in order to cover a broad set of ethical concerns, the unifying theme of incarnational spirituality will always be present.

**DM 945 Special Topics in Spirituality (TBA)**

Transformational Leadership

**Purpose:** To equip students with the competencies to deal with the realities of leadership as they seek to position the church for renewal that will result in profound change.
Classes in Transformational Leadership

DM 960 Political Realities and Spiritual Leadership
A persistent feature in church leadership is the divide between those who accept realistic politics and those who believe that church politics are unseemly. A competent pastor needs a realistic approach to leadership based in the core values of personal and spiritual growth. The class seeks to answer the practical question: "How do I combine pragmatism with spiritual values and actually get things done?"

DM 961 Organizing for Spiritual Renewal
This class explores two areas: how churches develop and behave, and how leaders learn and grow. In the class, you will consider two questions: 1) What would it take for my church to be positioned to experience spiritual renewal? and 2) What do I need to do and be as a leader to position myself to guide the church in spiritual renewal?

DM 962 Specific Topics in Leadership (TBA)
The Canadian Context

**Purpose:** The Doctor of Ministry in the Canadian context is an advanced degree for professionals who seek to improve their practical expertise, explore the concerns of ministry in the Canadian context, and challenge their hearts and minds.

**Design:** The design of the program involves three parts: the three foundational core classes (taken at Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio), three electives (taken in Windsor, Ontario, Canada), and a final dissertation project.

**Courses offered in Windsor, Ontario, Canada:**

**DM 01 The Church in the Canadian Context**
The Canadian context is unique. In this course, students will investigate the challenges and opportunities inherent in the church in Canada. Students will examine ways of approaching ministry that is appropriate to Canadian culture.

**DM 05 Preaching and the Renewal of Ecclesial Identity and Mission**
Many congregations are locked into a self-understanding that is uncritically shaped by the individualist and consumerist presuppositions of today’s dominant culture and remains rooted in the era of Christendom. Such settings are ill-equipped to foster a strong sense of ecclesial identity and vigorous participation in the *missio dei*.

This course will address questions that stand at the intersection of preaching, the church’s vocation in make disciples, and the formation/ transformation of congregations in an early Twenty-first Century, North American context. Participants will inquire as to what kinds of preaching (and preacher!) might quicken the church’s conscious and operative understanding of itself as the living, breathing Body of Christ in the world. Homiletical strategies for promoting the ongoing conversion of the church and prompting effective mission in the world will be introduced and practiced.
DM 08 Fostering Missional Congregations

This course will consider the theology and praxis of missional church, describing effective strategies for promoting a missional orientation within a congregation. Participants will survey concrete patterns and practices of churches (and their leaders), from a variety of denominations, that understand their purpose as being to participate in the *missio dei*. The implications of this understanding for worship, preaching, hospitality, evangelism, formation and education, political and advocacy work, outreach and relief efforts, and other dimensions of the church’s life will be investigated. Students will engage in theological discourse on a missional framework for ministry and develop specific ministry applications of missional practice for their congregations/faith communities.
Independent Design

**Purpose:** The Independent Design Track is designed to give students greater flexibility in the area of elective courses.

- Electives can be chosen from the other Doctor of Ministry tracks.

- Students can transfer approved doctoral courses related to their ministry interests from other accredited seminaries.

- Students can work with a professor to create their own electives. Guidelines have been developed to help students design an elective that meets their specific interest and need. Such coursework can include an experiential component (e.g., travel, retreats, seminars, interviews) and/or a research component (library research, social science research, biblical research). Each elective will have a reading and writing component that serves as a foundation for the course and a record of the learning process.

- Electives can also be designed from Master’s level courses offered in the Ashland Seminary Catalogue (or other approved seminaries), which include a variety of specific interests such as homiletics, biblical studies, theology, Christian history and philosophy, missions and evangelism, and Worship. The Ashland classes meet weekly or once a month, depending on the schedule. These four-hour courses can be developed into a doctoral course through special arrangements with the professor.
Specialized Tracks

Black Church Studies

Purpose: To develop quality leaders for the Black Church in the 21st century through quality academic reflection in the primary disciplines of bible, theology/ethics, church history, spiritual formation, and practical ministry, as well as the opportunity to engage the best African American academicians and practitioners of our time.

Design: The design of the concentration includes three parts: six courses in Black Church Studies (the specific topics within the courses will change from year to year in order to cover a wide range of topics), one course in Research and Design, and a final dissertation project in Black Church Studies. The design of the program will allow the student the opportunity to engage a variety of local and national African American academicians and practitioners.

Classes in Black Church Studies

DMB 900 The Black Church and the Bible
This course will examine traditional and non-traditional approaches to biblical interpretation in order to determine how the Black Church can use the Bible as a tool of liberation in order to address the ills that afflict oppressed people.

DMB 910 The Black Church and Black Church History
This course will examine historical personalities, institutions, and movements in the black experience in an effort to discover paradigms, structures, and characteristics that will help make the institution of the Black Church, its leaders, and liberators of oppressed people.

DMB 920 The Black Church and Culture
This course will examine the intersection of the Black Church with culture in a variety of settings and times to explore how each affects the other. It will examine issues of power, character, personalities, and major events in order to how the Black Church can best effect change in its culture.
DMB 930 The Black Church and Ministry
This course will examine the intersection of the Black Church and ministry through a variety of ministerial applications such as missions, spiritual formation, faith-based initiatives, youth, family, economic development, counseling, music, and many others.

DMB 940 The Black Church and Preaching
This course will examine the dynamics of black preaching and preachers in the history of the black experience in order to assess the role and power of preaching to liberate the oppressed. It will examine models, styles, personalities, structures, and content.

DMB 950 The Black Church and Theology/Ethics
This course will examine theological and ethical approaches and voices, such as black theology, womanist theology, as well as other marginalized approaches and voices, in order to construct a moral discourse that aids the Black Church in its theological and ethical formulations for the purpose of liberation.

DMB 989 The Black Church Studies Research and Design Seminar
This seminar will help students prepare the proposal for the final project document. It will address research approaches, project design, and document structure.

DMB 990 The Black Church Studies Project
You will carry out the strategic plan outlined in your proposal, implementing your project and assessing the results. Your project may apply the principles you have learned through teaching, processing, or modeling. Or, your project may seek to explore the principles you have learned in their actual use in ministry. Your project results in a document to be reviewed at your final exam. The thesis seminar will provide specific instruction and support for reporting your findings.
Formational Counseling

Purpose: To equip students in the ministry of Christian caregiving by integrating pastoral care, spiritual direction, and Spirit-directed counseling with a view to bringing hope, healing, and spiritual well-being to broken people.

Design: The design of the concentration includes six courses and a final dissertation project in Formational Counseling.

Classes in Formational Counseling

You will take the following six classes:

DM 921 The Biblical Foundations of Formational Counseling
This course addresses the fundamental biblical and theological issues that help shape the practice of formational counseling. Discussion will include biblical themes, roles, and ministries that directly relate to formational counseling, with special attention given to identity, self-concept, self-esteem, emotions, sin, forgiveness, and suffering.

DM 922 Healing Prayer and the Formational Counselor
Students will explore the biblical, historical, and practical aspects of personal prayer, as well as learn to integrate the Spirit-directed ministry of inner healing prayer into the formational counselor’s commitment to helping the broken person. Students will explore the process of inner healing prayer and the relationship that past woundings have to dysfunctional behavior and emotional upheaval.

DM 923 Self Care and the Formational Counselor
The demands of formational counseling strain the body and soul. This course addresses the issues connected with maintaining the caregiver’s total well-being. Serving as a foundation for future courses, Self Care and the Formational Counselor will examine a variety of requirements for acquiring and maintaining physical, emotional, and spiritual vitality. Particular attention will be given to the pilgrimage toward wholeness that God has for us in Christ. This course will include a psychological assessment and personal interview for each student.
DM 924 The Formational Counselor as Prophet, Priest, and Storyteller
This course will expose students to the ministry of spiritual direction as it relates to formational counseling. Particular attention will be given to the biblical roles of prophet, priest, and storyteller, as each relates to helping broken people find hope and healing in the person of Jesus Christ. Historical considerations relative to spiritual direction will be discussed, as well as the practical application of spiritual direction in the ministry of formational counseling.

DM 925 Special Issues in Formational Counseling
The ministry of formational counseling most often focuses upon issues of deep need and brokenness in people’s lives. In this course students will gain understanding about levels of psycho-spiritual struggle that demand more focused and specific care in the context of formational ministry. Special attention will be given to such issues as personality disorders, mood disorders, and other kinds of pathology, with specific instruction regarding the practice of referral and team-based care.

DM 926 Formational Counseling in Small Groups
Students will consider the transformational elements of Christian community as expressed in small groups that gather for inner healing. Built upon biblical and historical principles, students will learn to lead small groups of broken people through the process of inner healing. A specific curriculum will be discussed that can be used for such a group experience.
Wesleyan Practices

**Purpose:** to equip students to understand and utilize the Wesleyan heritage effectively in the ongoing ministry and mission of the church and to integrate Wesleyan practices with the dynamics of personal spiritual formation in community and Christian renewal.

**Design:** The design of the concentration includes six courses and a final dissertation project in Wesleyan Practices. The three core classes will be taught inside the General Track core courses with specialized reading and assignments for Wesleyan Practices students.

**Classes in Wesleyan Practices**

*You will take the following six classes:*

**DM 930 Theological & Historical Foundations of Wesleyan Practices**
This foundational course will explore the holistic vision and mission of the Wesleyan Revival and introduce students to the constellation of practices that made it a potent movement of renewal in the life of the church.

**DM 931/DM 911 Biblical Engagement: Wesleyan Hermeneutic Practices**
This course explores the interpretation of Scripture from a Wesleyan perspective for the purpose of personal and ministry formation so as to shape the students’ use of Scripture in preaching, teaching, and spiritual formation.

**DM 932/DM 913 Incarnational Leadership: Wesleyan Ministry Practices**
This course will focus on selected issues facing Christian leaders in an ever-changing world from a Wesleyan perspective, with particular attention given to the Wesleyan emphasis on incarnational practices and the importance of contextuality in relation to leadership.

**DM 933 Accountable Discipleship: Wesleyan Formational Practices**
In this course students will explore a Wesleyan model of spiritual formation based upon accountable discipleship in small groups and will be able to implement and facilitate Covenant Discipleship Groups or other accountability structures in their own contexts of ministry.
DM 934 Passionate Worship: Wesleyan Liturgical Practices
This course focuses on the centrality of worship in the Wesleyan paradigm of renewal, examining in particular the Spirit’s use of lyrical (hymns and songs) and sacramental elements to breathe new life into the community of faith and will equip students to transition passive congregations into passionate communities nourished at the family Table.

DM 935 Missional Community: Wesleyan Evangelistic Practices
This course explores the Wesleyan rediscovery of a missional ecclesiology and the practices related to leadership, evangelism, and renewal that characterized early Methodism and will enable students to develop and implement strategies of mission and evangelism that are grounded biblically and reflect the missional character of early Methodism.