DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROSPECTUS

Ashland Theological Seminary

2016-2017
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 300 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 600 students each year from over 70 denominations, of which over 175 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
866 ATS OHIO
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 Christian ministry who wish to integrate their ministry context and academic work through the design, implementation, and assessment of a focused project.
  - The degree builds upon the Master of Divinity (or theological equivalency).
  - The degree is designed for pastors, counselors, educators, and others involved in the practice of Christian ministry both inside that church and outside in the marketplace.

- ... 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 designed to be flexible for those in full-time professional work. 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. Applicants without the three years in ministry subsequent to their first theological degree may apply for an exception. There is no guarantee that the request for exception will be granted.

**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/](http://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 wcoleman@ashland.edu, or call 216-503-9505. 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 Admissions Office.

The Doctor of Ministry degree is a 32 semester hour program.

- Six classes at 4 credit hours each (24 hours)
- Two seminars on writing the proposal, implementing the project and writing the dissertation at 4 hours each (8 hours)

**Billing**

In the Doctor of Ministry program students pay tuition in installments before each course before the beginning class date. Payment 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.
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 dissertation** 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. Chaplaincy
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.

**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.

**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.

**Chaplaincy**

**Purpose:** to equip chaplains and those who aspire to become chaplains with the knowledge and prerequisite skill sets to minister effectively in the pluralistic context of institutional ministry and to qualify for a professional chaplaincy job.
Classes in Chaplaincy

DMN 9950 Chaplaincy Leadership and Administration

This course will equip students to define leadership as it resonates with who they are and their specific call to chaplaincy. Competency in understanding and articulating the chaplain’s scope of practice, standards of practice, evidence-based chaplaincy, and administrative responsibilities will also be addressed.

DMN 9951 Chaplaincy Systems

This course will engage students with concepts about family systems, team systems, and organizational systems as they pertain to the role of Chaplaincy. The dynamic complexities will be discussed.

DMN 9952 Chaplaincy Cultural and Social Issues

This course will explore the cultural and social constructs that require acknowledgement and understanding to engage in the sacred chaplaincy relationship. Interreligious dynamics will be considered along with the cultural and social contours of our society.

DMN 9953 Chaplaincy Ethics

This course will orient learners to the ethical principles and practices chaplains engage as those often believed to be the moral compass of the institution they serve. Christian ethics, professional ethics, and clinical ethics will all be part of the conversation.

DMN 9954 Biblical, Theological, Historical, and Practical Foundations of Chaplaincy

Biblical and theological themes relevant to Chaplaincy will be presented as necessary to the profession. Students will be guided to articulate their specific theology and how they can apply it in an authentic and meaningful way.
DMN 9955 Transformational Chaplaincy

The concept of chaplaincy as transformation will be the lens for this course. Key to this is exploring the perspective that God is at work transforming you and those you serve through the dynamic care provider relationship.

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.

Classes in Formational Counseling

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.

**Independent Design**

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

- Classes 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, in a more concentrated format, and online, depending on the schedule. These courses can be developed into a doctoral course through special arrangements with the professor.

### 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

**DMN 9941 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, formative prayer, and a formational reading of God’s Word. The practice of direction will be included as part of the class experience.

**DMN 9943 Special Topics/Spiritual Formation**
This seminar examines special topics of interest in the area of spiritual formation.

**DMN 9945 Spirituality of Henri Nouwen**
This course will expose the student to the writings of the great contemporary spiritual writer and master, Henri Nouwen. The class will foster a depth of understanding of themes of the spiritual life from Nouwen’s works. Topics such as God, Christ, prayer, silence, community, ministry, church, and world will be addressed. Students will integrate Nouwen’s spiritual themes into some aspect of their ministry context.

DMN 9946 Biblical/Historical/Theological Foundations of Spiritual Formation
This course explores the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of spiritual formation in the Christian heritage.

DMN 9947 Discipleship as Life in the Kingdom of God: Spirituality of Dallas Willard
This course examines the contribution of Dallas Willard to the spiritual formation literature of the 20th century, with particular attention given to his concept of discipleship as life in the kingdom of God.

**Transformational Leadership**

**Purpose:** To equip students with the necessary competencies to effectively engage the realities of leadership as they seek to position themselves for spiritual and personal renewal within their own leadership and particular context of ministry. Issues of character and power will also be addressed, along with how to bring about lasting change in Kingdom work.

**Classes in Transformational Leadership**

**DMN 9964 Personal Leadership: Character, Self-Awareness and Power**
This course will equip students to discern and develop personal leadership character. The course instructs students to understand how to lead one’s self, not only lead others in ministry. The course will deal with the use and misuse of power in leadership. The 197 course will also address integrity, along with biblical roles and models of leadership. Transformation of the leader will be the focus of the course.
DMN 9965 Scriptural Leadership: Texts and Contexts

This course will explore the Bible with students practicing exegesis, critical interpretation, narrative reading, theological interpretation and understanding social location and biblical authority. This course will also address such topics as women in leadership and how Scripture is used to establish authority. Students will apply Scripture to the life of the church and ministry.

DMN 9966 Missional Leadership: Church for the World

This course will present missional leadership, which encompasses a partnering with God and understanding of theology, accomplishing His mission and Kingdom advancement. Students will learn of missional mobilization and how to live out the mission of the church, not by talk, but by action throughout our world. Students will be introduced to the contours of effective leadership in diverse cultures, to better prepare them for global service.

DMN 9967 Practical Leadership: Organizational Systems and Navigating Change

This course will engage students with concepts about organizational systems within leadership that affect the church and para-church ministries. Policy, procedures, polity and leading and navigating change and conflict will be integrated with the course subjects. Family systems will be considered within structure, culture, and inner workings of ministry.

DMN 9968 Relational Leadership: Mentoring, Coaching, and Empowering for the Future

This course will orient the student to the roles of Instructor, Spiritual Guide, Mentor, and Coach as they relate to the development of leaders. It will equip the student with the competencies necessary for each of these roles. The student will understand the contexts where differing roles serve the leadership development process best and will be given opportunity to practice the skill sets necessary for each.
DMN 9969 Cultural Leadership: Embracing Personal Ministry Context

This course will explore the nature of post-Christian Western culture and the way that church decline, the media, social justice issues and the digital age pose challenges and opportunities for Christian leadership both in growing local churches and in public communication of the gospel.

Other options* available to students for Cultural Leadership: Embracing Personal Ministry Context: Marketplace Ministry with City Gates; African-American Church Leadership; Pastoral Spiritual Formation and Health with PoE; D.Min Course Black Church Studies; Independent Design.

*Must be approved by the Track Leader and the Associate Dean of the Doctor of Ministry Program. For non-academic options, a professor of record will be assigned with the development of a syllabus designed to meet academic standards.

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.

Classes in Wesleyan Practices

DMN 9930 Wesleyan Spirituality
This foundational course will explore selected features of Wesleyan spirituality, interpreting them as the basis for Wesleyan practices. The course will focus upon the principles and practices of John Wesley and the early Methodists, with an eye toward an application of insights to the renewal and enrichment of the church today, particularly in relation to prayer.
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.

Final Dissertation Project in Ministry Context

DMN 9996 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.

**DMN 9997 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. The length of the dissertation will be approximately 150 pages.

**PRE-DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM (PRE-DMIN)**

The Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program is designed for students who desire to pursue the Doctor of Ministry Program, but do not have the required Master of Divinity degree. The Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program prepares students for the Doctor of Ministry Program by allowing students to take master level courses in religious studies in order to meet Master of Divinity equivalency.

Master of Divinity equivalency is defined as 72 graduate semester hours that represent course work in theology, biblical studies, hermeneutics, and church history. *A theological master’s degree is needed as well as experience within a specific ministry context. A transcript evaluation is performed to determine the number of needed courses to meet Master of Divinity equivalency. Acceptance into the Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program means that the student will have a place reserved in the Doctor of Ministry Program upon completion of the pre-course work.*

*The Formational Counseling track is a specialized degree that engages degrees that are non-theological in nature. Master degrees in areas such as Social Work, Counseling, and Psychology, can be considered for this particular area of study. Coursework to meet requirements for Master of Divinity equivalency is a prerequisite.*

*Applicants for all tracks without a theological master’s degree may be considered for specialized degree status if the applicant is able to demonstrate that the concentration area in their master’s degree is relevant to the applicant’s ministry context and their ongoing personal and professional formation. Coursework to meet requirements for Master of Divinity equivalency is a prerequisite.*
COURSES

The Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program consists of graduate semester credit hours in the following areas:

- Hermeneutics
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Theology
- Church History
- Practical Ministry

Pre-Doctor of Ministry courses are available online via distance learning and may at any of our ATS Centers (Ashland, Cleveland, Columbus, and Detroit) for your convenience. If additional credit hours are required to meet the 72 hour Master of Divinity equivalency requirement, elective courses may be added to the courses listed above. Students in the Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program must maintain a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA.

TUITION AND FEES:

*Tuition for the Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program is $315 per credit hour. This price is a discounted rate of 50%. Admissions requirements for the Pre-Doctoral Program are the same as for the Doctor of Ministry degree. Please refer to tuition, fees and admission information on our website. *Cost is subject to change.

Important contact information:

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