MINISTRY COHORT

The Ministry Cohort consists of four (4) courses that engage the student in instruction and dialog with practitioners about important practices related to ministry, namely, leadership, pastoral counseling and care, personal/professional identity, and worship. The Ministry Cohort is a critical component of the following degree programs:

- Master of Arts in Chaplaincy
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling and Care
  (only 2 of the 4 cohort courses required – see degree for details)
- Master of Arts in Practical Theology
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Divinity [Chaplaincy]

After completing a minimum of 18 hours (6 courses) with at least four of these courses being core courses, a student may enroll in Ministry Cohort courses. Normally, students undertake the Ministry Cohort in the second year of study, but for part time students these courses may be extended over a longer period of time. The Ministry Cohort is offered at all campuses of the Seminary, but not online. At the Ashland Campus, students engage in the cohort experience on Tuesdays, with instruction in the morning and cohort small groups in the afternoon (Fall and Spring). Each course includes instruction by a member of the Ashland faculty and engagement in small groups that are led by practitioners who offer insight from practical ministry experience. These cohort groups provide a place for spiritual growth, prayer, community, fellowship, support, and processing lecture material. At the Cleveland Campus, cohort courses are offered on Tuesday evenings; at the Columbus Campus, cohort courses are offered on Monday evenings; at the Detroit Campus, cohort courses are offered on the weekends. At these Campuses, cohort courses are not coupled as in the Ashland setting, but are offered individually. However, the basic format and the ethos of the Ministry Cohort is maintained on all campuses.

The other professional master’s programs prepare students for vocations in specialized areas of ministry and service to the church and the world. They have a curriculum, therefore, built upon the core courses of the Seminary, but with specialization appropriate for the students’ vocational goals and anticipated ministry.