

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

The quality and success of the Christian ministry are very often determined by the minister's ability to think critically, biblically, and theologically; to communicate that thinking in oral and written fashion; and to apply that thinking in real-life ministry. The Doctor of Ministry degree presumes a level of theological knowledge and competence in ministry skills. The Doctor of Ministry student should have had Master level studies in Bible, theology, evangelism, homiletics, pastoral ministry, and Christian education equivalent to the Master of Divinity degree. This background is necessary since the Doctor of Ministry program provides an educational opportunity, in the context of the student's own ministry laboratory, to develop and enhance specific advanced competencies related to the practice of Christian ministry.

STUDENTS WITHOUT A MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

Applicants whose Masters degrees are not equivalent to the M.Div., but have at least 60 semester hours of theological/biblical/ministerial course work, may choose from the following options:

1. Enroll in one of the Master-level programs and complete at least 30 semester hours of master-level work, to be awarded a degree.
2. Enroll as a non-degree seeking special student and take graduate-level courses to make up the deficit between their degree and the 90 hour M.Div.

The M.Div. degree will not be awarded if less than 30 semester hours of such compensatory work is done. Students desiring the M.Div. degree should enroll in that program.

Award of the M.Div. degree or completion of the deficit credit does not guarantee acceptance into the Doctor of Ministry program. Once the M.Div. or its equivalency has been completed, the student should begin normal application procedures for the Doctor of Ministry.

ENROLLMENT

Consecutive, continuous enrollment is required until all doctoral study is completed and all graduation requirements are fulfilled. Students complete the program at their own pace within the time limitations, but they must take at least two courses per academic year. Tuition fees are paid per course per semester. Failure to meet these guidelines will result in the student being dropped from the program.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

Since the Luther Rice Doctor of Ministry program is for persons already engaged in ministry, the length of time to complete the program varies. Normally the program is completed in 3 years. It may not be extended beyond 5 years.

If extenuating circumstances should force a student to suspend Doctor of Ministry studies for a prolonged period of time, the Registrar must be notified in writing of the student's intention to withdraw from the program. Upon withdrawal, the student may be on a leave of absence for a period not to exceed 12 months from the withdrawal date.

This leave of absence will not count toward the program's time limits, nor will billing continue during the period of inactivity. When the student is ready to resume studies, a "Reactivation Application" should be accessed through www.LRU.edu or requested from the Admissions Office. Upon receipt of that completed application, billing will resume and the student may return to the Doctor of Ministry coursework. **NOTE: ONLY ONE WITHDRAWAL IS ALLOWED DURING THE COURSE OF STUDY.**

For more information, see "Readmission Policies" and "Withdrawal from the Institution."

A student desiring to graduate in May must have satisfactorily submitted the first draft of the Doctoral Research Project by August 15 of the previous year, and satisfactorily submitted the final draft of the Doctoral Research Project by February 15 of the graduation year. Final approval of the Doctoral Research Project by the student advisor must be received no later than April 1.

To encourage the students in lifelong learning, all students who graduate with an LRSU Doctor of Ministry degree are invited to audit any future doctoral module on a space available basis without incurring tuition or an audit fee.

GRADING POLICY

The Doctor of Ministry student must earn a minimum grade of "B" in each course. Failure to achieve a grade of "B" will necessitate repeating the course or taking an approved substitute course. For information on dropping below a 3.0 grade point average, see the section on "Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal."

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry program is to provide advanced competencies and biblical insights into the practice of ministry for those actively involved in vocational Christian ministry.

OBJECTIVES

Graduates of the Doctor of Ministry program will be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced understanding and integration of ministry in relation to the biblical, theological, academic, and pastoral disciplines.
2. Articulate and apply a comprehensive and critical philosophy of ministry.
3. Demonstrate advanced competencies in the areas of critical thinking, Research and Writing, Biblical Theology, Biblical Communication, Administration/Leadership, Pastoral Care, and Great Commission Strategies.
4. Plan, implement, and critically evaluate major undertakings in ministry toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.
5. Evaluate personal, spiritual, and professional development and design a plan for lifelong learning.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

The Doctor of Ministry Program consists of 30 semester hours. Four on-campus CORE modules serve as the centerpiece in the Doctor of Ministry program and must be taken prior to beginning work on the Doctoral Research Project. The four CORE module/hybrid courses focus on Communication, Ministry, Research and Writing, and Exegetical Theology. All module/hybrids are three hours each, and provide dialogue and interaction with credentialed scholars in the fields of Christian service as well as important times of personal reflection and peer review. Each module is composed of the following three parts: precourse assignments, modular class time, and 14 weeks of Blackboard lectures, assignments, or other requirements. Participants must register at least thirty days in advance of the first class session. Each module/hybrid requires at least 1,500 pages of reading and runs concurrent with the on-campus semester schedules.

CORE MODULES

DMRW 800 RESEARCH AND WRITING

Students are instructed in methods of theological research and academic writing, with special reference to the Doctoral Research Project including, thinking logically and theologically, writing a thesis statement, researching biblical and theological topics and writing style.

DMTM 800 THEOLOGY OF MINISTRY

This course relates the teachings of the Bible to the situations ministers face in contemporary ministry including new developments in the culture, philosophy and models of ministry, as well as the student's personal challenges and character development.

DMBC 811 ADVANCED BIBLICAL EXPOSITION

An advanced study of the nature of biblical exposition with special attention given to effective inductive study, message research, structure, and delivery.

DMBT 821 CRITICAL THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

An in-depth investigation of the great doctrines of evangelicalism, as well as contemporary challenges and their importance, and implications for effective Christian ministry.

ELECTIVES

In addition to the four CORE modules that are taken on the LRSU campus, five electives are required in the Doctor of Ministry degree and may be taken online (occasionally an elective will be offered as an on-campus option). Students may choose electives from any of the broad scope of course offerings.

DMAL: ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP STUDIES

DMAL 824 ADVANCED LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

An advanced study of the concepts of Christian leadership and administration, giving attention to their biblical basis, principles, meaning, and purpose. The successful implementation of these concepts is explored.

DMAL 831 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

This course is designed to enable the student to develop spiritual leadership. Consideration is given to leadership skill development and spiritual formation in the students with a view to their facilitating similar leadership skills and spirituality in others.

DMAL 851 ADVANCED STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GOAL SETTING

This course is designed to enable students to plan strategies and to implement those strategies in order to accomplish set goals. Students learn to develop strategic planning components and to organize available resources to accomplish their goals.

DMAL 900-950 ADMINISTRATION/LEADERSHIP TOPICAL STUDIES
Not available online

Topics include effective leadership skills, conflict resolution, legal, ethical, and professional issues, stewardship planning, staff relations, and others as announced.

DMBC: BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION STUDIES

DMBC 821 CONTEMPORARY PREACHING

An intensive investigation into trends and debates in homiletical theory as it relates to modern views of the church and expressions of worship. Various techniques of exposition and delivery are analyzed. An analysis of historical preaching theory will be conducted as a means to assess contemporary approaches to homiletics and modern preaching theory.

DMBC 826 ADVANCED BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION
Prerequisite DMBC 811

– Expository Preaching Lab

An interactive workshop in which doctoral candidates present exegetical insights and expository approaches to assigned biblical passages. Participants will be assigned several passages from a representative sampling of the various biblical genres. Candidate's conclusions and assertions will be discussed, analyzed, and debated among laboratory participants.

DMBC 830 ADVANCED OLD TESTAMENT EXPOSITION
– Preaching from Old Testament Texts

An intensive course of study designed to assist the doctoral candidate in interpreting (exegesis), determining doctrinal and theological themes (theology), and proclaiming the message (homiletics) of the selected Old Testament texts. Attention will be given to each selected passage in light of its historical, theological, and cultural contexts in order to present that information in a meaningful homiletical manner.

DMBC 835 ADVANCED NEW TESTAMENT EXPOSITION
– Preaching from a selected New Testament Book

An intensive course of study designed to assist the doctoral candidate in interpreting (exegesis), determining doctrinal and theological themes (theology), and proclaiming the message (homiletics) of a selected New Testament book (ie., The Gospel of Mark, The Epistle to the Philippians, The Epistle of James, etc.). Attention will be given to each selected passage in light of its historical, theological, and cultural contexts in order to present that information in a meaningful homiletical manner.

DMBC 840 – 875 BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION TOPICAL STUDIES

Not available online

Topics may include Dynamic Teaching, Preaching through the Bible, Preaching Doctrine, Evangelistic Preaching, and others as announced.

DMBT: BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

DMBT 822 MODERN THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

An examination of the theological trends that impact the 21st century church. The students will evaluate these trends in light of the historically-based doctrines accepted by evangelicals today. The course will give the student the opportunity to be involved in researching the teachings of the Christian faith such as revelation, inspiration, interpretation, soteriology, and anthropology; applying their findings to the contemporary trend; observing the differences between traditional Christianity and the new trend; and drawing conclusions about these differences.

DMBT 835 APOLOGETICS

A critical analysis of the presuppositions and methodologies of selected groups or individuals who argue against the Christian faith. The student will discern the logical inconsistencies of these positions and construct a defense of the historic, Christian position.

DMBT 945 SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A practical study of the theology of life in the image of Christ and the development and maintenance of that Christian life. In this course, the student will create a 12-week course on Spiritual Formation that he can teach to his church. Building the course will necessitate in-depth research on issues such as the image of God, the ontological nature of man, the fall, justification, regeneration, the new man/old man, and issues in sanctification. The culmination of the student's work will be to answer the question "How does a person live a victorious life that is pleasing and acceptable to God?"

DMBT 960 CHRISTIAN ETHICS

A study of Christian values from a biblical perspective. This course will deal with selected moral issues in which the student will research the competing views within the issue and discern the Bible-based solution to the ethical dilemma.

DMBT 970 CREATIONISM

A study of the philosophy and science of origins. The course will interact with the atheistic worldview of philosophical naturalism that drives the interpretation of the scientific data along uniformitarian principles. During the course, the scientific data will be examined and conclusions will be drawn as to which worldview better interprets the data.

DMBT 971-995 BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TOPICAL STUDIES

Not available online

Topics may include Worship, Theology and Practice of Prayer, Eschatological Perspectives, Current Doctrinal Controversies, and various biblical studies as announce.

DMGC: GREAT COMMISSION STUDIES

DMGC 825 CHURCH EVANGELISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

This course investigates the various methodologies and philosophies being espoused throughout the world by which churches mobilize for evangelistic purposes. Strengths and weaknesses are discussed with a view to developing a church evangelistic methodology within the student's ministry culture and context.

DMGC 924 ADVANCED DISCIPLESHIP METHODOLOGIES

This course studies the various means by which Christians have been nurtured in the past and explores the biblical basis and merit of new methodologies. A biblically based philosophy of discipleship is developed and defended for implementation in the today's society.

DMGC 926 ADDRESSING NON-CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Globalization creates challenges for the local church and is changing the way the Christians approach sharing the gospel. This course seeks to understand the basic beliefs of groups whose teachings are contrary to those of Christianity and develop communication strategies by which the gospel may be presented.

DMGC 930 MISSIONS PRACTICUM

A faculty led mission trip to a foreign country to immerse the student in a different culture and acquaint the student with missionary life and work.

DMGC 931-950 GREAT COMMISSION TOPICAL STUDIES

Not available online

Topics relate to various aspects of church planting, church growth, disciple making, evangelism, and missions.

DMPC: PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING

DMPC 827 ADVANCED BIBLICAL COUNSELING

This course teaches the student the advanced principles of biblical counseling. Included is a study of advanced counseling processes, the impact of spiritual identity on the sanctification process, assessing human sinfulness, achieving victory over defeating behavior patterns, living in the freedom of spiritual abundance.

DMPC 921 ADVANCED PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY COUNSELING

This course teaches the student advanced principles of counseling couples and families from a biblical perspective. Included are topics such as gender issues, parenting in a post-modern culture, and experiencing the grace of God in the midst of familial conflict.

DMPC 927 BIBLICAL COUNSELING AND THE LAW

This course instructs students in contemporary ethical and legal issues. Included are topics such as ethical decision making, multiculturalism, confidentiality, multiple relationships, boundaries, and codes of ethics.

DMPC 929 THE SKILLED COUNSELOR

This course instructs students in advanced counseling skills. Included are topics such as empathy, concreteness, confrontation, self-disclosure, attending, listening, responding, decision-making, and action planning.

DMPC 930-975 PASTORAL CARE/COUNSELING INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Not available online

Topics include Effective Pastoral Care; Dating, Courtship, and Premarital Counseling; Biblical Financial Principles; Crisis Counseling; and others as announced.

COURSE CYCLE

CORE modules, on campus and online courses are offered at fixed times and are scheduled cyclically so that students can map out a course of study ahead of time. All courses are offered within a three year time span. However, student participation in courses ultimately determines whether the course is taught. Completion of the degree program in the minimum three years may require some credit hours be earned through online courses. Courses may be cancelled for appropriate reasons by the institution.

Core Modules in Bold (subject to change at discretion of LRSU):

<u>Fall 2010</u>	<u>Spring 2011</u>	<u>Summer 2011</u>
DMTM 800	DMRW 800	DMTM 800
DMBT 821	DMBC 811	DMGC 930
DMGC 924	DMGC 926	DMBT 960
DMAL 824	DMAL 831	DMPC 927
DMBT 835	DMBT 945	DMBC 826
DMPC 827	DMPC 921	
DMBC 821		

<u>Fall 2011</u>	<u>Spring 2012</u>	<u>Summer 2012</u>
DMRW 800	DMTM 800	DMRW 800
DMBC 811	DMBT 821	DMBT 835
DMAL 851	DMBC 826	DMPC 921
DMBT 970	DMBT 835	DMGC 924
DMPC 929	DMPC 827	DMAL 851
DMBC 830	DMAL 824	DMBC 821
DMGC 825		

<u>Fall 2012</u>	<u>Spring 2013</u>	<u>Summer 2013</u>
DMRW 800	DMTM 800	DMBT 821
DMBT 935	DMBT 945	DMBC 811
DMPC 927	DMPC 929	DMBC 830
DMGC 926	DMGC 930	DMAL 824
DMBC 826	DMAL 851	DMBT 960
DMAL 831		DMGC 825

<u>Fall 2013</u>	<u>Spring 2014</u>	<u>Summer 2014</u>
DMRW 800	DMBT 821	DMTM 800
DMAL 824	DMBC 811	DMBT 822
DMBT 970	DMAL 831	DMPC 929
DMPC 921	DMBT 822	DMGC 930
DMGC 924	DMPC 927	DMAL 851
DMBC 835	DMBC 826	DMBC 821
	DMGC 926	

DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Bible stresses the importance of applying in ministry what has been learned from the Word of God (John 13.17; Jas 1.22). The climax of the Doctor of Ministry program is a “hands-on” implementation of acquired knowledge and skill in a Doctoral Research Project.

DMRP 950

This is a supervised project addressing a specific concern in the student’s present ministry context. The project must have measurable objectives, be biblically and theologically informed, be transferable to other ministries in similar contexts, and reflect knowledge and skills gained through the Doctor of Ministry studies.

The D.Min. candidate should register for this project the semester that work on the first draft begins. Registration for DMRP 950 is the same as registration for any other course.

The project is divided into three parts:

Doctoral Research Project - Letter of Intent

The Letter of Intent process is explained in detail in the CORE module/hybrid DMRW 800. The Letter of Intent is submitted to the candidate’s advisor. The advisor will share the LOI with two members of the Graduate Committee. All three members of the Graduate Committee must approve the DRP before the candidate can begin work on the first draft. The candidate’s advisor will inform the candidate as to the acceptance status. If the LOI is not approved initially the candidate will be given detailed instructions on how to correct and/or re-work the LOI. Ample time will be allotted in order for the LOI to be re-worked and resubmitted.

Doctoral Research Project – First Draft

The First Draft of the Doctoral Research Project is a detailed written account of the project. The report must contain the following elements:

1. An explanation of the problem addressed in the Doctoral Research Project
2. A description of the ministry context in which the project was undertaken
3. A survey and analysis of relevant literature
4. An exposition of the informing biblical/theological data
5. A step-by-step account of how the problem was addressed
6. An evaluation of the project’s effectiveness

The work is to be submitted to the Registrar’s Office of LRSU, not to the faculty advisor.

This draft must be submitted in satisfactory form and with minimal grammatical errors no later than August 15 of the year prior to graduation.

Doctoral Research Project – Final Draft

This is the Final Draft of the Doctoral Research Project. It must be in final form with no grammatical errors and reflect any changes required by the advisor in his or her review of the first draft. It is due no later than February 15 of the graduation year. Two bound copies will be retained by LRSU.

ORAL DEFENSE OF THE DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise” (Prov 13.20). The Doctor of Ministry Oral Defense is based on the biblical premise that true believers sharpen one another “as iron sharpens iron” (Prov 27.17).

THE ORAL DEFENSE

After the Doctoral Candidate’s Advisor has approved the Doctoral Research Project the oral defense will be officially scheduled by the Office of the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. **The date of the oral defense will be at least two weeks after the date of final DRP approval.** This delay is to allow time for the defense date to be adequately posted. The defense will be either in-person or by conference call (whichever is more feasible for the doctoral candidate). Candidates are encouraged to contact his or her advisor for instructions on how to prepare for the defense. The defense will be conducted with an audience of at least three (3) members of the LRSU Graduate Committee.

COURSES

CORE12

Research and Writing	(3)
Theology of Ministry	(3)
Advanced Biblical Exposition	(3)
Critical Theological Perspectives	(3)

ELECTIVES15

Administration/Leadership Studies

Advanced Leadership and Administration	(3)
Leadership Development for the 21 st Century	(3)
Advanced Strategic Planning and Goal Setting	(3)
Topical Studies	(3)

Biblical Communication Studies

Contemporary Preaching	(3)
Advanced Biblical Exposition	(3)
Advanced Old Testament Exposition	(3)
Advanced New Testament Exposition	(3)
Topical Studies	(3)

Biblical/Theological Studies

Biblical Foundations	(3)
Apologetics	(3)
Spiritual Formation	(3)
Christian Ethics	(3)
Creationism	(3)
Topical Studies	(3)

Great Commission Studies

- Church Evangelism for the 21st Century (3)
- Advanced Discipleship Methodologies (3)
- Addressing Non-Christian Beliefs (3)
- Missions Practicum (3)
- Topical Studies (3)

Pastoral Care/Counseling

- Advanced Biblical Counseling (3)
- Advanced Principles of Family Counseling (3)
- Biblical Counseling and the Law (3)
- The Skilled Counselor (3)
- Topical Studies (3)

DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT & REPORT3

- Doctoral Research Project (3)
- Oral Defense of DRP (0)

TOTAL HOURS30



Dr. Jim Waddle, 2010 Alumnus of the Year, and wife Phyllis