Doctor of Ministry Degree Program: General Pastoral Ministry Concentration

Program Overview

Purpose

The purpose of the General Pastoral Ministry concentration is to offer theological leadership and education in the ministerial task. As its title indicates, this concentration is the most general of those offered in Concordia Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program, and provides the greatest latitude in course selection and flexibility in program design. It is intended to enhance the pastor’s skill in a broad range of ministry tasks. The intended outcome is that students experience an increased comprehension of theological issues related to pastoral functions, an increased competence in their pastoral skills, and an increased cultivation of pastoral attitudes and personal spirituality.

Objectives

1. To meet the needs of pastors who seek a higher level of excellence in ministry.
2. To deepen the spiritual development of participants.
3. To promote skills in communicating the Gospel, leading God’s people, serving the church, and reaching out to the world.
4. To equip pastors for more effective ministry through a better understanding of biblical theology as well as of contemporary society.

General D. Min. Requirements

Total credit hours: 45, consisting of the following:

0 hrs – Orientation:
   • DM-000 Orientation to the Doctor of Ministry

6 hrs – Two courses (3 hrs each) within the disciplines of Exegetical, Historical, and Systematic Theology

6 hrs – Classes required for the General Pastor Concentration:
   • DM-900 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care (6 hrs)

30 hrs – Free electives

3 hrs – D.Min. Research Project
   • DM-995 Project Research and Writing (3 hrs)
   • DM-996 Major Applied Project
Distinctive Concentration Requirement

- DM-900 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care (6 hrs)
  A study of pastoral theology and pastoral care. Scriptural principles are applied to pastoral practices. Seminar emphases are the pastor, the pastoral ministry, and the major areas of pastoral care: Holy Baptism, Confession and Absolution, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Admonition, Marriage, Burial, Counseling, and Administration.

Free Elective Offerings

Other offerings that qualify for the General Pastoral Ministry concentration are in the subjects of: pastoral theology, parish administration, worship, homiletics, communication, evangelism, Christian education/nurture, family life ministry, pastoral care and counseling, missions, and cross-cultural witness. Classes offered include:

- DM-902 Bioethics and the Parish Pastor
- DM-907 Leadership in the Congregation
- DM-910 Pastoral Care for Chem. Dependency
- DM-917 Team Ministry
- DM-920 Corporate Worship
- DM-921 Foundations for Lutheran Worship
- DM-922 Worship and Culture
- DM-923 Preaching and Worship
- DM-924 Preaching as Persuasion
- DM-925 Current Trends in Homiletics
- DM-926 Preach & Teach in Contemp. Culture
- DM-927 Preaching the Old Testament
- DM-928 Communication Skills for Pastors
- DM-929 Preaching and Sermon Structures
- DM-930 Preaching the Gospel Creatively
- DM-931 Preaching Law and Gospel
- DM-932 Using the Arts in Worship & Preaching
- DM-936 Lutheran Hour Speakers on Preaching
- DM-937 Preaching Connects Word to World
- DM-938 Doctrinal Preaching
- DM-942 Shepherding the Growing Parish
- DM-943 Conflict and Reconciliation
- DM-945 The Gospel in Cross-Cultural Contexts
- DM-946 Christian Witness to World Religions
- DM-947 Leadership and the Missio Dei
- DM-948 Adv. Strategic Planning for Mission
- DM-950 Small Groups & Lifestyle Evangelism
- DM-954 Strategies for Evangelism
- DM-955 Cong. Involvement in World Missions
- DM-956 Ministry with Older Adults
- DM-957 Adolescent Ministry
- DM-960 Theory/Practice of Pastoral Counseling
- DM-961 Family Therapy
• DM-962 Family Life Ministry
• DM-965 Tech/Strategies for Teaching Adults
• DM-975 Foundations of Education
• DM-976 Christian Education & Adult Life Cycle
• DM-977 Personal & Organizational Dynamics
• DM-978 The Biblical Text: Basis for Preaching
• DM-979 Exegesis of Pericopes
• DM-980 Exegetical Exigencies
• DM-981 Matthew and the Pastor
• DM-982 Romans and Pastoral Practice
• DM-983 The Gospel According to St. John
• DM-984 Revelation and Pastoral Practice
• DM-985 Defending Faith: Christian Apologetics
• DM-986 Lutheran Church in Pluralistic Society
• DM-987 Medical Ethics and Decision Making
• DM-988 Path of Faith: Purpose of Catechisms
• DM-989 Theology of Preaching
• DM-990 History of Preaching
• DM-992 Ecumenical Setting of Today’s Ministry
• DM-994 Expansion of Christianity
• DM-9xx Strategies for Assimilation/Discipleship
• M-9xx Mobilizing the Laity for Service
• DM-9xx Stewardship Development

Instructors

Those who teach and lead the D.Min. classes include members of Concordia Seminary’s resident faculty. These are supplemented by a choice selection of guest instructors including synodical leaders and parish pastors who have demonstrated expertise in their fields. All teachers are dedicated to the application of confessional Lutheran theology to the contemporary concerns of parish ministry.

Financial Information

Note: Information provided here applies to current (2014-2015) tuition, fee, and housing rates. These rates may and probably will increase in the future.

The Cost of Tuition

45 credit hours are required to complete the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. The current tuition rate is $675 per credit hour. No credit is awarded for the Major Applied Project, but a MAP fee of $2025 is assessed to cover one year of work.

Financial aid covers 50 percent of tuition (not fees) and is applied automatically to all students admitted into the D.Min. program.

Formula for calculating tuition paid to complete the coursework toward the D.Min. degree:

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45 \text{ hours} \times \$675/\text{hr} = \$30,375 \times 50\% \text{ (fin aid)} = \$15,187.50
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Additional Seminary Fees

Payment of the following fees is also required:

- Application Fee $50
- Orientation Course Fee $365
- Technology Fees $140
- Major Applied Project Fee $2,025
- Total $2,580

Room and Board

Students living near St. Louis may commute and thereby eliminate the cost of room and board. Students living at a distance may configure their program so that they lodge on the STL campus from three to five one-week (5 days) stays. The cost of a dormitory room (double occupancy) for one week (5 nights) is $150. Lunch and/or dinner is available in the seminary cafeteria for $7.50/meal.

Books

Expenses for books can vary widely, depending upon a student’s preference for new books, e-books, used books, or available library books. It is estimated that the total cost of books will range from $750 to $1,500.

Travel

Expenses depend upon the distance one must travel to and from St. Louis.

Other Sources of Financial Support

On behalf of applicants/students who request it, the D.Min. director will send a letter encouraging the congregation to support its pastor’s continuing education in the D.Min. program at an amount of at least $2000 per year.

Prerequisites and Admission

For admission to the program, the applicant will have a fully accredited M.Div. degree equivalent to the one offered by Concordia Seminary (with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale). The applicant shall have three years of experience in the parish or related ministry following completion of the M.Div. degree. He is to exhibit a professional competence that is above average, as attested by evaluations from his peers.

The following items are to be submitted to the Director of the D.Min. program before the application can be acted upon:

- Completed application form
- Four reference forms (one each from a fellow pastor, a congregational lay person, the district president, and the circuit counselor)
- Five-page statement covering the applicant’s professional experience and personal goals in the D.Min. program
- Statement from his congregation or agency approving his enrollment in the D.Min. program
- Official transcripts from each seminary previously attended
- $50 application fee